

PREPARED FOR NCN CITIZENS

Nisichawayasi

OKEMAWIN UPDATE

December 2017

Together We Made History!

NCN Becomes First Manitoba First
Nation to Adopt Own Constitution

Othasowewin
(Constitution)



RESULTS

See Page 2....

Message From NCN Chief and Council

Tansi! Congratulations NCN Citizens! We did it together once again! Take a moment to be proud that we are *Nisichawayasi Nehthowuk!*

It has been a very hectic summer and fall. We engaged our community through multiple events and two major votes. Our community consultants went door to door, we held a number of BBQ's, bingos and workshops and delivered lots and lots of materials. Now that the flurry of activity has passed, I want to personally thank each one of you who took the time to vote in both the recent *Othasowewin* (Constitution) and *Aski Pumenikewin* (Land Code) votes. Having well over 80% of NCN Citizens who voted to support these important initiatives is very, very gratifying and so important for our Nation as we move forward.

As Chief, I especially want to thank our youth for getting so engaged in the process. They discussed the constitution in class, debated the pros and cons, developed songs and stories about it and spoke passionately about how important it is for their future. And, of course, they used it as an opportunity to challenge Chief and Council and our staff to a volleyball game, which goes to show learning about governance does not have to be dull and boring. We learned a lot from how our youth approached this issue so a big thank you also goes to their amazing teachers and administrators.

My Council colleagues and I are so proud of NCN as once again we have proven it is possible to engage people on major issues. The positive turnouts in both votes demonstrate just how important controlling our own destiny is to our people.

As a Nation, we can be proud that we are taking active steps to assert our sovereignty in positive ways for the benefit of our youth now and seven generations from now. We are now officially the only First Nation in Manitoba that has adopted our own Constitution.

We plan to have a community celebration soon so we can celebrate this historic step in our Nation's history. At the moment, we are not sure if that will be before or after Christmas but will let you know as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you NCN from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Chief and to work on your behalf with such a dedicated group of Council members, staff and advisors.

Ekosani!


Chief Marcel Moody
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation





CONSTITUTION | *Othasowewin*

The tally is in and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation eligible voters have voted in favour of proceeding with the *Othasowewin* (Constitution). Nearly 84 percent of voters who cast a ballot voted in favour. The voter turnout was close to 37 per cent.

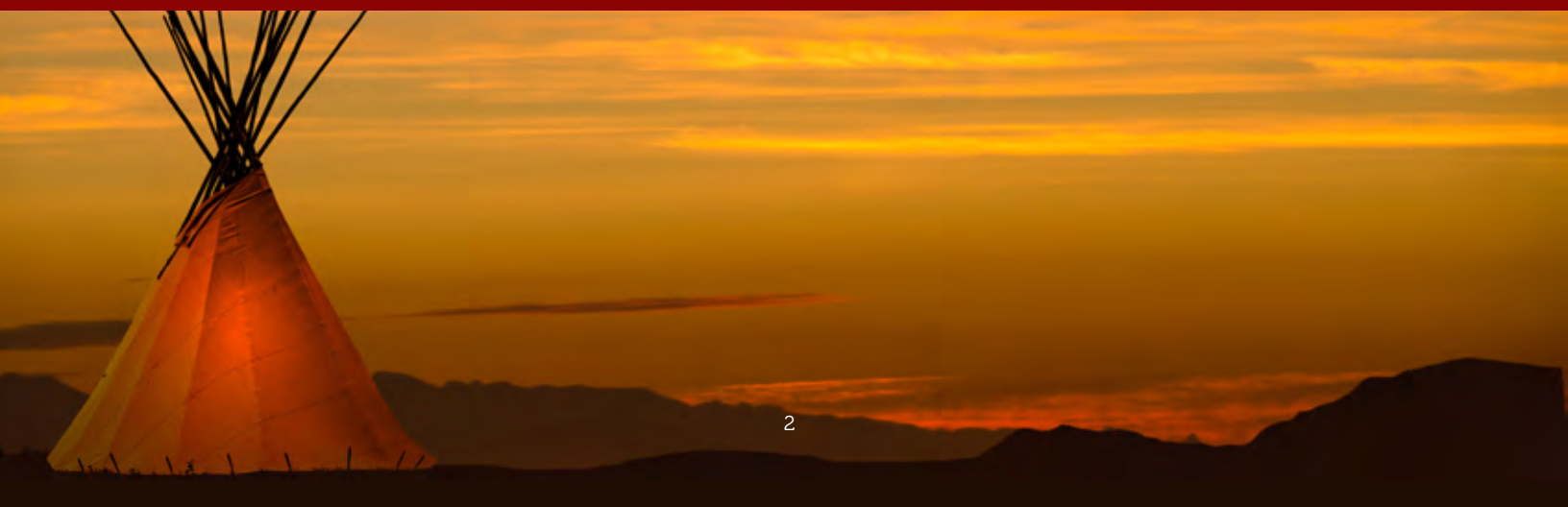
Othasowewin (Constitution) Ratification Vote Results

By Community

	Poll 1	Poll 2	Poll 3	Poll 4	Poll 5	Poll 6	Poll 7	Poll 8	Evote	Total
YES Vote	19	25	14	50	59	80	22	25	720	1014
NO Vote	3	0	2	26	19	35	8	3	99	195

- Poll 1 Leaf Rapids, South Indian Lake, Lynn Lake
- Poll 2 Thompson
- Poll 3 Winnipeg
- Poll 4 Bayroad
- Poll 5 New Area, Moore's Bay, Hart's Point
- Poll 6 Westwood, Hillside, School Area, Wasasihk, Dog Point, etc.
- Poll 7 Metis, RC Point, Lil RC Point
- Poll 8 Traveling Poll-Elders, Disabled, etc.
- Evote

REJECTED BALLOTS: 9
TOTAL BALLOTS: 1218



THANK YOU NISICHAWAYASIIHK CREE NATION CITIZENS

We want to extend our sincere appreciation to all NCN Citizens who took the time to attend the many events we have held to discuss our Constitution and Land Code. We also want to thank all of our team – past and present – for their dedication and hard work over the past decade to help us reach this major milestone. After over 140 years we are regaining the authority to govern ourselves. These votes give us a clear mandate to enter into negotiations for the benefit of our Nation in the future.

This is a proud moment for all of us and we could not have done it without the dedication of our staff and advisors and most importantly, without the involvement of our Citizens who took time out of their busy lives to vote.

We also want to say a special thank you to Leonard Linklater who headed up the initiative in its infancy and to former Chief Norman Linklater, who as head of WIO, built on that work and brought the project to the point where it could be voted on. His spirit was with us throughout this past month as we announced such a positive outcome for our Nation. Thanks to all for a job well done!

Sincerely,
Chief and Council



OUR NEXT MAJOR INITIATIVE – SETTING THE STAGE FOR FURTHER GOVERNANCE NEGOTIATIONS

We are on a roll and want to keep the momentum going. Our approach has been a little different than that followed by some other First Nations. We decided that we will go to Canada to assert our sovereign rights after approval of our Constitution by our people instead of seeking approval from Canada for the wording of our Constitution which is a document about how we wish to govern ourselves. Having said this, we know that there are many areas that will remain under Canada's jurisdiction such as international defence and security, international trade negotiations, and criminal law but we want to ensure we have our say in appropriate ways. In other areas such as education, finance, citizenship, culture, housing, development of community infrastructure, and economic development for example, we will start developing our own laws, administrative structures and dispute resolution processes without having to seek approval from Ottawa.

With the mandate you have given us, we have started to explore the best way to proceed with self-government negotiations to ensure our treaty and aboriginal rights are respected and financial arrangements are put in place to allow us to achieve our goals.

We anticipate this may be a lengthy process and that we may need to do this in an incremental way over time to ensure we are successful every step of the way.

We will continue to engage with our Citizens throughout this process to obtain your input and feedback which has proven to be invaluable in the various major negotiations we have been involved in over the past two decades.

Top row (left to right): Councillors Joe Moose, Willie Moore, Patrick Linklater and Ron D. Spence. Bottom row (left to right): Councillor Shirley Linklater, Chief Marcel Moody and Councillor Bonnie M. Linklater



Thanks to all of the door-to-door Constitution Consultants.

In the area of NCN (Nelson House): Roderick Spence, Kenneth Brightnose, Keith Anderson, Donna Moore-Linklater and Henry Wood.

In Thompson: Monica Linklater, Leanne Grenier and Dwight Moody.

In Winnipeg: Fonda Berard, Vernon Anderson, Elizabeth Linklater.



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