

NOTICE TO CPFN MEMBERS:

CPFN's Chief and Council are pleased to present the final proposed amendments to Chipewyan Prairie First Nation's Election Code (the "**New Election Code**") which will be voted on in the upcoming referendum vote on **February 3, 2022**.

Chief and Council are greatly appreciative of the feedback that was received at the community information meeting on December 7, 2021 and by email correspondence throughout December. From reviewing the feedback it is clear that CPFN's members took the time to carefully consider the New Election Code. The questions and feedback provided by members was very thoughtful and impressive.

The most common feedback we received was with respect to the two following provisions:

4.7 Upon being elected each member of Council will have six months to take up Residence on Reserve subject to the First Nation providing them with reasonable accommodations.

4.9 Each member of Council must perform their duties as Chief or Councillor from the Reserve at least 10 non-consecutive business days per month.

CPFN received feedback from members both in support of and against these provisions.

Many members expressed support for these provisions and felt that living and working on-reserve was essential in order to attend to the day-to-day affairs of CPFN and effectively manage and operate CPFN's programs and services. Many members also felt that it was essential to live and work on-reserve in order to be accessible to the on-reserve membership and believed that Chief and Council could only effectively make decisions about CPFN's reserve land, housing, and community programs and services if they experienced it first hand by living and working in the community.

Some members expressed concern that these provisions are too burdensome for off-reserve members, particularly the on-reserve residency requirement, given that it would require some members to sell their homes and move their families onto the reserve. A number of members said that they felt that they could do their job just as effectively living off-reserve given today's technology and felt it was unnecessary to take up residence on-reserve when CPFN's housing is limited.

Chief and Council carefully considered the feedback from members and feel that the current drafting of the two provisions strikes an appropriate balance between on and off-reserve engagement and participation.

With respect to the residency requirement, Chief and Council will be required to take up residence on the reserve once elected but have a full six months to make arrangements and will be provided with reasonable accommodations on-reserve by CPFN. Further, the

definition of “Residence” in the New Election Code is flexible as it allows for temporary absences for education, medical reasons or employment.

Chief and Council also feel that the provision requiring Chief and Council to work from the reserve 10 business days per month strikes a fair balance between on-reserve and off-reserve engagement and participation as Chief and Council are only required to work from the reserve 10 out of the 28-31 days in a month. The 10 days can be either consecutive or non-consecutive and this is reflected in the final proposed amendment.

Further Amendments:

In consideration of the feedback Chief and Council received from members the following substantive changes to the New Election Code have been made:

1. **Election Appeal Committee (Sections 13.2(b) & (c), 2.11 and 2.32):** The Election Appeal Committee will consist of one Elder and one Youth in addition to one lawyer or retired judge. An “Elder” is defined as a CPFN member 55 years of age or older who has demonstrated interest and experience with working for the betterment of the First Nation and a “Youth” is a CPFN member under the age of 30.
2. **Polling Stations:** The hours of the polling stations has been changed from 10:00am to 8:00pm to allow for people to attend the polling stations outside of regular work/business hours.
3. **Working from the reserve 10 business days per month (Section 4.9 and 14.1(c)):** A Chief or Councillor must perform their duties from the Reserve at least 10 business days per month. This provision has been modified so that the 10 days can be either consecutive or non-consecutive.
4. **Nominations (Section 7.9 & 7.2):** Nominees will have until the posting of the Notice of Election to accept their nomination and provide the Electoral Officer with a copy of a Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) report or letter from the RCMP indicating that there are no convictions of the nominee for an indictable offence under the Criminal Code within five years of the date of the Election. The Electoral Officer will include the date the Notice of Election will be posted in the Notice of Nomination so that nominees will know the deadline for accepting their nomination in advance.
5. **Postponement of Election (Section 16.1):** One of the most common concerns raised by members was that CPFN members did not have sufficient time to consider and provide feedback on the New Election Code. In order to provide members with additional time to provide feedback on the New Election Code (until December 24, 2021), the referendum vote timelines were pushed several weeks back. As a result CPFN’s general Election has been moved from March 2022 to April 2022.

6. **Amendment Procedure (Section 18.1):** The threshold for making amendments to CPFN's New Election Code has been changed from requiring the approval of a majority of all electors to allowing for a second vote of a simple majority (a majority of the electors who voted) if, in the first vote, there were not a majority of electors but a majority of the electors who voted, voted in favour of the proposed amendment

This is the same amendment procedure that is in CPFN's current election code.

A copy of the New Election Code that will be voted on in the referendum vote on **February 3, 2022** can be found on the website and at CPFN's band administration office.

If you have any questions about the referendum vote please review the Notice of Referendum Vote posted on CPFN's website or contact our ratification officer, Pauline Gauthier at pandjoe@gmail.com or (780) 743-3436.