



# Anishinabe Governance is... **YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE**

## **Did you vote on the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement?**

If you voted on the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement, you may remember the ratification process. A similar process is being used to approve or ratify the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement. It is called the Ratification Protocol.

## **What is a Ratification? What is a Protocol?**

The approval process is called A “Ratification”. Canada and the Anishinabek Nation negotiated a ratification protocol which is outlined in Chapter 15 of the proposed Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement.

Ratification means the action of signing or giving formal consent to a treaty, contract, or agreement, making it officially valid. A protocol is an official procedure or system of rules governing the ratification.

## **The Rules in Chapter 15 – Who is Eligible to Vote?**

Anyone who is at least 18 years of age by the last day of voting, and whose name appears on the “band list” or is entitled to have his or her name on the “band list”, is eligible to vote on the proposed Governance Agreement.

## **Second Vote Process Explained (taken directly from the Agreement)**

**15.5** *“Ratification of this Agreement requires a minimum of 25% plus 1 of a First Nation's Eligible Voters to vote “YES” and those who vote “YES” represent a majority of those who voted.*

**15.6** *Notwithstanding section 15.5, where the minimum of 25% plus 1 is not achieved but a majority of those who voted, voted “YES”, the First Nation may call a second vote within a timeframe agreed to by the Parties:*

*(a) where there are more “YES” votes than “NO” votes in the second vote, the First Nation is deemed to have ratified this Agreement pursuant to this Chapter and;*

*(b) the ratification protocol will apply to the second vote with necessary modifications as agreed to by the Parties.*

The reason there can be two votes is because voter turnout in First Nations is historically less than 25% plus 1. If the 25% plus 1 threshold is not met but there are more “yes” votes than “no” votes, a second vote may be called and a majority of “yes” votes will ratify the agreement. This can be called a clarification vote if the threshold is not met because of low voter participation BUT there were more “yes” votes than “no” votes.