

Ditidaht Ratification Vote to Amend Election Regulations

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Information Meeting Agenda

- Background Summary & Events to Date
- Why is there a vote?
- How do I vote?
- Who can vote?
- When do I vote?
- Where do I vote?
- Questions / Wrap-up

Introduction & Background

- Independent consultant & Certified Electoral Officer
- Based in Tsawwassen, BC (www.drewnorth.com)
- 40+ years experience in governance (since high school)
- Working with indigenous communities since 1989
- Started working with Ditidaht First Nation for 2019 election
- Re-appointed Electoral Officer by Ditidaht Council in May 2021
 - Initial role to administer a by-election
 - Duties expanded in July (July 5 per Summary of Events – next slide)

Summary of Related Events

- May 3 Councillor Anne Pettet resigns from DFN Council
- May 19 By-Election Date set & Electoral Officer Graeme Drew appointed by Council
- July 3 EO consults with Appeal Panel re. interpretation of Ditidaht Election Regulations (DER)
- July 5 EO recommends to Council that the DER be revised & that the By-Election be cancelled
- July 5 Council accepts EO recommendations and commences consultation process to review/revise ER
- Aug 3-5 Member Consultation Meetings held in Nanaimo, Nitinaht, and Port Alberni
- Aug 6 Election Committee Meeting to review member feedback and prepare recommendations
- Aug 9 Recommendations presented & accepted at Member Meeting in Nitinaht (tonight)
- Aug 19 Mailed 305 Voting Kits including DER, amendment, and mail-in voting kit
- Sep 22 Information Meeting to explain proposed amendments and ratification voting process
- Oct 2 Voting Day – poll in Nitinaht all day (8am-8pm) and deadline to receive mail-in ballots**

WHY is there a vote?

- Important decision that requires membership approval
 - Some decisions are assigned to the Band Administration (e.g. hiring staff)
 - Some decisions are assigned to Chief & Council (e.g. policy, budget)
 - Major decisions (like election laws) require membership approval
- To amend (change or add) current election laws
 - In this case, to improve the wording of one section which has caused conflict among Ditidaht members about how the current wording is to be interpreted
- Proposed amendments apply to Section 3 of DER:
 - Three amendments <per Voter Info Letter and next slide>

1. Section 3.03(b) to be reworded as follows:

“is not employed by the Ditidaht First Nation as its senior administrator or a similarly titled employee who reports directly to Council”

2. Section 3.03(c) to be inserted as follows:

“Further to section 3.03(b) and for greater clarity:

3.03(c)(i) the intent of restricting this employee from sitting on Council while at the same time being employed in this position is to avoid a direct conflict of interest in the working relationship between Council and its senior administrator; and

3.03(c)ii) employees who do not report directly to Council including middle management and other positions are eligible to run for office provided they meet all eligibility criteria as defined in these election regulations.

3. Section 3.04 to be removed.

HOW do I vote?

- Two ways to vote:
 - In Person (bring ID to the polling station on October 2)
 - Mail-in Ballot (must be received by Oct 2 at 8pm to be counted)
- Ballot contains one simple question (per sample):
 - ***“Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the Ditidaht Election Regulations?”***
 - YES = I AGREE with the proposed amendments
 - NO = I DO NOT AGREE with the proposed amendments

WHO can vote?

- All members of Ditidaht First Nation aged 18 or older on Oct 2, 2021
 - Based on voting dates and in this case the final voting day
 - Proof of identity required when voting
 - Government ID if voting in person on October 2
 - Declaration form (envelope) with witness signatory if voting by mail
- Name must appear on the Elector List provided to me
 - Administered by Ditidaht First Nation (Section 10) vs Government of Canada
 - Members are responsible for providing band office with current address

WHEN & WHERE do I vote?

- Any time during the voting period (now until October 2, 2021)
 - Voting kits mailed to 305 electors on August 19, 2021
 - Includes voting instructions for mail-in and in person voting (next slide)
 - Polling station open as follows:
 - Saturday, October 2, 2021 for one day only
 - Open 8am to 8pm (local time) at the Ditidaht Community Hall
- Contact EO (me) if you have further questions
- Be sure your vote is received by 8pm on October 2 or it will not count

Questions / Wrap-up

Thanks and see you on Oct 2nd!

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