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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JULY 11, 12, & 13, 2023; HALIFAX, NS**

**Resolution no. 34/2023**

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Appointment of a Chief Electoral Officer and the Timing of the Election of the National Chief</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	National Chief Election
<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Chief Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Chief Junior Gould, Abegweit First Nation, PEI
<b>DECISION</b>	Carried; 28 opposed; 7 abstentions

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. The National Chief, RoseAnne Archibald, was removed as National Chief on June 28, 2023, by the passing of Resolution 33/2023, *Vote to Expel the National Chief*, by Chiefs in Assembly at the one-day Special Chiefs' Assembly held virtually. A total of 71 per cent of votes cast by Chiefs and Proxies supported her removal.
- B. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Charter outlines at Article 22 (3) that in the event the National Chief does not fulfill their term, then "the rest of the Executive Committee shall assume [their] role and function until such time as other arrangements are made by the First Nations-in-Assembly".
- C. The Chief Electoral Officer has been appointed by the First Nations-in-Assembly for past National Chief elections in 2006, 2009, 2014, 2012, 2018, and 2021.
- D. The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for:
  - i. devising nomination forms and receiving nominations of candidates for the Office of National Chief;
  - ii. mailing the names and brief particulars of the candidates to the Chiefs (using the official list of Chiefs at the National Office) at least four (4) weeks before the election;

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- iii. receiving an accounting from all candidates of all moneys raised and spent for their campaigns including the names of contributors;
  - iv. reviewing the accounts disclosed by each candidate and ensuring that spending limits are applied fairly and evenly to all candidates;
  - v. arrangements for the All-Candidates Open Forum on the evening prior to the election (and presiding thereat);
  - vi. informing the All-Candidates Open Forum of the preliminary financial record of each candidate including the names of contributors;
  - vii. devising and making all administrative arrangements in connection with the election at the General Assembly including the destruction of the ballots upon a resolution of the Assembly;
  - viii. counting of the ballots (after voting has occurred) in the presence of one (1) observer each appointed by the candidates and of at least one (1) security officer;
  - ix. announcing the results of the ballot to the General Assembly; and
  - x. submitting a written report on the election including details of results, to the Executive Committee within two (2) weeks after the election.
- E. The Charter of the AFN states under Appendix "A" (1990) that "at least ten (10) weeks prior to the General Assembly at which the election is to occur, the Confederacy of Nations shall meet and have included on its agenda an item dealing with the appointment by resolution of the Chief Electoral Officer."
- F. As directed by AFN Resolution 33/2023, the election for the National Chief of the AFN is scheduled for the upcoming Special Chiefs Assembly on December 5–7, 2023 in Algonquin unceded territory (Ottawa, Ontario).
- G. In accordance with the AFN Charter, the Chief Electoral Officer should assume their duties on October 10, 2023, and relinquish their duties on December 21, 2023.
- H. A request for proposals for the Chief Electoral Officer is to be issued with a deadline of August 14, 2023, for proponents to submit their bids.
- I. Due to time and budgetary constraints, an additional Special Chiefs' Assembly cannot be held to appoint the Chief Electoral Officer in time for the upcoming Special Chiefs Assembly on December 5–7, 2023 in Algonquin unceded territory (Ottawa, Ontario).

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- J. The unprecedented vacancy in the office of the National Chief necessitates that the election of the next National Chief take place outside of an Annual General Assembly, which is normally held during the month of July.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:**

1. Delegate its authority to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Executive Committee to appoint the Chief Electoral Officer from the list of proponents who respond to the Request for Proposal, no later than October 10, 2023.
2. Direct that the term of the next National Chief be adjusted to expire in the month of July 2027, extending the term of office to three years and six months.

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