Anishinabek Nation Governance
Agreement

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Citizens Meeting
December 16, 2019
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Ontario

R. Martin Bayer, Chief Anishinabek Nation Governance Negotiator
What kinds of laws are recognized under the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement?

1. Elections;
2. Citizenship;
3. Culture and Language;

Potential future areas: The Governance Agreement includes a chapter on potential future discussions on our judicial branch (our own courts) lands, health, estates, etc.
What is the status of the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement*?

- The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement ("ANGA") was initialled by our Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare and Minister Bennett in Sault Ste. Marie on August 23, 2019;

- The ANGA is now being taken to out to our First Nations for community meetings so that voters will have a better understanding about what the ANGA is about, in anticipation of a ratification vote scheduled for February 1 to 29, 2020;
We are not getting out of all the **Indian Act**; **That was not our mandate**;

- The *Indian Act* will still apply *except* for the parts that deal with:
  - Band lists;
  - elections for Chief and Councils;
  - how Band council meetings are conducted;
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When and how could you vote?

- There will be a vote on the:
  - *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement, and the*
  - *Fiscal Agreement;*

Between February 1 and 29, 2020;

People can vote:

a) in person;

b) By mail in ballot;

c) On-line
Hiring of First Nation Ratification Officers

Those First Nations who passed BCR’s to run a vote will be provided with funding to hire First Nation Ratification Officers to assist in the voting process;

- One Feather has been retained to coordinate the electronic voting;
- Training will be provided by the Anishinabek Nation to the First Nation Ratification Officers;
More governance funding for our First Nations who ratify

- All of our First Nations who ratify the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement will receive considerably more governance funding and no First Nation will get less than **$1.7 million per year for the 5 year initial term** of the Fiscal Agreement;

- Any governance funding that is left over can be used by the First Nation for whatever its priorities are and will not have to be sent back to Ottawa; This means more money for education, housing, and engagement with you, the citizens;
Anishinabek Nation

- The Anishinabek Nation will also be recognized as a government by Canada once the Agreement is ratified by the First Nations that chose to do so;

- The First Nations who ratify the Agreement will form the Anishinabek Nation government and they will decide what laws to pass at the Anishinabek Nation government level; It will not take any powers away from the First Nations who ratify the Agreement;

- The collective priorities of the member First Nations who comprise this government will determine its direction;
Recognition of the Inherent Right of Government

- The Agreement will recognize the inherent right of our First Nations to govern themselves in relation to matters that are integral to their unique culture, identity, traditions, languages and institutions and with respect to its special relationship to the lands and resources;
There will be a new *Intergovernmental Forum* between the member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation and the Government of Canada (similar to First Ministers’ Meetings) to discuss issues of concern to us;
Communications

- We need your support to help get information out to your citizens;
- These kinds of community meetings are important, but we must do more, tell relatives, neighbours;
Questions

- Nahaw, Miigwetch