



## **FROG LAKE FIRST NATION ELECTION APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**Public Statement - Jun 23, 2023**

Our committee has reflected upon this momentous occasion of our nation's first election appeal hearings and have issued our decisions. With over 1000+ votes cast, this election was one of the most participated in recent history. Our committee members feel honored to be a part of the very first Frog Lake First Nation Elections Appeals Committee and are grateful to serve as stewards of the Frog Lake Election Code.

This committee expresses its gratitude towards all those who participated in these appeals, having brought to our attention crucial areas of concern regarding the conduct of the inaugural election under the Frog Lake First Nation Election Code. The stories told about transpired events have provided invaluable insights towards enabling our nation to improve our election code for future generations.

This committee strongly recommends Frog Lake First Nation Administration consider:

- How our nation selects election officers/providers
- Amending the FLFN Election Code via referendum, prior to 2027 elections

Our recommendations can be found attached

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tanner Stanley', is written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark.

**Chair of the Frog Lake Election Appeals Committee**

Tanner Stanley Dated: June 23, 2023

# **FLFN Election Appeal Committee Recommendations - 2023**

## **Tender Multiple Election Providers**

We recommend Administration tender out future elections to multiple electoral officers/providers, fostering healthy competition and ensuring the selection of the most capable provider. It is clear that there are uncertainties regarding the quality of service provided by the election provider utilized for the 2023 Frog Lake Chief and Council elections. Our nation deserves to have high quality options for future elections.

## **Quicker Post Election Appeal Process**

It is clear the current post-election appeal process timeline was generous, allowing the establishment of a newly formed committee. However, it is clear that a compressed timeline can maintain fairness while streamlining the appeals process. This committee proposes that our Nation modify the FLFN Election Code by:

- Shortening the deadline for post-election filing appeals to 2 weeks after the election.
- Mandate post-election hearings are held within 3 weeks after the election.
- Ensure post-election decisions are issued within 4-5 weeks after the election.

## **Comprehensive Voting Record**

We recommend mandating within the FLFN Election Code, that electoral officers provide a detailed record of the vote to the nation (and appeals committee) within 2 weeks of the election date. This would be inclusive of each tally sheet used, an office report stating vote sources such as: online, advance/off-reserve, and polling station votes.

## **Implementation of Live Vote Counting Feeds**

Implementation of Live Vote Counting Feeds: At the discretion of the electoral officer, we propose the implementation of live feeds during the vote counting process. The measure will enable interested parties to observe the count in real-time, fostering trust and accountability.

## **Scrutineer Separation**

We suggest mandating within the FLFN Election Code that scrutineers be clearly separated during the vote counting process. This separation will ensure clarity and maintain the integrity of the overall procedure.

### **Extension of Post-Election Restrictions:**

We recommend modifying section 5.10 of the FLFN Election Code to prohibit the old-council from entering agreements during the post-election appeal period, prior to the new council being sworn in. It is currently unclear what happens during an appeal period.

### **Clarification of Chief and Councilor-Elects Role:**

To facilitate a smooth transition and effective governance following elections. We propose providing explicit guidelines within the FLFN Election Code that outline the role of Chief and Council-Elects, their powers and expectations, prior to being sworn into office.

### **Appeal Committee Membership Requirements**

In addition to ensuring cultural and gender diversity within the FLFN Election Appeals committee. It is suggested that the requirements of membership be modified such that at least one individual possesses a higher level of education or relevant professional experience.

### **Enhancing Communication**

We recommend revising the current communication process for off-reserve notice of appeals, to improve clarity and ensure all relevant parties are well-informed. While physical mailing does occur, it is clear that not all members have the correct contact information on file with the Nation, and thus miss out on information. Assessing ways to streamline this communication will contribute to a more efficient appeals process.

### **Enhancing Readability**

To improve accessibility, we suggest a rewriting section references within the FLFN Election Code, limiting them to two numbers. This modification will enhance the code's clarity and simplify comprehension for all stakeholders.