



Vote on Anishinaabe Governance – February 1-27, 2021

December 10, 2020 – Nipissing First Nation’s Chief and Council have decided to hold a second vote on the Anishinabek Governance Agreement in February 2021 via mail-in ballots and electronic voting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the February 2020 vote, Nipissing did not meet the threshold of 25% + 1 of eligible voters voting “Yes” to ratify the agreement. Of the 494 votes cast, there were 308 “Yes” votes and 186 “No” votes. With more “Yes” votes than “No” votes, Nipissing is eligible to run a second vote and we have decided to proceed with this option because ***we strongly believe this agreement is good for Nipissing.***

Before the voting period begins February 1st, there will be many opportunities for the membership to ask questions, and to openly discuss ***what this agreement means for Nipissing.*** Due to the pandemic, much of this campaign will need to take place online or by phone, but we cannot let the pandemic slow down this movement toward the *promise, hope and future of Anishinaabe Governance* that has been in the works for over 25 years.

This agreement alone is not self-governance, but it’s a step forward in getting out from under the *Indian Act* by recognizing our authority in these four key areas of governance and providing long-term, sustainable funding for:

1. **Citizenship** – deciding who belongs to – or who is a “citizen” of - Nipissing First Nation
2. **Leadership Selection** – deciding how we choose our leaders (Custom Election Regulations)
3. **Language & Culture** – deciding how we revitalize Nipissing Nishnaabemwin, culture and traditions
4. **Management and Operations** – being accountable to our citizens, not the Minister of Indian Affairs

Nipissing has always been a leading nation in breaking the shackles of the Indian Act and we’ve already done a lot of work in these four areas. Yet, all the work we’ve done to date has been accomplished using our Own Source Revenue (OSR), and there’s always a lot more work to do to advance our nation... often with little or no funding.

This agreement is a tool to support the **future development** of Nipissing First Nation through ***new stable funding*** that we control based on our nation’s priorities, as determined by our citizens. It only applies to four areas for now, but Nipissing’s amount is ***at least four times more funding*** than what we’ve been receiving under the *Indian Act*.

It will correct historical underfunding and free up OSR for other priorities - *especially* the preservation of Nipissing Nishnaabemwin, which needs immediate and focused attention to survive, and ideally thrive. The OSR we are using today could also be better spent in many other areas including infrastructure and housing as well as to address poverty and the many social issues facing our people.

We encourage you to learn more about how this agreement can help us build a brighter future together for current and future generations of Nipissing citizens:

- Visit governancevote.ca or nfn.ca/anga, or contact Gen Couchie, NFN Communications Officer at 705-753-2050 ext. 1270 or genc@nfn.ca if you have any questions, or to request information by mail, email or fax.
- Voting packages will be mailed by December 18th, and will include details on how and where to vote.
- Virtual information sessions will be hosted via Zoom **January 13th, 20th and 27th at 6:00 p.m.** to provide opportunities for members to learn more and ask questions. Watch our website and social media sites ([@NipissingFN on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NipissingFN) and [@Nipissing_FN on Twitter](https://twitter.com/Nipissing_FN)) for regular updates.

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