Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

Chippewas of the Thames will be participating in the ratification vote on the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement and its accompanying Fiscal Agreement, which were negotiated between Anishinabek (Union of Ontario Indians) and Canada. 27 Nations in Anishinabek will be holding a ratification vote.

What is it?

In 1995, Chiefs-in-Assembly authorized Anishinabek to pursue negotiations with Canada to restore jurisdiction in several areas of governance. An Agreement-in-Principle was signed in 2007 and the final Agreement was signed in August 2019.

First Nations who ratify the ANGA will be removed from parts of the Indian Act that cover band lists, Chief and Council elections, and Council meeting procedures, meaning that those Nations will decide questions like the term of office, who can run in elections, and how Council meetings are conducted.

The Agreement recognizes First Nation law-making powers over:

- Citizenship
- Elections
- Language and culture
- Operation of governance

The Fiscal Agreement offers one-time transition funding as well as annual governance funding (guaranteed for the five years of the Agreement) that is nearly six times higher that current governance funding.

First Nations that ratify the Agreement will form the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council, scheduled to sit for the first time in April 2021.
Where can I find more information?

It’s vital that citizens get the information they need to make an informed decision.

The full Governance Agreement and Fiscal Agreements are available on the members-only section of cottfn.com. You can also request hard copies at the Administration Building.

FAQs and info sheets prepared by Anishinabek are available at governancevote.ca

We will be putting out more information on the website and social media throughout December and January, including an independent legal opinion in mid-January. We are organizing in-person info sessions or townhalls to answer questions and represent the diverse views on the Agreement.

How will the vote work?

Voting information will be mailed out to eligible voters (citizens 18 years of age or older) before January 1st. Your name must be on the List of Eligible Voters.

Voting period is Feb. 1-29, 2020

Ways to vote:

- Electronic voting
- Mail-in ballots
- In-person at on-reserve voting station (only Feb. 25-29, 2020 from 9am-8pm)

For the vote to meet the threshold, 25% plus 1 of eligible voters must vote.

Upcoming Info Session

Mon. Dec. 16th 12-3:30pm

COTTFN Community Centre

Lunch provided & door prizes

Presentations by Anishinabek Chief Negotiator Martin Bayer and OKT Partner Sara Mainville.

There will be more sessions in January in the evening.
More information

Questions about the Agreement or the Info Session?
  - Jen Mills (Policy Analyst)  519-289-5555 ext. 236  jmills@cottfn.com

Questions about voting procedures or list of voters?
  - Skloud Riley (Ratification Officer)  519-289-5555 ext. 237