

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Report to Membership on Consultation Meetings on Proposed Land Code Amendments

January 17, 2023 – Consultation Meetings with the membership were held on December 20 and 22, 2022 to discuss proposed amendments to the Land Code that was enacted on April 3, 2004. These consultation meetings were held in Garden Village and Duchesnay. Online access to the meeting was available during the December 22 meeting.

The purpose of the meetings was to inform the membership of:

- Possible amendments related to: Land exchange process, references to financial matters in light of our Financial Administration Law developed in 2016, authorities of Land Committee, mortgaging capabilities, renewal of lease agreements, land use plan, dispute resolution panel and roster, and land code amendment processes under the current NFN Land Code.

The membership was informed of the three different voter registration thresholds in the current Land Code that must be met in order to amend the Land Code and/or to enact laws under the Land Code. These thresholds are no longer required in more recently enacted Land Codes. The current Land Code requires a Verifier be appointed by Nipissing First Nation, Canada and the Land Advisory Board;

Community members that participated in our sessions discussed how decisions impact land around their homes. They discussed the need for community involvement in decision making that impacts each end of our reserve land territory. After lengthy discussions on the cumbersome nature of the Land Code amendment process and having heard the Membership concerns that they want a voice in any amendments as may be required in the current Land Code, the scope of the amendment for the upcoming vote will be reduced to focus on the cumbersome thresholds set out in Section 15.2 and Section 16 of the current Land Code and related laws. Amendments related to the other issues will not be part of the proposed February vote.

The amendments to sections 15.2 and 16 will change how votes on laws and amendments will be conducted to allow a more efficient, cost-effective process while ensuring community member involvement. It is proposed that any items requiring a vote of the Membership will take place at a Community Meetings held in person and online (with a minimum of one in-person

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meeting at the East end of the Community and one in the West End) and voted on by those in attendance in person or online with the decision being determined by a simple majority.

The vote on proposed amendments to the current Land Code, subject to Nipissing First Nation meeting the threshold for registration of eligible Nipissing voters will take place on February 25, 2023. You will receive a Notice of Vote, draft amended Land Code, ballot with return envelope, instructions on how to register and vote online through One Feather and summary of the proposed amendments in due time.

With the change of deadline to register to vote now being 8:00 p.m. on February 25, 2023, all registered voters as of February 25 at the close of the polls will have their names entered into a draw to be eligible to win one of the prizes of \$1000, \$500, \$250 and \$250. The draw will take place on February 28, 2023, rather than January 13, 2023.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Lands Office

705-753-2922