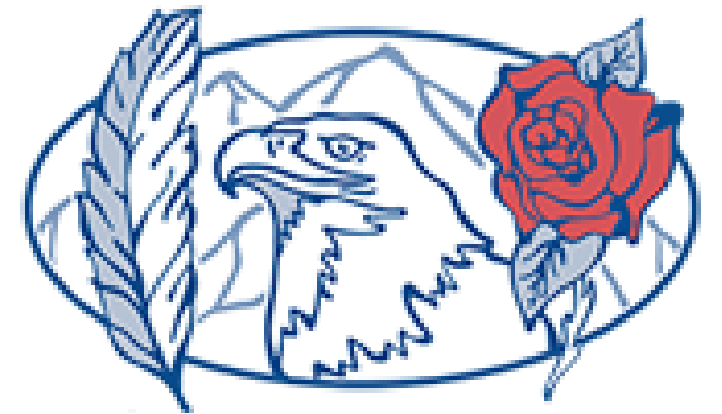


Bonaparte First Nation Election Code 2024

FREQUENTLY ASKED

Questions



1. WHAT RULES CURRENTLY GOVERN BFN CHIEF AND COUNCIL ELECTIONS?

- BFN Chief and Council elections are conducted under the Indian Act?

2. WHAT IS A "CUSTOM ELECTION CODE"?

- A custom code is a document developed by a Nation that outlines the way a Nation will conduct elections for Chief and Council in accordance with their own process;
- Once a Nation adopts a custom election code, the Indian Act does not apply to the Nations election process, including appeals; and
- Custom codes can be amended by the voters, unlike the Indian Act.

3. WHO DRAFTED THE BONAPARTE FIRST NATION ELECTION CODE (2024)?

- The original draft of the Code developed in 2021 did not receive broad support from the members and it has been revised by the Nations lawyer Nicole Hajash, of the law firm of Callison & Hanna; and
- Revisions to the Code have been informed by best practices in election code development, by the membership through consultation and recommended edits provided by Canada.

4. HOW IS THE BONAPARTE FIRST NATION ELECTION CODE (2024) (THE "CODE") DIFFERENT FROM VOTING UNDER THE INDIAN ACT?

- The Code has many improvements over voting under the Indian Act, including:
 - The ability to vote electronically;
 - The ability to participate in nomination meetings online;
 - The requirement for candidates to submit a criminal record check;
 - Appeals will be decided by an adjudicator selected by BFN Chief and Council instead of Indian Affairs; and
 - Terms are 4 years and staggered instead of 2 years, any many more.

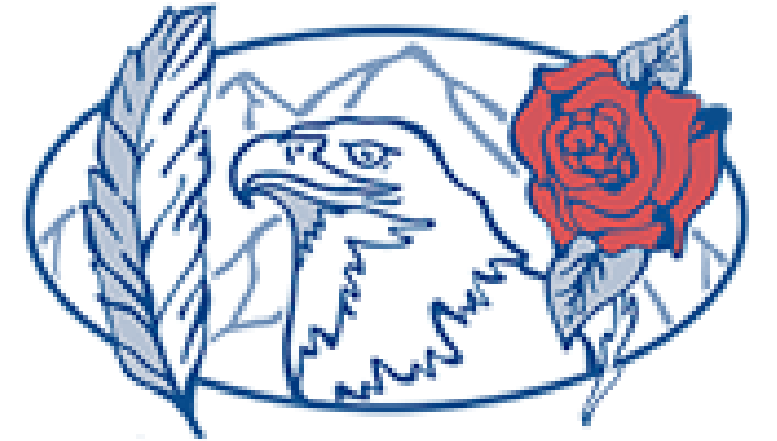
5. What are the benefits of Bonaparte First Nation adopting a custom election code?

- Greater self-governance, less involvement from the federal government in Chief and Council elections; and
- More modern voting procedures not available under the Indian Act, such as electronic voting

Bonaparte First Nation Election Code 2024

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6. WHAT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOK PLACE WITH THE MEMBERSHIP TO REVIEW THE CODE?

- The engagement team of Marilyn Porter and Honey Minnabarriet reached out to and met with all of the family pods;
- There were 3 community meetings set up solely to review the Code, which was also available to members to participate via Zoom; and
- Many revisions were incorporated into the draft which was reviewed at the August Annual General Meeting, which members were able to participate in in Person and via Zoom.

7. WHAT IS THE VOTING THRESHOLD, OR HOW MANY VOTERS MUST PARTICIPATE AND VOTE FOR THE CODE TO BE APPROVED?

- In order for the Code to be approved by the voters, 50% plus one of the BFN voters on the Voters List must vote 'yes'.

8. IF THE VOTERS APPROVE THE CODE AND IT PASSES, WHEN WILL IT COME INTO EFFECT?

- If the voters approve the Code, it will come into effect for the next Chief and Council election in May 2025.

9. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE THE CODE?

- If the voters do not approve the Code, elections will continue to be conducted under the Indian Act; and
- Additional consultation on the Code can be undertaken and further revisions can be considered and another ratification vote can be held in the future