



**YUKON
REGION**

YUKON REGIONAL CHIEF ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURE

The policy and procedures outlined in this document will provide for an open, fair and equitable election process to ensure full participation of Yukon First Nations in the election of the Yukon Regional Chief.

Appointment of Electoral Officer

1. The Yukon First Nations shall appoint an Electoral Officer to oversee the nomination and election process for the Yukon Regional Chief which will take place at the Assembly of First Nations – Yukon Region (AFN – Yukon) Annual Summit.
2. The Electoral Officer is responsible for:
 - a. Preparing and distributing a call-out for nominations for the office of Yukon Regional Chief;
 - b. Receiving nominations of candidates for the office of Yukon Regional Chief;
 - c. Determining the eligibility of candidates, in accordance with these Election Rules, for the office of Yukon Regional Chief;
 - d. Announce the candidates for Yukon Regional Chief;
 - e. Preparing the voter list;
 - f. Setting the form of the ballot;
 - g. Making all administrative arrangements in connection with the election;
 - h. Conducting the All Candidates Forum;
 - i. Resolving any disputes about voter eligibility on the day of the election;
 - j. Supervising the tally of all votes;
 - k. Determining the status of spoiled or irregularly marked ballots;
 - l. Securing the voter list, ballots, and ballot box(es);
 - m. Giving such direction or instructions as the Electoral Officer thinks necessary for the proper conduct of the vote;
 - n. Promptly announcing the election results to the Yukon First Nations Annual Summit; and
 - o. Providing a final electoral report to the AFN – Yukon Regional Office and the AFN – Yukon Executive Committee.

Election Oversight Committee

3. Prior to the call for nominations, Yukon First Nations will establish an Election Oversight Committee, comprised of three (3) Yukon First Nation elected leaders to work with the Electoral Officer to ensure that these Election Rules and Procedures are adhered to on a fair and consistent basis.
4. The Election Oversight Committee is an ad hoc committee and will dissolve upon the swearing in of the newly elected AFN – Yukon Regional Chief.
5. A member of the AFN – Yukon Region staff will provide administrative support to the Election Oversight Committee and act as a conduit to the Electoral Officer.

Nomination Period

6. The Electoral Officer must send out the call for nominations for the office of Yukon Regional Chief no later than thirty-five (35) calendar days prior to the election date.
7. Nominations for the office of Yukon Regional Chief must be sent to the Electoral Officer by mail, in person, or by email and arrive by 4:00 p.m. (local time) twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the election date. Nomination packages must be signed and complete and must be accompanied by a one-page profile of the nominee. Thereafter the nomination period is considered closed.
8. Nominations must be in Form A, appended to these Election Rules (the “Nomination Form”).

Eligibility to Nominate and be Nominated

9. A candidate for the office of AFN – Yukon Regional Chief must be nominated by three (3) Yukon First Nation Chiefs.
10. A member of the Election Oversight Committee cannot nominate a candidate for the office of Regional Chief.
11. If the candidate is a Yukon First Nation Chief, they cannot nominate themselves. In this situation, the candidate must be nominated by another Yukon First Nation Chief, or by the Acting Chief of their First Nation.
12. Candidates for AFN – Yukon Regional Chief must be 19 years of age or older and a citizen, member, or beneficiary of a Yukon First Nation.
13. The candidate must accept the nomination by signing the Nomination Acceptance Form (Form B) which must be included with the Nomination Forms. The Nomination Acceptance Form will include a place for the candidate to appoint his or her scrutineer. The appointment of a scrutineer must be made at the time the Nomination Acceptance Form is submitted to the Electoral Officer.
14. If only one eligible candidate is nominated, in accordance with these rules, then the Electoral Officer shall declare that candidate to be elected as Yukon Regional Chief by acclamation of the AFN – Yukon First Nations Annual Summit.
15. If two or more eligible candidates submit nominations, in accordance with these rules, then the Electoral Officer shall prepare the necessary documents and ballot forms to conduct a vote for the office of Yukon Regional Chief.

Incumbent Regional Chief

16. An incumbent Regional Chief is eligible for re-election.
17. An incumbent Regional Chief who wishes to seek re-election to the office of Regional Chief is not required to take a leave of absence from his or her position as Regional Chief.
18. Unless conducting AFN – Yukon business, the incumbent Regional Chief shall not use AFN – Yukon property or resources during the formal Campaign Period.
19. During the formal Campaign Period, the incumbent Regional Chief must first obtain the approval of the Executive Committee before approving any expenditures over \$5,000.

All Candidates Forum

20. The All Candidates Forum shall take place on the day before, or the morning of, the election date.
21. Each candidate will be given ten (10) minutes at the All Candidates Forum to address the AFN – Yukon First Nation Annual Summit delegates, with the timing subject to the Electoral Officer's discretion based on the number of candidates.
22. After all of the candidates have given their address, the Electoral Officer will provide the opportunity for AFN – Yukon First Nations Annual Summit delegates to ask the candidates questions. The amount of time for questions will be determined by the Electoral Officer.
23. For clarity, the Electoral Officer may allow the candidates to make additional speeches in addition to the All Candidates Forum.

Timing and Location

24. The Election for Yukon Regional Chief shall be held every three (3) years at the AFN – Yukon First Nations Annual Summit meeting.
25. If, for whatever reason, the Yukon Regional Chief is unable, or unwilling, to complete their full three-year term, the AFN – Yukon First Nation Chiefs' Summit shall appoint an interim Regional Chief at their next quarterly meeting, and an election for Yukon Regional Chief will be held at the next AFN – Yukon First Nations Annual Summit.

Electronic Voting

26. In order to ensure that every Yukon First Nation has the best chance to participate in the election for Yukon Regional Chief, the Electoral Officer will determine what voting methods, in addition to in-person voting, will be feasible depending on the location of the election, with consideration for the availability of financial resources.
27. When the nomination period ends, the Electoral Officer will inform each candidate of the voting methods that will be used for the election.
28. If electronic voting is permitted, voters may submit their votes through an electronic voting platform or other process, following the procedures outlined by that program or process.

In-Person Polling

29. In person voting will take place on the election date. The timing of the ballots will be determined by the Electoral Officer considering the number of candidates.

Electors

30. Each Yukon First Nation is entitled to five (5) votes:
- a. The Chief or delegated representative of the Chief; and
 - b. Four (4) other representatives from the Council or Government of that First Nation, as determined by the leadership of that First Nation.
31. Candidates for Yukon Regional Chief shall not be permitted to vote in an election for which they are a candidate.
32. The Chief and the four additional representatives from each Yukon First Nation shall register with the Electoral Officer before 6 p.m., local time, on the day before the election date.
33. The Electoral Officer will compile these registrations onto a voters' list.
34. Only those whose names are on the voters' list are eligible to vote for Yukon Regional Chief. Votes may not be delegated to another person after the voters' list is finalized.

Proxies

35. An elector may be represented by proxy where its representative gives written notice by way of a Proxy Form or by letter on First Nation letterhead of his or her proxy to the Electoral Officer prior to the deadline for registration. A sample Proxy Form is attached as Form C to these Rules and Procedures.
36. A representative may carry a proxy for another representative, but no one person may carry more than two (2) proxies.
37. In the event of a dispute regarding a proxy, the Electoral Officer shall make a binding determination.

Voting

38. The vote shall be by secret ballot.
39. Once a voter's name has been confirmed against the voters' list, the Electoral Officer will give the voter a ballot.
40. The voter shall go to the polling place, or space provided, and mark the ballot with an "X" in the square provided opposite to the name for which they desire to vote, fold the ballot and, in the presence of the Electoral Officer and scrutineers, deposit the ballot in a secure ballot box.
41. Ballots that are not marked or have on them writing or a mark other than "X" shall be declared spoiled and not counted, except where the voter has by some other mark, in the opinion of the Electoral Officer, clearly indicated an intention, in which case the Electoral Officer, whose decision shall be final, may declare the ballot not spoiled and count it accordingly.
42. The winning candidate in an election for Yukon Regional Chief must have attained a minimum 60% majority of the votes validly cast in the election.
43. If there are more than two candidates and none of the candidates attains 60% of the votes validly cast on the first ballot, further ballots shall be held until one of the candidates attains the

necessary number of votes. On each successive ballot, the name of the candidate with fewest votes will be removed.

44. In the event that neither of the last two candidates attains 60% of the votes validly cast, subsequent ballots will be held until one of the candidates attains 60%.
45. The AFN – Yukon First Nations Annual Summit delegates shall direct the Electoral Officer to destroy the ballots upon the declaration of the elected Yukon Regional Chief.

Scrutineers

46. Each candidate may appoint one scrutineer to witness the collecting and counting of the ballots by the Electoral Officer. The scrutineer will be identified and appointed by the candidate on the Nomination Acceptance Form.
47. Scrutineers may:
 - a. Approve the voters list;
 - b. Contest the right of a person to vote if there is a valid reason for doing so, and call on the Electoral Officer in the event of a dispute over voter eligibility;
 - c. Verify the identity of each prospective voter;
 - d. Scrutinize the counting of ballots by the Electoral Officer; and
 - e. Sign the return of the poll.

Previous Election Rules

48. Any and all Election Rules and procedures previously adopted with respect to the election of the Yukon Regional Chief, are hereby repealed and superseded by these Election Rules and Procedures.