## Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation



On the following pages NCN's proposed election code amendments are highlighted in yellow with comments. This document shows only the changes and does not include the full text of either the current or proposed election code. The full documents are available on the NCN website at www.ncncree.com and at the NCN Government office. They are being circulated in advance of, and for use at Community workshops to be held in Nelson House May 28, 2013, Thompson May 29 and Winnipeg June 6. A General Assembly to address the proposed Election Code amendments is scheduled for June 12 at 4:00 p.m. where a discussion and question period will be held and NCN Citizens will be asked to vote on the amendments.

* Subject to change. Notification will be posted if a change occurs.


## Amendments Must be Addressed Soon

These amendments are being done now to ensure we will be ready if a referendum is required to amend NCN trust agreements so the funds can be invested in Wuskwatim or if it is determined that moneys can be saved by amalgamating various NCN trusts. Further information will be provided to NCN Citizens about potential trust amendments as soon as possible. In the meantime, these amendments would also take effect for the next NCN Chief and Council elections in the summer of 2014.

# A Snapshot of the <br> Changes 

The NCN Election Code revisions have been part of an in-depth process and extensive consultation that began in 2004, with the amendments first being reviewed just prior to the last Council elections in 2010. At that time Chief and Council held a general assembly to seek approval for a series of revisions to NCN's Election Code. Some, but not all the proposed changes were adopted, with direction from NCN Citizens that further consultation should take place well before the 2014 election. Since the last round, other proposed changes have been added from several sources including the independent observer at the 2010 election, the electoral officer, chief and council, staff and advisors. A workshop was held to consider the proposed changes in November 2012 at which time it was determined that further workshops should be held in the new year. Addressing Referenda is a Major Focus for Proposed Changes With direction by NCN Citizens to exercise NCN's full 33 per cent ownership option in the Wuskwatim Generating Station, and the expressed intent to access funds from the Nisichawayasihk and Taskinigahp Trusts to finance the investment, several legal steps are required to access those funds, including holding a referendum. This has prompted changes in the Election Code to accommodate holding referenda (the Indian Act has provisions for holding referenda but Chief and Council decided they should be run under NCN's own laws).
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As such, a main focus of the current round of proposed Election Code changes mainly in PART 10 [Clauses 23(1) to 23(6)] include provisions to allow the electoral officer to run referenda and other elections such as school board elections.

## O Changes Re-presented from Last

 Round of AmendmentsA major change debated before 2010 but deferred to this round for further review is the provision of a transition allowance for defeated council members. The conditions have been simplified from the earlier proposal and would now only apply to defeated members, not members who choose not to seek re-election. The allowance is at the rate of council's basic honorarium for three months for councillors serving up to two terms, and six months for councillors serving longer than two terms, unless they are returning to a job.

## O Jail Term Sentence Added as Restriction for Running for or Holding Office

In several locations in the Election Code a restriction has been added that prohibits NCN Citizens from holding or seeking office or being appointed to the appeal committee if they have been sentenced to serve a jail term. In the case of a sitting member, their seat will be declared vacant. In the case of an election or appointment to the appeal committee, a Citizen is not eligible to participate for a period of eight years following completion of their sentence.

## O Provisions Added for Mail-in Ballots

For the first time, council may authorize at its discretion mail-in ballots for an election, by-election or referendum in addition to in-person voting. However, Council's decision to proceed must be made at least one-hundred-and-twenty (120) days before the vote by notifying the electoral officer. Council may direct the electoral officer to send a ballot to all NCN citizens who live at least one hundred kilometers from a polling station, or only to those requesting a ballot.

The electoral officer has responsibility for determining procedures for the mail-in ballot and publicize those procedures at least 60 days before the vote. The mail-in procedures must meet fundamental principles specified in the Code.

O Election Code Applies to Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Education Authority
The election code would apply with necessary modifications to the Education Authority school board elections once the Education Authority bylaws have been amended and approved. Transition allowance would not apply and there would be no polling stations off reserve but NCN Citizens can vote in Nelson House.
O Appeal Committee Members Subject to Conflict of Interest Restrictions
A specific clause has been added that requires Appeal Committee members to refrain from participating in decisions related to an issue if they are perceived to be in a conflict of interest or have a perceived bias.
O Appeal Committee Costs
A new clause has been added specifying that NCN will pay Appeal Committee or election staff costs related to a judicial appeal, but not the costs of the appealing party unless ordered by the court.
O New Condition for Declaring a Council Vacancy If an NCN Chief or Councillor is elected to another level of government (federal, provincial, municipal, First Nation) that person's seat on council will be declared vacant and a by-election called. From the time the person files papers as a candidate and election day, for one of these elected positions, they must take a leave of absence without pay.
O Restrictions Added to "Unacceptable Behaviours During Elections and Referenda" To avoid effecting undue influence on the outcome of an election or referendum, certain restrictions have been added to the list of existing prohibited activities. The additions include: wearing campaign material in or near the polling station, painting election signs on building walls including houses, and purchasing alcohol, drugs or gifts in exchange for votes during the designated election period.
O Minor Wording Changes Throughout
Some less significant wording tweaks have been added as well. These include changing "elector" to "voter" (as elector is an Indian Act term) to ensure the terminology applies to both elections and referenda. In several cases English terminology has been replace by the terminology in the Cree language.

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## NISICHAWAYASIHK CREE NATION LAWS ELECTION CODE 1998-E1

## Existing Election Code

## PREAMBLE

WHEREAS: The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation believes that the Creator made the lands and the citizens of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. The Creator gave us laws that define our rights and responsibilities and govern all our relationships so that we may live in harmony with nature and mankind.

WHEREAS: The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation has maintained its freedom, spiritual beliefs, languages, culture and traditions and has exercised powers of self-government from the beginning of time.

WHEREAS: The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation wishes to make laws in writing for the governance of its citizens, the protection of its lands, the use of its resources, and the election of its government.

THEREFORE THIS LAW by and with the advice of the citizens of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, is enacted as follows:

Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

WHEREAS: The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (also known as the Nisichawayasi Asiniskaw Nihithowak) believes that the Creator made the lands and the citizens of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. The Creator gave us principles to live by and from these principles our leaders developed customary laws that define our rights and responsibilities and govern all our relationships so that we may live in harmony with nature and all creation.

WHEREAS: The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation has maintained its freedom, spiritual beliefs, languages, culture and traditions and has exercised its inherent rights of self-government from the beginning of time, which rights have never been relinquished or abandoned.

WHEREAS: In 1998, the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation decided to document our electoral processes based on our inherent laws, and to make laws in writing for the continued governance of our citizens, the protection of our lands, the use of our resources, and the election of our government.

THEREFORE THIS LAW by and with the advice of the citizens of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, is enacted as follows:

1 For purposes of this Code only, unless expressly otherwise provided, the following terms shall be defined as follows:
"Board" means any board of an NCN corporation, unincorporated entity or trust whose governing documents, or in the absence of direction in the governing documents, whose directors or trustees or Chief and Council have determined are to be elected pursuant to this Code.
"Code" means this Election Code and Referendum Rules including any amendments thereto, or any successor election code and referendum rules adopted by the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.
"Electoral Officer" means the person who is appointed by council to conduct elections and referenda pursuant to this Code and where required includes deputy electoral officers.

Adds Cree terminology.
Adds reference to principles given by the Creator.

Changes "mankind" to "all creation".

Adds "inherent rights".
Adds statement that rights have never been forfeited.

Specifies year when NCN began documenting its electoral process in writing.
Changes reference to the First Nation from "its" to "our" throughout.

No change.

No change.

Adds new definition identifying what determines when members of NCN boards need to be elected.

NOTE: The constitutions/bylaws of all NCN corporations/entities will be reviewed to ensure they are consistent with this Code. It should be determined which entities require elected directors/trustees.

Adds reference to referendum rules, which the code would now cover.

Adds reference to referenda, which the code would now cover.

## Existing Election Code

"Elector" means a member who is at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of an election held in accordance with this Code.
"Elder" means a member who actively participates in community life and has achieved an honoured status in the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation as a result of wisdom and knowledge the person displays.
"Member" means a person who on the date of an election of by-election held in accordance with this Code, is a member of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation pursuant to the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Membership Code which has been in force and effect since May 24, 1988, including any amendments thereto, or any successor code adopted by the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.
"Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation" means the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation which is comprised of Cree peoples and is a band for purposes of the Indian Act, R.S.C. 1985, c.l-5 as amended.
"Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Community Meeting" means a meeting of the electors of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation conducted in accordance with this Code.
"Reserve" has the same meaning as in the Indian Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. l-5 as amended, but only refers to those reserves set apart for the use and benefit of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

"Opimpahtao (Voter)" means an NCN citizen who is at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of an election or referendum is held in accordance with this Code.
"Kehtiyatis (Elder)" means an NCN citizen who teaches others about Nisichawayasi culture, spirituality and traditions, assists elected leaders by providing respectful guidance, actively participates in community life and has achieved an honoured status in the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation as a result of wisdom and knowledge the person displays.
"NCN citizen" means a person who on the date an election or referendum is held in accordance with this Code, is a citizen of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation pursuant to the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Membership Code which has been in force and effect since May 24, 1988, including any amendments thereto, or any successor code or citizenship law adopted by NCN.
"Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation" or "NCN" means the Nisichawayasihk Nehethowuk or Nisichawayasi Asiniskaw Nihithowak.
"NCN Community Meeting" means a meeting of the voters of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation conducted in accordance with this Code.
"Reserve" means those lands set aside as reserves for the use and benefit of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.
"Oskatis" (Youth) means an NCN citizen who is between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty- (30)-years-of age on the date an election or referendum is held in accordance with this Code.

## Comments

Replaces "Elector".
Adds Cree terminology.
Adds reference to referendum.
(NOTE: Confirm with Elders that the Cree word is accurate.)

Adds Cree terminology to provide a cultural relevance to the definition.

NCN citizen replaces Member and referendum added.

Rewrite of definition to reflect Cree terminology.

Changes full name to short form. Changes electors to voters.

Removed reference to the Indian Act.

Adds definition of who is a youth. Changes "elector" to "voter".

No limitation on terms of office.
3(2) there shall be no limit on the number of times an elector can be elected to the positions of Chief or Councillor.

No limitation on terms of office.
3(2) There shall be no limit on the number of times a voter can be elected to the positions of Chief or Councillor.

## Existing Election Code

## Vacancy

3(5) Where the chief or a councillor:
(a) is unable or unwilling to act;
(b) is convicted of an indictable offence, or a corrupt practice under this Code or any other Act of Parliament or the Legislature of Manitoba;
(c) dies;
(d) subject to subsections (6) and (7), resigns from office in writing;
(e) is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of council without just cause as determined by majority vote at an NCN community meeting called for this purpose;
(f) is found by council, the Appeal Committee, or a court of competent jurisdiction to have violated the Oath of Allegiance, Oath of Office or Oath of Confidentiality in the form set out in Schedules "A", "B" and "C"; and
(g) is removed from the NCN Membership Code
that person's position shall be declared vacant and a by-election shall be held immediately in accordance with this Code unless there are only six (6) months remaining before the expiry of council's term of office, in which case no byelection is required.


## By-election term of office.

3(7) A person elected in a by-election shall only hold office until the next regular election is held.

## Prohibition on seeking Office

3(9) A chief or councillor convicted of an indictable offence shall not be eligible to be a member of council for eight (8) years from the date of the conviction or any appeal arising from such conviction, whichever is later.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Vacancy

3(5) Where the chief or a councillor:
(a) is unable or unwilling to act;
(b) is convicted of an indictable offence, a corrupt practice under this Code, or is sentenced to a jail term for any offence under or any Act of Parliament or the Legislature of Manitoba;
(c) Kanukutuskeet (passes on);
(d) subject to subsections (6) and (7), resigns from office in writing;
(e) is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of council without just cause as determined by majority vote at an NCN community meeting called for this purpose;
(f) is found by council, the Appeal Committee, or a court of competent jurisdiction to have violated the Oath of Allegiance, Oath of Office or Oath of Confidentiality in the form set out in Schedules "A", "B" and "C";
(g) is no longer an NCN Citizen; or
(h) is elected as a Member of Parliament, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Grand Chief or Vice-Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Grand Chief or Vice-Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, tribal council representative or a mayor or councillor of a town or city;
that person's position shall be declared vacant and a by-election shall be held immediately in accordance with this Code unless there are only six (6) months remaining before the expiry of council's term of office, in which case no by-election is required.

## Leave of absence.

3(5.5) A chief or councillor who seeks election as a member of Parliament, member of the Legislative Assembly, mayor or councillor of a town or city, Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs or Grand Chief of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, shall take a leave of absence from the position of chief or councillor upon filing official documents required to run for such election and shall be considered on leave of absence without pay from the date papers are filed to the date of the election.

## By-election term of office.

3(7) A person elected in a by-election shall only hold office until the next regular election is held and the new chief and council is sworn into office in accordance with subsection 21 (3).

## Prohibition on seeking Office

3(9) An NCN Citizen who is convicted of an indictable offence or is sentenced to a jail term, shall not be eligible to be a member of council for eight (8) years from the date of the conviction, the conclusion of the period of incarceration, or any appeal arising from such conviction or jail sentence, whichever is later.

## Comments

Adds jail term as a reason for declare a vacancy.

Uses Cree word Kanukutuskeet for dies.

Changes "Members" to "NCN Citizens".

Adds new reason for declaring a vacancy if a chief or councillor is elected to another governing body.

Add provision to take a leave of absence if seeking elected office to another governing body.

NOTE: Council policies will be developed that reflect that the elected position differs from staff as the staff personnel policy manual does not apply to council.

Specifies that electoral term ends when new chief and council sworn in.

Changes "chief or councillor" to NCN Citizen.

Adds reference to serving a jail sentence.

## Existing Election Code

## Comments

## PART 2: ELECTORAL OFFICER

## Appointment.

4(1) Subject to subsection (2), at least fortyfive (45) days prior to the expiry of its term of office, council shall appoint an elector who communicates in Cree and English, as the electoral officer for purposes of this Code.

## Criminal records check.

4(2) No elector shall be appointed as an electoral officer if that person has been convicted of an indictable offence and the onus shall be on the elector to provide council with a written criminal records check prior to appointment.

## Appointment of deputy electoral officer.

5(1) Council may appoint deputy electoral officers, returning officers and such other officers and employees as are necessary to enable the electoral officer to carry out the duties assigned under this Code.

## Powers and duties of the electoral officer

8(1) The electoral officer shall:
(a) exercise general direction and supervision over the administrative conduct of elections;
(b) ensure the voters list is prepared and posted in at least five (5) public locations on reserve at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the election;
(c) enforce fairness, impartiality and compliance with this Code on the part of all election officers;
(d) issue instructions to any deputy electoral officers and other officers appointed by council as may be necessary to ensure the duties in this Code are carried out; and
(e) perform such other duties as are prescribed by this Code.

## Appointment.

4(1) Subject to subsection (2), at least forty-five (45) days prior to the expiry of its term of office, council shall appoint a voter who communicates in Nehethowiwin and English, as the electoral officer for purposes of this Code.

## Criminal records check.

4(2) No voter shall be appointed as an electoral officer if that person has been convicted of an indictable offence or has been sentenced to a jail term and the onus shall be on the voter to provide council with a written criminal records check prior to appointment.

## Appointment of deputy electoral officer.

5(1) The electoral officer shall appoint deputy electoral officers, returning officers and such other officers and employees as are necessary to enable the electoral officer to carry out the duties assigned under this Code and to the extent possible shall appoint a deputy electoral officer for each polling location.

## Powers and duties of the electoral officer.

8(1) The electoral officer shall:
(a) exercise general direction and supervision over the administrative conduct of elections and referenda;
(b) ensure the voters list is prepared and posted in at least five (5) public locations on reserve at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the election or referendum;
(c) enforce fairness, impartiality and compliance with this Code on the part of all election officers;
(d) delegate responsibility to any deputy electoral officers and other officers appointed by council as may be necessary to ensure the duties in this Code are carried out;
(e) either before or after the nomination meeting, use media, information meeting or other means, to provide NCN Citizens with information about the electoral or referenda processes, including the provisions of this Code, nomination procedures, qualification of candidates, voting information and election or referenda results;
(f) determine the number and location of regular, advance and travelling polling locations, but there must be at least one regular polling location on reserve and if polling locations are to be changed in a subsequent election from the preceding election, at least six (6) months notice of the proposed change shall be given by the electoral officer to NCN Citizens who shall have the right to file an appeal with the electoral officer within fourteen (14) days of the notice being posted and the electoral officer shall refer the matter to the appeal committee within seven (7) days of receipt of the appeal;
(g) appoint scrutineers in a referendum or election if at least one scrutineer has not been appointed for each polls;
(h) establish the procedures for mail-in ballots if council determines there should be mail-in ballots provided to NCN citizens living off-reserve; and
(i) perform such other duties as are prescribed by this Code.

Changes "Elector" to "voter".
"Cree" changed to "Nehethowiwin".

Changes "Elector" to "voter".
Reference to jail term sentence added.

Appointment responsibility transferred from council to electoral officer.

Adds the need to appoint a deputy electoral officer for each polling location.
(a) Adds "referenda".
(d) Changes "issues to instruction" to "designates responsibility".
(e) Adds responsibility for communications to voters.
(f) Defines responsibility for determining polling station locations and requirement and the responsibility for notification if polling stations change from one election to the next.
(g) Adds responsibility for appointing scrutineers.
(h) Adds responsibility to establish procedures for mail-in ballots.
(i) Same as (e) in previous version.

## Existing Election Code

## Special powers of electoral officer.

$\mathbf{8 ( 2 )}$ In addition to other powers, duties and functions of the electoral officer under this Code, the electoral officer may:
(a) where an emergency arises, extend the time or dates for doing anything under this Code;
(b) increase the number of election officers;
(c) increase the number of polling stations;
(d) prescribe forms for the purposes of this Code;
(e) generally adapt the provisions of this Code to existing circumstances; and
(f) exercise such other powers as are prescribed by or under this Code;
but the electoral officer may not change the dates of the nomination meeting or election or extend the hour for the opening or closing of an ordinary or advance poll or for accepting a nomination paper on the day fixed for the close of nominations in an election unless the election cannot proceed as a result of an emergency which affects NCN, such as a flood, forest fire or death of a member or other person.

## Reports on election.

9 After each election, the electoral officer shall make a written report within seven (7) days, to council on the conduct of the election, and may make recommendations about amendments to this Code or the procedures to be followed during elections and council shall make this report available to members immediately upon receiving it.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Special powers of electoral officer.

$\mathbf{8 ( 2 )}$ In addition to other powers, duties and functions of the electoral officer under this Code, the electoral officer may:
(a) where an emergency arises, extend the time or dates for doing anything under this Code;
(b) increase the number of election officers;
(c) increase the number of polling stations;
(d) prescribe forms for the purposes of this Code;
(e) generally adapt the provisions of this Code to existing circumstances; and
(f) exercise such other powers as are prescribed by or under this Code;
but the electoral officer may not change the dates of the nomination meeting, election or referendum fixed by council resolution, or extend the hour for the opening or closing of an ordinary or advance poll or for accepting a nomination paper on the day fixed for the close of nominations in an election unless the election or referendum cannot proceed as a result of an emergency which affects NCN, such as a flood, forest fire or a similar type of emergency or other extenuating circumstances.

## Reports on election.

9 After each election or referendum, the electoral officer shall make a written report within fourteen (14) days, to council on the conduct of the election, and may make recommendations about amendments to this Code or the procedures to be followed during elections and referenda, and council shall make this report available to NCN citizens within thirty (30) days of receiving it by posting a notice on the NCN website and at the NCN government office advising where the report can be obtained.

## Comments

Adds "referenda".
Revised so only similar kinds of emergencies are covered.

Changes reporting requirement to council from 7 to 14 days. Specifies 30 day reporting requirement to NCN Citizens.

Specifies ncncree.com website as location for posting report.

## PART 3: ELECTION AND REFERENDUM PROCEDURES (Adds "and referendum" to title.)

## Electors entitled to vote.

10(1) (a) All electors are entitled to vote in council elections.
(b) The electoral officer may, in her absolute discretion, determine the number and location of regular, advance, and travelling polling locations. At a minimum, there must be at least one regular polling location on reserve.

## Council resolution commences election.

10(2) Every election shall be commenced by a council resolution calling an election, which council resolution shall be provided to the electoral officer forthwith.

## Who is entitled to vote.

$\mathbf{1 0 ( 1 )}$ All voters are entitled to vote in council elections, board elections and referenda.

## Council resolution commences election.

10(2) Every election or referenda shall be commenced by a council resolution calling an election or referenda, which council resolution shall be provided to the electoral officer forthwith.

Changed "electors" to "who is" in title and "voters" in body.

Added "board elections" and "referenda".

Removed reference to polling locations which is now covered by expanded requirements under $8(1)(f)$.

Add "referenda".

## Existing Election Code

## Election order.

10(3) Upon receipt of a resolution under subsection (2), the electoral officer shall immediately issue an order:
(a) fixing the date, not more than fourteen (14) days and not fewer than seven (7) days from the date of the order for the filing of nomination papers by the candidates;
(b) fixing the date of the election no less than seven (7) days and no more than fourteen (14) days from the date of the close of nominations;
(c) fixing the date for a nominating meeting to be held, which date shall be no more than three (3) days after the date for filing nomination papers;
(d) fixing the date and time of advance polls; and
(e) fixing the location of the polling places and the hours during which the polls will be open, and post the order in at least five (5) conspicuous places on reserve.

## Voters' list.

$\mathbf{1 1 ( 1 )}$ The electoral officer shall cause a voters' list to be prepared, which list shall contain the names of all electors in alphabetical order, which list shall be posted in at least five (5) public places on reserve at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the election.

## Corrections to voters' list.

11(2) Any elector may apply to the electoral officer up to the time the polls close to have the voters' list revised on the basis that the elector's name is missing from the list, the name of the elector is incorrect or that the list contains names of persons who are not qualified electors.

## Electoral officer may revise list.

$\mathbf{1 1 ( 3 )}$ If the electoral officer is satisfied that the voters' list is in error, the electoral officer shall correct the list immediately and the decision of the electoral officer to revise or not to revise the voter's list is final and binding on all members.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Election/referendum order.

10(3) Upon receipt of a resolution under subsection (2), the electoral officer shall immediately issue an order:
(a) in the case of an election,
(i) fixing the date for the filing of nomination papers by candidates, which date shall be, not more than fourteen (14) days and not fewer than seven (7) days from the date of the order;
(ii) fixing the date of the election no less than twenty-one (21) days and no more than twenty-eight days from the date of the close of nominations;
(iii) fixing the date for a nominating meeting to be held, which date shall be no more than five (5) days after the date for filing nomination papers;
(iv) fixing the date of the advance poll as required by clause (b) (i), no less than fourteen (14) days after the nominating meeting is held; and
(b) in the case of either a council election or a referendum:
(i) fixing the date and time of advance polls;
(ii) fixing the location of the polling places and the hours during which the polls will be open, and
(iii) post the order in at least five (5) conspicuous places on reserve, in at least one location in Thompson, Winnipeg and other locations in Manitoba where significant numbers of voters reside, as determined in the sole discretion of the electoral officer, as well as on NCN's website.
(c) in the case of a board election
(i) fix the date for the election
(ii) fix the location of a polling place on reserve only and the hours during which the polls will be open
(iii) post the election order on reserve and on the NCN website

## Voters' list.

11(1) The electoral officer shall cause a voters' list to be prepared, which list shall contain the names of all voters in alphabetical order, which list shall be posted in at least five (5) public places on reserve and in the same locations the electoral or referendum order is posted, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the election or referendum.

## Corrections to voters' list.

$\mathbf{1 1 ( 2 )}$ Any voter may apply to the electoral officer up to the time the polls close to have the voters' list revised on the basis that the voter's name is missing from the list, the name of the voter is incorrect or that the list contains names of persons who are not qualified voters.

## Electoral officer may revise list.

$\mathbf{1 1 ( 3 )}$ If the electoral officer is satisfied that the voters' list is in error, the electoral officer shall correct the list immediately and the decision of the electoral officer to revise or not to revise the voter's list is final and binding on all NCN citizens.

## Comments

Add referendum to title.
Establish relevant provisions for the electoral officer's orders in Council elections referenda and board elections

Adds election-posting requirements for off-reserve communities and the web.

Change "electors" to "voters".
Adds "referendum".
Specifies that voters' lists must be posted in the same locations the election/referendum orders are posted.

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Changes "member " to "NCN citizen".

## Existing Election Code

Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)
Comments

## PART 4: NOMINATION PROCEDURES

## Candidate qualifications.

12(1) A person is qualified and eligible to be nominated for, and elected to, the positions of chief or councillor if the person:
(a) Is an elector;
(b) Is able to communicate in the English or Cree languages;
(c) at the time nominations papers are filed provides the electoral officer with a written criminal records check confirming the person has never been convicted of an indictable offence or the documentation permitted in accordance with subsections 12 (1.1) and 12 (1.4),
but a person shall not run for the positions of chief and councillor during the same election.

## Nomination papers.

12(3) Any twenty-five (25) or more electors may nominate a candidate by signing and filing with the electoral officer, at any time after the date of the order calling the election and before 1:00 in the afternoon of the day fixed for the close of nominations, a nomination paper in a form prescribed by the electoral officer.

## Requirements for validity.

12(4) A nomination paper is not valid and shall not be acted upon by the electoral officer unless it is accompanied by:
(a) a non-refundable fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00), which fee shall be placed by the electoral officer in a separate election account to be used to help fund election costs;
(b) written consent that the person nominated will run for the office nominated;
(c) directions about how that person's name is to appear on the ballot; and
(d) a two-inch by two inch black and white photograph of the candidate for use in the preparation of the ballot.

## Candidates to be present.

12(6) Subject to subsection (7), all electors nominated shall attend the nomination meeting to confirm that they wish to stand for office and to outline their reasons for seeking office, or the electoral officer shall declare the nomination to be null and void, unless in the sole discretion of the electoral officer it is determined there are special circumstances which prevent a nominee from complying with this subsection.

## Candidate qualifications.

12(1) A person is qualified and eligible to be nominated for, and elected to, the positions of chief or councillor if the person:
(a) is an NCN citizen;
(b) is able to communicate in the English or Nehethowiwin languages;
(c) at the time nominations papers are filed provides the electoral officer with a written criminal records check that has been issued no more than three (3) months prior to the date of the nomination meeting, confirming the person has never been convicted of an indictable offence, or sentenced to jail within the eight (8) years prior to the date the election order is posted or the documentation permitted in accordance with subsections 12 (1.1) and 12 (1.4),
but a person shall not run for the positions of chief and councillor during the same election.

## Nomination papers.

12(6) Any twenty-five (25) or more voters may nominate a candidate by signing and filing with the electoral officer, at any time after the date of the order calling the election and before 1:00 in the afternoon of the day fixed for the close of nominations, a nomination paper in a form prescribed by the electoral officer.

## Requirements for validity.

12(7) A nomination paper is not valid and shall not be acted upon by the electoral officer unless it is accompanied by:
(a) a non-refundable fee of fifty dollars ( $\$ 50.00$ ), which fee shall be placed by the electoral officer in a separate election account to be used to help fund election costs;
(b) a refundable fee of fifty dollars ( $\$ 50.00$ ), which fee the electoral officer shall refund within twenty-one (21) days following the election if the candidate has removed all signs or other materials by that date;
(c) written consent that the person nominated will run for the office nominated;
(d) directions about how that person's name is to appear on the ballot; and
(e) a two-inch by two-inch black and white photograph of the candidate for use in the preparation of the ballot.

## Candidates to be present.

12(9) Subject to subsection (7), all voters nominated shall attend the nomination meeting to confirm that they wish to stand for office and to outline their reasons for seeking office, or the electoral officer shall declare the nomination to be null and void, unless in the sole discretion of the electoral officer it is determined there are special circumstances which prevent a nominee from complying with this subsection
(a) Changes "elector" to "NCN citizen".
(b) Changes "Cree" to "Nehethowiwin".
(c) Defines how current criminal records check must be to be considered.
(c) Adds reference to jail term as a restriction for seeking office.

Changes "electors" to "voters".
Renumbered due to 2010
amendments.
(b) Adds new requirement for paying refundable fee at time nomination papers are submitted as candidates have not been removing signs.

Renumbered due to 2010 amendments.

Changes "electors" to "voters".
Renumbered due to 2010
amendments.

## Existing Election Code

Permitted absences.
12(7) An elector's candidacy will not be declared null and void if that person is unable to attend the nomination meeting due to personal illness or a critical illness or death of an immediate family member and as long as the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer is notified prior to the nomination meeting.

## Withdrawal.

12(8) Any elector nominated may withdraw at the nominating meeting or at least seven (7) days before election day, by filing a written notice to that effect signed by the candidate and witnessed by two electors and that candidate's name shall not be placed on the ballot.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Permitted absences.

12(10) A voter's candidacy will not be declared null and void if that person is unable to attend the nomination meeting due to personal illness or a critical illness or death of an immediate family member and as long as the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer is notified prior to the nomination meeting.

## Withdrawal.

12(11) Any voter nominated may withdraw at the nominating meeting or at least seven (7) days before election day, by filing a written notice to that effect signed by the candidate and witnessed by two voters and that candidate's name shall not be placed on the ballot.

## Comments

Changes "elector's" to "voter's".
Renumbered due to 2010 amendments.

Changes "elector" to "voter".
Renumbered due to 2010 amendments.

## PART 5: POLIING PLACES

## Establishment of polling places.

13(1) The electoral officer shall make arrangements for polling places which are easily accessible for voting during the advance poll and on election day.

## NCN constables to be present.

13(3) The electoral officer shall arrange for NCN constables to be present at the polling location during the election.

Travelling poll for elders, infirm or disabled. 13(4) The electoral officer may make arrangements for travelling polls on reserve for elders, and any electors who are ill or disabled, if the electoral officer decides such a poll is required.

## Change of polling locations.

13(6) Where it is impossible to hold a poll in a place designated as a polling place, the electoral officer may establish another polling place as close as possible to the original polling place and in that event shall:
(a) notify the electors and the candidates of the change in polling place and the reasons for the change;
(b) post, at the original polling location or as close as possible to it, a notice which clearly sets out where the poll has been moved;
(c) if time permits broadcast the change in location over local radio or television or by other means as the electoral officer considers appropriate.

## Establishment of polling places.

13(1) The electoral officer shall make arrangements for polling places, on- and off-reserve, which are easily accessible for voting during the advance poll and on the dates established for the election or referendum.

## Security to be present at each polling location.

13(3) The electoral officer shall arrange for NCN constables or other security to be present at each polling location during the election or referendum.

## Travelling poll for elders, infirm or disabled.

13(4) The electoral officer may make arrangements for travelling polls for elders, and any voters who are ill or disabled, if the electoral officer decides such a poll is required

## Change of polling locations.

13(6) Where it is impossible to hold a poll in a place designated as a polling place, the electoral officer may establish another polling place as close as possible to the original polling place and in that event shall:
(a) notify the voters and, in the case of an election, the candidates, of the change in polling place and the reasons for the change;
(b) post, at the original polling location or as close as possible to it, a notice which clearly sets out where the poll has been moved;
(c) if time permits broadcast the change in location over local radio or television or by other means as the electoral officer considers appropriate.

Adds "the dates established".

Adds "Referendum".

Considering NCN currently does not employ its own constables, this clause was made more general to indicate security required.
"Referendum" added.
Changes "electors" to "voters".

Changes "electors" to "voters".
Add: in the case of an election" to differentiate from a referendum.

## Existing Election Code

## Preparation of ballots.

14(1) Following the nomination meeting held in accordance with subsection 13(5), the electoral officer shall prepare separate ballots for the positions of chief and councillors, with the names of the candidates running for each position listed in alphabetical order in English and Cree syllabics and by placing a photograph of each candidate appearing on the ballot beside his or her name.

## Ballot boxes, etc.

15(1) The electoral officer shall arrange for sufficient ballots, ballot boxes and interpreters for the election.

## Directions for voters.

15(2) The electoral officer shall provide each returning officer with the ballot boxes and at the same time deliver a sufficient number of printed directions for the guidance of voters for use during the election.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

Mail-in ballots.
13 (7) Council may, at least one hundred and twenty (120) days before a council election or by-election or referendum, decide that mail-in ballots shall be used in addition to voting in person for by notifying the electoral officer in writing, which notice shall direct the electoral officer to send ballots to all eligible NCN citizens who live at least one hundred kilometers from a polling station or only to those who request a mail-in ballot. For greater certainty, mail-in ballots shall not be utilized for board elections unless permitted by the board's governing documents.

## Electoral officer to decide procedures.

13(8) Upon being notified that mail-in ballots are to be used, the electoral officer shall establish the procedures, which will apply to the mail-in ballots and shall publicize the procedures at least sixty (60) days prior to the election, by-election or referendum.

## Fundamental principles.

13(9) The procedures established by the electoral officer for the use of mail-in ballots must:
(a) ensure the secrecy of the voting process is not impaired;
(b) prevent NCN citizens from voting more than once during the same election, by-election or referendum;
(c) ensure that only mail-in ballots received by the date and time set for them to be received by the electoral officer are counted at the same time as ballots cast by voting in person; and
(d) ensure that all mail-in ballots cast are preserved in the same manner and for the same length of time as regular ballots, and then shall be disposed of with all other ballots cast.

## Preparation of election ballots.

14(1) Following the nomination meeting held in accordance with subsection 13(5), the electoral officer shall prepare separate ballots for the positions of chief and councillors, or board positions with the names of the candidates running for each position listed in alphabetical order in English, Tunehethouwasteek (Cree syllabics),
$\qquad$ (Roman orthography) and by placing a photograph of each candidate appearing on the ballot beside his or her name, but if there is a discrepancy between the picture, syllabics or roman orthography, the picture of the candidate shall prevail.

## Preparation of referenda ballots.

14(3) The electoral officer shall attach a copy of the ballot which sets out the question or questions to be answered during the referenda vote to the referendum order posted in accordance with section 10 (3).

## Ballot boxes, etc.

15(1) The electoral officer shall arrange for sufficient ballots, ballot boxes and interpreters for the election or referendum.

## Directions for voters.

15(2) The electoral officer shall provide each returning officer with the ballot boxes and at the same time deliver a sufficient number of printed directions for the guidance of voters for use during the election or referendum.

## Comments

(New clause) Adds in all new rules for mail-in ballots, which were not allowed in earlier votes.
(New clause) Gives electoral office powers to determine procedures for handling mail-in ballots.
(New clause) Specifies criteria for procedures for mail-in ballots.

Adds "Election" to ballots to specify requirement for election ballots.
Extends ballot requirements to board elections for NCN organizations where governing documents allow.
Defines specifications for depicting nominee's names and photos on ballots defines how photo will prevail if discrepancies in identity are encountered.
(New clause) specifies requirements for referendum ballot.

Adds "Referendum".

Adds "Referendum".

## Existing Election Code

Placement of ballot box during election.
16(3) All ballot boxes shall be kept on a table or otherwise be raised above the floor so that they are in full view of all present at the polling location throughout the election.

## Sealing the advance poll ballot box at closing.

16(5) At the close of an advance poll, the electoral officer shall take possession of the ballot boxes used and shall keep them, without the seals broken, in a safe location until election day, when they shall be opened and counted separately from the ballots case on election day.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Placement of ballot box during election.

16(3) All ballot boxes shall be kept on a table or otherwise be raised above the floor so that they are in full view of all present at the polling location throughout the election or referendum.

## Sealing the advance poll ballot box at closing.

16(5) At the close of an advance poll, the electoral officer shall take possession of the ballot boxes used and shall keep them, without the seals broken, in a safe location until the final day of the election or referendum day, when they shall be opened and counted separately from the ballots cast on the final day of the election or referendum.

## Comments

Adds "Referendum".

Emphasizes that advance poll boxes are not to be counted until the final day of voting.

## PART 6: POLLING PROCEDURES

## Provision of ballots to electors.

17(1) Each person requesting a ballot for the purpose of voting shall be given one if the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or the returning officer is satisfied that the person's name is on the voters' list, or if it does not appear on the voters' list, the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer is satisfied that the person is an elector entitled to vote or has obtained from the person, an oath or affirmation in the prescribed form, that the person is an elector.

## Recording poll book.

17(2) Upon establishing that a person is an elector, the electoral officer, the deputy electoral officer or the returning officer shall initial the back of the ballot, mark off the elector's name in the poll book or add the elector's name to the poll book, and give the ballot to the elector to vote.

## Voter assistance.

17(3) When requested, the electoral officer or the deputy electoral officer shall explain the voting procedures to an elector or arrange for an interpreter who has taken an oath or affirmation in the prescribed form to assist the elector.

## Disabled voters.

17(4) The electoral officer or the deputy electoral officer may upon request mark the ballot of an elector who is blind, unable to read or otherwise unable to vote without assistance, as long as the mark on the ballot occurs in the presence of the candidates' scrutineers, who shall observe the proceedings, but make no attempt to interfere or interrupt.

## Special records.

17(5) Where assistance is provided pursuant to subsection (4), the electoral officer or the deputy electoral officer shall mark in the poll book opposite the elector's name, that assistance was provided and the reason it was provided.

## Provision of ballots to electors.

17(1) Each person requesting a ballot for the purpose of voting shall be given one if the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or the returning officer is satisfied that the person's name is on the voters' list, or if it does not appear on the voters' list, the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or returning officer is satisfied that the person is a voter entitled to vote or has obtained from the person, an oath or affirmation in the prescribed form, that the person is a voter.

## Recording poll book.

17(2) Upon establishing that a person is a voter, the electoral officer, the deputy electoral officer or the returning officer shall initial the back of the ballot, mark off the voter's name in the poll book or add the voter's name to the poll book, and give the ballot to the voter to vote.

## Voter assistance.

17(3) When requested, the electoral officer, the deputy electoral officer or a returning officer shall explain the voting procedures to a voter or arrange for an interpreter who has taken an oath or affirmation in the prescribed form to assist the voter.

## Disabled voters.

17(4) The electoral officer, the deputy electoral officer or a returning officer may upon request mark the ballot of a voter who is blind, unable to read or otherwise unable to vote without assistance, as long as the mark on the ballot occurs in the presence of the candidates' scrutineers, who shall observe the proceedings, but make no attempt to interfere or interrupt.

## Special records.

17(5) Where assistance is provided pursuant to subsection (4), the electoral officer, the deputy electoral officer or the returning officer shall mark in the poll book opposite the voter's name, that assistance was provided and the reason it was provided.

## Changes "elector" to "voter".

Extends responsibilities to returning officer.

Changes "elector" to "voter" throughout.

Extends responsibilities to returning officer.

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Extends responsibilities to returning officer.

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Extends responsibilities to returning officer.

Changes "elector's" to "voter's".

## Existing Election Code

## Additional ballots.

17(6) Where an elector spoils a ballot so that it cannot be used, another ballot shall be provided to the elector and the spoiled ballot shall be marked "Spoiled" and be retained in a separate envelope for that purpose.

Elector leaving polling place without voting.
$\mathbf{1 7 ( 7 )}$ If an elector receives a ballot and then leaves the polling place without voting or returning the ballot to the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or returning officer, the details shall be recorded in the poll book opposite the name of that elector and no further ballot shall be provided to that person.

## Electors can vote if inside poll before closing time.

17(8) Every elector who is inside the polling location before the poll is closed pursuant to subsection (9) shall be entitled to vote notwithstanding that the vote occurs after the time fixed for closing the poll.

## Closing polls.

17(9) At the time established for closing the polls, the electoral officer shall cause the entrance to the polling place to be closed and no other person shall be allowed to enter the polling location to vote after that time.

## Camera.

$\mathbf{1 7}$ (10) Following the closing of the polls, the electoral officer may authorize the procedures in subsections 19(1) and (5) to be recorded by camera or other video recording device as long as voter secrecy is maintained and all recordings are provided to the electoral officer immediately following the vote and only the electoral officer shall have access to the recording unless the election proceedings are the subject of an appeal in which case certified copies of the recording shall be made available to the Appeal Committee and any candidate upon request.

## Spoiled ballots.

18(1) Immediately after the closing of the poll, the electoral officer shall, in the presence of those present at the polling location, place all spoiled ballot papers in an envelope and mark it "Spoiled Ballots", seal it, and the spoiled ballots shall not be counted in the election.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Additional ballots.

17(6) Where a voter spoils a ballot so that it cannot be used, another ballot shall be provided to the voter and the spoiled ballot shall be marked "Spoiled" and be retained in a separate envelope for that purpose.

## Elector leaving polling place without voting.

$\mathbf{1 7 ( 7 )}$ If a voter receives a ballot and then leaves the polling place without voting or returning the ballot to the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or returning officer, the details shall be recorded in the poll book opposite the name of that voter and no further ballot shall be provided to that person.

## Electors can vote if inside poll before closing time.

$\mathbf{1 7 ( 8 )}$ Every voter who is inside the polling location before the poll is closed pursuant to subsection (9) shall be entitled to vote notwithstanding that the vote occurs after the time fixed for closing the poll.

## Closing polls.

17(9) At the time established for closing the polls, the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or returning officer shall cause the entrance to the polling place to be closed and no other person shall be allowed to enter the polling location to vote after that time.

## Camera.

$\mathbf{1 7 ( 1 0 )}$ Following the closing of the polls, the electoral officer may authorize the procedures in subsections 19(1) and (5) to be recorded by camera or other video recording device as long as voter secrecy is maintained and all recordings are provided to the electoral officer immediately following the vote and only the electoral officer shall have access to the recording unless the election or referendum proceedings are the subject of an appeal in which case certified copies of the recording shall, in the case of an election, be made available to the Appeal Committee and any candidate upon request and in the case of a referendum to Council.

## Spoiled ballots.

18(1) During an advance poll, election or referendum, the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or returning officer shall initial each spoiled ballot, in the presence of those present at the polling location, and then place such spoiled ballot papers in an envelope marked "Spoiled Ballots", and immediately after the closing of the poll, seal it, and the spoiled ballots shall not be counted in the election or referendum.

## Comments

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Extends assigned responsibilities to deputy electoral officer or returning officer.

Adds "Referendum" and specifies video photography requirements for each.

Extends requirements to referendums and responsibilities to deputy electoral officer or returning officer.

Adds detail to requirements.

## Existing Election Code

## Counting names in the poll book.

$\mathbf{1 8 ( 2 )}$ After closing the poll the names of the persons who voted at each poll shall be counted and recorded in the poll book, and the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer shall sign the poll book to verify its accuracy, along with those candidates or scrutineers who also wish to sign.

## Count number of ballots in ballot box.

18(3) Prior to tallying the votes for each candidate, the ballots in the ballot box shall be counted and if the number is more than the number recorded in the poll book, any ballots which do not have the initials of a electoral officer, a deputy returning officer or a returning officer on the back shall be discarded, by placing the ballot in an envelope marked "Discarded Ballots", which envelope shall be sealed at the close of the polls and signed by the electoral officer or a deputy electoral officer.

## Ballots to be rejected in count.

18(4) In counting the ballots for each candidate, the electoral officer, a deputy electoral officer and returning officers shall reject a ballot that:
(a) was not supplied by them;
(b) has marks beside more than one (1) candidate in the case of chief and more than six (6) candidates in the case of councillors;
(c) has a mark or writing on it which identifies the voter;
(d) indicates a vote for a candidate who has withdrawn; or
(e) prevents voter intention from being determined.

## Announcing results.

18(5) After the number of votes cast for each candidate has been determined, recorded in the poll book, and signed by the electoral officer, the electoral officer shall announce the results to the public and post a signed statement indicating the results of the election.

Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Counting names in the poll book.

18(2) After closing the poll the names of the persons who voted at each poll shall be counted and recorded in the poll book, and the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or returning officer shall sign the poll book to verify its accuracy, along with those candidates or scrutineers who also wish to sign and if the poll book was used to record the people who voted in an advance poll, the poll book shall be retained by the electoral officer, or deputy electoral officer or returning officer who will be present on the day of the election or referendum so that they can take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person does not cast more than one ballot in the election or referendum. For greater certainty, the poll books from advance polls shall not be sealed in the ballot box but shall be used during the vote as permitted by this section and then shall be used on the day of the vote during the count of the advance poll ballots.

## Count number of ballots in ballot box.

18(3) Prior to tallying the votes in an election or referendum, the ballots in the ballot box shall be counted and if the number is more than the number recorded in the poll book, any ballots which do not have the initials of a electoral officer, a deputy electoral officer or a returning officer on the back shall be discarded, by placing the ballot in an envelope marked "Discarded Ballots", which envelope shall be sealed at the close of the polls and signed by the electoral officer, a deputy electoral officer or returning officer.

## Ballots to be rejected in count.

18(4) In counting the ballots, the electoral officer, a deputy electoral officer and returning officers shall reject a ballot that:
(a) was not supplied by them;
(b) has marks beside more than one (1) candidate in the case of chief and more than six (6) candidates in the case of councillors in an election;
(c) has a mark or writing on it which identifies the voter;
(d) indicates a vote for a candidate who was disallowed, has withdrawn from an election or who passed on during the election; or
(e) prevents voter intention from being determined.

## Announcing results.

18(5) After the number of votes cast for each candidate or in relation to referenda questions, has been determined, recorded in the poll book, and copies sent to the electoral officer, the electoral officer shall tally the totals received from each poll, enter the results into his or her master poll book, and certify those were the results received, the electoral officer shall announce the results to the public and post a signed statement indicating the results of the election or referenda.

## Comments

Adds further specifications for use of poll book as administrative problems have arisen in previous elections.

Changes reference from "candidate" to "election or referendum".
(a) Noted specification applied to election only.
(b) Adds conditions for rejecting ballot related to qualifications of candidate.

Expands requirement for referenda.

## Changes "elector" to "voter".

Adds specification for counting and recording the vote results.

## Existing Election Code

## Disposal of ballots.

18(6) The electoral officer shall place all unused, spoiled, discarded and rejected ballots in a sealed envelope and shall retain that envelope for thirty (30) days after which arrangements shall be made for the ballots to be destroyed in the presence of a deputy electoral officer, at least one returning officer, and one NCN constable, unless there has been a request for a recount or an appeal has been filed, in which case the ballots shall not be disposed of until the conclusion of any appeal proceedings or upon the expiry of the time for filing an appeal, whichever is later.

## Scrutineers.

18(7) Each candidate may appoint an elector as his or her scrutineer for each poll, which scrutineer shall be entitled to be present at the polling station to observe proceedings throughout the election and counting of the ballots.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Disposal of ballots.

18(6) The electoral officer shall place all unused, spoiled, discarded and rejected ballots received from each polling location in a sealed envelope and shall retain that envelope for thirty (30) days after which arrangements shall be made for the ballots to be destroyed in the presence of a deputy electoral officer, at least one returning officer, and one police or security officer, unless there has been a request for a recount or an appeal has been filed, in which case the ballots shall not be disposed of until the conclusion of any appeal proceedings or upon the expiry of the time for filing an appeal, whichever is later.

## Election Scrutineers.

18(7) Each candidate in an election may appoint a voter as his or her scrutineer for each poll, which scrutineer shall be entitled to be present at the polling station to observe proceedings throughout the election and counting of the ballots but the electoral officer shall take the necessary steps to ensure there are scrutineers appointed in accordance with clause $8(1)(\mathrm{g})$ if scrutineers have not been appointed by candidates.

## Referenda Scrutineers.

18 (7.1) Council may appoint voters or independent observers as scrutineers for each poll during a referendum, and the scrutineer shall have the same rights as a scrutineer appointed under section 18 (7).

## Prohibition on certain activities during elections and referenda.

18(8) Any person who is a candidate in an election or who is participating in a referendum and who:
(a) posts signs inside the polling station or within one hundred and fifty (150) feet of the polling station or wears any campaign materials within this area;
(b) on voting day in an election or referendum, canvasses within the same area identified in clause (a);
(c) paints signs on the walls of buildings, including houses;
(d) buys or contributes to the purchase of alcohol, drugs or other gifts as an inducement for voters to vote during an election or referendum, at any time after the electoral officer posts the order calling the election or referendum and the time the polls have closed on the day of an election or referendum,
whether by engaging in such activities himself or herself or by directly or indirectly encouraging others to engage in such activities, shall be disqualified as a candidate by the electoral officer, and subject to subsection 21 , any votes cast for this candidate shall not be counted by the electoral officer, except in the case of clause (c), the electoral officer shall first give the candidate notice that the signs painted on the buildings must be removed within twenty-four hours of notice being given, and if the sign painted on the building is not removed, the candidate shall be disqualified.

## Comments

Specifies ballots received from polling stations.

Changes NCN "constable" to "security officer" reflecting disbanding of the force and constable program as well as the previous practice of the electoral officer using other security personnel.

Defines scrutineer responsibilities for elections.

Adds a requirement for the electoral officer to appoint scrutineers if candidates do not appoint their own, to enhance fairness and transparency.

Defines separate scrutineer requirements for referenda.

Expands the list of unacceptable behaviours on voting day and in or near the polling stations for both elections and referenda.

Removes the prohibition on voterelated media advertising within 24 hours of poll opening.

For clause (c) candidates must remove signs on buildings within 24 hours of notice to do so by the electoral officer.

## PART 7: APPEAL PROCEDURES

## Appeal Committee.

19(1) Within fourteen (14) days of the coming into force of this Code, Council shall appoint an Appeal Committee for purposes of this Code:

## Composition of Appeal Committee.

19(2) The Appeal Committee shall be composed of:
a) two (2) elders, one (1) of whom shall have served on council previously;
b) one (1) elector who served as an electoral officer or a deputy electoral officer in previous elections under this Code or the Indian Act;
C) one (1) elector who is between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25) years of age;
d) one (1) member who is a magistrate or Commissioner of Oaths; and
e) one (1) other elector.

## Terms of Appeal Committee members.

19(4) The members referred to in clauses 2(a),
(b) and (c) shall be appointed for a term of four
(4) years and the members referred to in clauses

2(d) and (e) shall be a term of five (5) years.

## Election final and binding.

19(5) The appointments of council to the Appeal Committee shall be final and binding on all electors.

## Appeal Committee.

19(1) By May $15^{\text {th }}$ of the last year of its term, Council shall appoint an Appeal Committee for purposes of this Code, which Appeal Committee shall remain in office until a new Appeal Committee is appointed.

## Composition of Appeal Committee.

19(2) Five (5) persons, including one (1) Elder one (1) youth, and an experienced Manitoba adjudicator all of whom are prepared to carry out the responsibilities of this Part in a fair and impartial manner shall be appointed by council to serve as the Appeal Committee and at the same time, council shall also name five (5) persons as alternates whom the electoral officer may appoint if a quorum cannot be retained.

## Not Eligible to serve on Appeal Committee.

19 (3.1) The electoral officer, deputy electoral officers, returning officers, election staff, members of chief and council, candidates, persons who have been convicted of an indictable offence or have been sentenced to serve a jail term within the past eight (8) years, persons employed by NCN, and immediate family or business partners of candidates shall not serve on the Appeal Committee. For purposes of this Part, immediate family shall consist of spouses, common-law partners, siblings, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles or first cousins. If an appeal is filed, and a Committee member must be recused from hearing an appeal, an alternate Appeal Committee member shall be appointed by the electoral officer within seven (7) days of the date the person recused himself or herself.

## Recusal.

19(3.2) Committee members shall recuse themselves at any time if an issue arises that would result in a conflict of interest or a perception of bias if the person continued to serve on the Appeal Committee and if a quorum can not be retained due to the recusal of appeal committee members, the electoral officer shall appoint replacement members from the list of alternates within five (5) days of being notified that a quorum can not be retained.

## Terms of Appeal Committee members.

19(4) The Appeal Committee shall hold office until all appeals and any litigation arising from the appeals has been concluded.

## Election final and binding.

19(5) The appointments of council to the Appeal Committee shall be final and binding on all voters.

Sets specific date for council to appoint an appeal committee and specifies the term of appointment.

Revised requirements for composition of appeal committee as they were difficult to meet.
(New clause) Defines specific restrictions identifying who is not eligible to serve on appeal committee.

Codifies existing law that committee members must disqualify themselves from addressing an issue when a real or perceived conflict-of-interest or bias exists.

The electoral officer may have to appoint and alternate if a quorum no longer exists.

Simplified terms of office for appeal committee members.

Changes "electors" to "voters".

## Existing Election Code

## Vacancies.

19(6) Where a member of the Appeal
Committee:
(a) is unable or unwilling to act;
(b) is convicted of an indictable offence, or a corrupt practice under this Code or any other Act of Parliament or the Legislature of Manitoba;
(c) dies or resigns in writing, which resignation shall take effect as soon as it is submitted to a quorum of council;
(d) is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Appeal Committee without just cause as determined by an NCN community meeting called for this purpose; or
(e) is removed from the NCN Membership Code,
that person's position shall be declared vacant and council, in accordance with the composition requirements in subsection (2), shall make a new appointment within fourteen (14) days of the position becoming vacant.

## Recount by Appeal Committee.

20(4) Upon receipt of an appeal, the Appeal Committee shall within seven (7) days convene a panel of at least three (3) members to conduct a recount in accordance with subsection (4).

## Corrupt practice appeal.

20(5) Within seven (7) days after the election any candidate or elector who voted may file an appeal with the Appeal Committee if that person has reasonable grounds to believe there was:
a) a violation of this Code which may affect the results of the election; or
b) a corrupt practice in connection with the election, which may affect the results of the election.

## Other Appeals.

20(6) Within seven (7) days of any decision under this Code which adversely affects the rights of any candidate or elector, that person may file an appeal with the Appeal Committee.

## Final decision.

20(12) A decision of the Appeal Committee pursuant to subsections (9), (10) and (11) shall be final and binding on all electors.

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## Vacancies.

19(6) Where a member of the Appeal Committee:
(a) is unable or unwilling to act;
(b) is convicted of an indictable offence, or a corrupt practice under this Code or any other Act of Parliament or the Legislature of Manitoba or is sentenced to serve a jail term;
(c) dies or resigns in writing, which resignation shall take effect as soon as it is submitted to a quorum of council;
(d) is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Appeal Committee without just cause as determined by an NCN community meeting called for this purpose; or
(e) is no longer an NCN citizen.
that person's position shall be declared vacant and council in accordance with the composition requirements in subsection (2) shall make a new appointment within fourteen (14) days of the position becoming vacant.

## Recount by Appeal Committee.

20(4) Upon receipt of an appeal, the Appeal Committee shall meet within seven (7) days to conduct a recount in accordance with subsection (4).

## Corrupt practice appeal.

20(5) Within seven (7) days after the election any candidate or voter who voted may file an appeal with the Appeal Committee if that person has reasonable grounds to believe there was:
a) a violation of this Code which may affect the results of the election; or
b) a corrupt practice in connection with the election, which may affect the results of the election, including any attempt to influence voting intentions through the purchase of, or contribution to the purchase of, alcohol, drugs or other gilts for voters.

## Other Appeals.

20(6) Within seven (7) days of any decision under this Code, which adversely affects the rights of any candidate or voter, that person may file an appeal with the Appeal Committee.

## Final decision.

20(12) A decision of the Appeal Committee pursuant to subsections (9), (10) and (11) shall be final and binding on all voters.

## Judicial review costs.

20(14) NCN shall bear all reasonable costs incurred by the Appeal Committee and all election staff in respect of a judicial review pursuant to subsection 20(13), but all other parties to such judicial review shall bear all of their own direct and indirect costs, unless the court expressly orders NCN to pay a portion of the costs of any other party.

## Comments

Added sentencing to serve a jail term to reasons vacancy can be declared.

Rewords citizenship requirement.

Changes "elector" to "voter".
Specific instances of corruption identified related to influencing a vote including funding of alcohol of gifts for voters.

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Defines allocation of costs incurred if a judicial review is required.

## Existing Election Code

Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)
Comments

## PART 8: INAUGURATION CEREMONIES

## Traditional swearing in.

21(3) The swearing in ceremony for the chief and individual councillors shall include traditional Cree ceremonies and activities.

## Traditional swearing in.

$\mathbf{2 1 ( 3 )}$ The swearing in ceremony for the chief and individual councillors shall include traditional Nisichawayasihk Nehethowuk ceremonies and activities.

## Deputy Chief.

21 (5) The councillor who receives the most votes in the election shall be appointed deputy chief at the first regular council meeting following the traditional swearing in, and shall have the full powers of the chief in the absence of the chief or if the chief becomes incapacitated or is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of chief until a by-election is held if required by this Code, unless the councillor who receives the most votes dedines the position, in which case council shall appoint a deputy chief from among those persons elected as councillors.

Replaces English with Cree language terminology.
(New clause) Specifies conditions for appointment of and powers of deputy chief specified. Allows council to appoint If appointee declines the position.

## PART 9: TRANSITION ALLOWANCE (New PART)



## Definitions

22(1) The following definitions apply in this Part:
"basic honoraria" means the regular council honorarium a former member of Council received as of the day of the election, but does not include any additional honoraria or payments, if any, made to a member of Chief and Council in addition to the person's regular honorarium for serving on council.
"former member" means a member of Council who was defeated in an election held pursuant to this Code.
"transition allowance" means a payment made in accordance with this Part to a former member who is defeated in an election.

## Eligibility.

22(2) A former member is eligible for a transition allowance under this Part if he or she was defeated in an election under this Code unless that person is on a leave of absence from employment and has decided to return to that position.

## Amount and period of allowance.

22(3) The transition allowance payable to a former member shall consist of a series of biweekly payments, at a rate of pay equal to the former member's basic honorarium, for the period from the date of the election to:
(a) the end of the third month after the date on which the former member was defeated, in the case of a former member who has served on council for up to two consecutive terms of office; or
(b) the end of the sixth month after the date on which the former member was defeated, in the case of a former member who has served on council for more than two consecutive terms of office.

## Funding of allowance.

22(4) The transition allowance shall be funded entirely by the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

## Coming into force.

22(5) This Part shall come into force following the 2014 council elections and for greater certainty shall only apply to Chief and Council and shall not apply to anyone else elected pursuant to this Code.
(New clause) Provides definitions for different types of compensation related to chief and council.
(New clause) Adds provision for providing a transition allowance to defeated council members and identifies conditions for ineligibility.
(New clause) Defines the amount and duration of the transition allowance.
(New clause) Designates NCN as responsible for funding the allowance.
(New clause) Designates following the 2014 election as the start date for the transition allowance to start.


PART 11: AMENDING PROCEDURES (Formerly Part 9) Changes PART number and location in document and clause numbers changed throughout. Shown side by side for comparison.

## Amendment proposals.

22(2) An elector may propose amendments to this Code by presenting such proposals to the electoral officer who shall review the proposals and submit them to council with recommendations.

## Vote to amend by secret ballot.

22(5) If requested by at least ten (10) electors, the vote to amend shall be by secret ballot vote.

## Approval required to amend.

22(6) No proposed amendment shall be effective unless approved by a majority of electors present at the NCN community meeting referred to in subsection 22(3) where at least one hundred (100) electors are in attendance.

## Amendment proposals.

24(2) Any voter or member of council may propose amendments to this Code by presenting such proposals to the electoral officer or council who shall review the proposals.

## Vote to amend by secret ballot.

24(5) Traditional voting methods shall be used to amend the Code, unless there is a request by at least twenty (20) voters to hold a secret ballot vote.

## Approval required to amend.

24(6) No proposed amendment shall be effective unless approved by a majority of voters present at the NCN community meeting referred to in subsection 22(3) where at least one hundred (100) voters are in attendance.

Allows members of council to propose changes and allows changes to be submitted to council in addition to the electoral officer.

Increases minimum requirement for number of voter requests to hold secret-ballot vote rather than traditional vote, from 10 to 20.

Changes "elector" to "voter".

Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)
Comments

## PART 12: EFFECTIVE DATES Moves effective dates under separate PART 12. Changes clause numbers,

## Effective date of Code.

22(8) This Code shall come into effect for the election of chief and council in 1998 and the reference to eight (8) years in subsection 3(9) shall mean any convictions from 1990 onward.

## Effective date of amendments.

22(7) Amendments approved in accordance with this section shall take effect seven (7) days from the date of approval at the NCN community meeting, except for a change in the composition of council, which amendment shall not take effect until the next regular election following the decision made at the NCN community meeting.

## Effective date of Code.

25(1) This Code came into effect for the election of chief and council in 1998 following a receipt of a ministerial order pursuant to section 74 of the Indian Act (Canada) and NCN's exercise of its inherent right to govern itself.

## Effective date of amendments.

$\mathbf{2 5 ( 2 )}$ Amendments approved in accordance with this section shall take effect seven (7) days from the date of approval at the NCN community meeting, except for a change in the composition of council, which amendment shall not take effect until the next regular election following the decision made at the NCN community meeting.

## 2002 Amendments.

Section 10(b) was amended to provide the electoral officer with the discretion to establish the number and location of polls and came into force for the 2002 Council elections.

2010 Amendments.
Sections 12 and 20 - Were amended and came into force for the 2010 election, more particularly:

- Section 12 (1)(c) - Ordinary residents requirement for candidates was deleted;
- Section $12(1)(\mathrm{d})$ - Was then renumbered to 12 (1)(c);
- Section 12(1.1) - Codified the electoral officer's practice of accepting a statutory declaration in certain circumstances related to criminal record checks;
- Section 12(1.2) - Candidates election will be null and void if the statutory declaration is inaccurate;
- Section 12(1.3) - The electoral officer will hold a by-election or declare a candidate elected depending upon the circumstances;
- Section 12(1.4) - Outlines the consequences of making a false statutory declaration;
- Section 12(2) - Factors to determine ordinary residents were deleted;
- Section 20(10) - Requires the appeal committee to make its decision within 30 days unless there are extenuating circumstances.


## 2013 Amendments

In 2013 Sections $\qquad$ were amended and are to come into force for the 2014 Council elections and for any referenda or board election held after June 12, 2013, more particularly $\qquad$ —.

## SCHEDULES

## SCHEDULE "A" OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

 I_ before the Creator and members of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, do swear or solemnly affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the laws of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Canada.
Witness: $\qquad$
Chief/Councillor $\qquad$
Date:

## SCHEDULE "A"

 OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
## I

and members of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, do swear or solemnly affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the laws of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Canada. I acknowledge that failure to do so could result in my removal from office. Witness:
Chief/Councillor $\qquad$
Date:

Adds reference to Ministerial order related to Indian Act and NCN's inherent right to self-government.

Adds dates when all amendments were approved.

Adds specification of consequences for not adhering to terms of oath.

## Existing Election Code

## SCHEDULE "B" <br> OATH OF OFFICE

I
before the Creator and members of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, do swear or solemnly affirm that I duly, faithfully and to the best of my knowledge and ability perform and fulfill the duties and requirements of the office of (Chief or Councillor) for the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, to which I have been elected, and so long as I shall continue to hold that office, without fear or favour.
Witness:
Chief/Councillor
Date: $\qquad$

## SCHEDULE "C"

I
before the Creator and members of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, do swear or solemnly affirm that I will maintain, and aid in maintaining, the privacy of members of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and shall keep confidential any information disclosed to me by such members unless I am required by law to disclose same.
Witness:
Chief/Councillor
Date: $\qquad$

## SCHEDULE "D"

I
swear or solemnly affirm that:

- I am legally qualified to act as electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or other officer;
- I will act faithfully in my appointed capacity and perform all the duties required under the Election Code of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, without partiality, fear, or favour or affection;
- I will maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting pursuant to this Code.

SWORN before me at Nelson House, ) in the Province of Manitoba ) this $\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ 20 $\qquad$ - )

## A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the Province of Manitoba.

My Commission expires $\qquad$

## Proposed Revised Election Code (changes highlighted)

## SCHEDULE "B" OATH OF OFFICE

I $\qquad$ before the Creator and members of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, do swear or solemnly affirm that I duly, faithfully and to the best of my knowledge and ability perform and fulfill the duties and requirements of the office of (Chief or Councillor) for the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, to which I have been elected, and so long as I shall continue to hold that office, without fear or favour. I acknowledge that failure to do so may result in my removal from office.
Witness:
Chief/Councillor
Date: $\qquad$

## SCHEDULE "C"

## OATH OF CONFIDENTIALITY

## I

$\qquad$ before the
Creator and citizens of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, do swear or solemnly affirm that I will maintain, and aid in maintaining, the privacy of members of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and shall keep confidential any information disclosed to me by such citizens unless I am required by law to disclose same. I acknowledge that failure to do so may result in my removal from office.
Witness: $\qquad$
Chief/Councillor
Date: $\qquad$

## SCHEDULE "D" <br> OATH OF ELECTION OFFICIALS

I
affirm that:

- I am legally qualified to act as electoral officer, deputy electoral officer or other officer;
- I will act faithfully in my appointed capacity and perform all the duties required under the Election Code and Referendum Rules of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, without partiality, fear, or favour or affection;
- I will maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting pursuant to this Code.
SWORN before me at Nelson House, )
in the Province of Manitoba )
this ____ day of__ 20__ )
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the Province of Manitoba. My Commission expires $\qquad$

Comments
Adds specification of consequences for not adhering to terms of oath.

Adds specification of consequences for not adhering to terms of oath.

Adds reference to referendum rules consequences for not adhering to terms of oath.

Notes

## Notes

## 5mens AMENDMENIS

More information about the proposed 2013 Election Code amendments is available on the ncncree.com website: including copies of the existing election code and the proposed 2013 amended election code. Or, information can be picked up at the NCN Government Office.


Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
General Delivery
Nelson House, Manitoba ROB IAO
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www.ncncree.com


[^0]:    More information about the proposed 2013 Election Code amendments is available on the ncncree.com website: including copies of the existing election code and the proposed 2013 amended election code. Or, information can be picked up at the NCN Government Office.

