

# COMMUNITY RATIFICATION VOTE: MUSCOWPETUNG CUSTOM ELECTION ACT

## BACKGROUND

Since August 2021, Chief and Council have been engaging with the Members of Muscowpetung to discuss moving away from the *Indian Act* and towards Muscowpetung's own Custom Election Act for the election of Chief and Council. Chief and Council have now finalized the proposed Custom Election Act. The next step is for Muscowpetung to hold a vote, to decide if the Custom Election Act will become law.

## WHAT IS CHANGING?

The proposed Custom Election Act includes important changes to Muscowpetung's elections. Some important features of the Custom Election Act include:

- Chief and Council's term in office would change from two years to four years.
- Voters that want to use mail-in ballots must request mail-in ballots, and other new rules would be introduced for mail-in ballots to fight against vote-buying.
- New rules would allow the use of electronic voting in elections.
- Candidates for Chief will have to pay \$1,000 to run in an election, and Candidates for Councillor will have to pay \$500 to run in an election.
- New rules for appeals that are intended to discourage appeals without merit.
- Voters may opt-in to receive campaign communications from Candidates.
- Chief and Council may extend their term in office if it is necessary to prevent the spread of disease (e.g. COVID)

## HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

- Please visit **Muscowpetung's Website** (<http://www.muscowpetung.com/custom-election-act/>) where you can find a copy of the proposed Custom Election Act, voting instructions and more.
- A **Community Meeting** will be held at Muscowpetung School on **Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 8pm**. At the meeting, Muscowpetung's lawyers, MLT Aikins LLP, will give a presentation and answer questions from Members. A video of the presentation will also be posted on the Muscowpetung Website to be viewed at your convenience.
- Muscowpetung's legal counsel may also be contacted with questions about the Custom Election Act

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## HOW DO I VOTE?

The ratification vote will be held using online and telephone voting, with in-person support available. Voting will start on **Tuesday, December 7, 2021**, and will continue until midnight on **Thursday, January 6, 2022**. You may vote any time during this period.

- When you vote, you will be asked: "Should Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation adopt the proposed Custom Election Act?" You will be prompted to answer "Yes", or "No".
- To **vote online**, visit <https://msn-custom-election-act.simplyvoting.com/>. Use your Treaty Number and Date of Birth to log in and cast your vote.
- To **vote by telephone**, call 1-866-933-6926. Use your Treaty Number and Date of Birth to verify your identity and cast your vote.
- To get **in-person support**, visit the Muscowpetung School between 9am and 8pm on **Tuesday, January 4, 2022 OR Wednesday, January 5, 2022**. Voting kiosks and in-person support will be available to help you cast your vote.

**PLEASE VISIT MUSCOWPETUNG.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION**

