



COMMUNITY NOTICE

BLOOD TRIBE COUNCIL ELECTION 2020

RE: NOMINATIONS & NOMINATION MEETING PROCESS AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Blood Tribe members, and all election officials and staff, amendments were made to the *Kainaiwa/Blood Tribe Election Regulations, 1995* by Blood Tribe Chief and Council on August 11, 2020 and August 19, 2020 with respect to the nominations and nomination meeting process for the 2020 Council Election that is to take place in November. The amended *Regulations* have been posted on the Blood Tribe website for the Blood Tribe membership's information. The procedures for nominations and the nomination meeting, and the public safety measures that will be implemented, are set out below in summary form, however, the complete text of the procedures that apply to the nominations and nomination meeting are also set out below. We encourage you to read both the summary and the text.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES THAT WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ANY TRIBAL MEMBER WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING BEING A CANDIDATE IN THE UPCOMING 2020 COUNCIL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER.

All Tribal Members who are intending to be a candidate in the Council Election are strongly encouraged to attend at one of the designated locations for the nomination process early in the day in order to ensure that they can complete and drop off their nomination package prior to the close of the nomination procedure.

SUMMARY OF NOMINATION PROCEDURE:

- Three (3) weeks prior to the Election Date, there will be a **one (1) day walk-in nomination process** to be held on a date and at locations determined by Council, instead of the usual nominations and nomination meeting that is held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on a specified date. This change allows for the implementation of all safety measures, including social distancing requirements.
- The locations for the walk-in nomination process will be set out in the Notice of Election that Council will issue in October, and the Notice of Election will be posted on the Blood Tribe's website as well as throughout various locations and in various other media sources to ensure that all Tribal Members are aware of the date and locations.

- The walk-in nomination process will commence on the designated date at the designated locations at **9:00 a.m. in the morning** and conclude at **4:00 p.m. in the afternoon** on the day of the one (1) day walk-in nomination process.
- **The nomination fees** must be made by **MONEY ORDER ONLY** and no other form of payment will be accepted due to health and safety precautions implemented as a result of COVID-19.
- Each nominee is required to provide to the Chief Electoral Officer a **criminal record check** that clearly shows that he or she has not been convicted of an indictable offence during the three (3) year period prior to the date of the Blood Tribe Election.
- **The onus is on the nominee** to provide the criminal record check to the Chief Electoral Officer and to ensure that his or her criminal record check meets the requirement set out above; the Chief Electoral Officer **will not** obtain criminal record checks for nominees.
- The criminal record check must have been obtained **within thirty (30) days prior to the nomination meeting**.
- During the one (1) day walk-in nomination process, **nomination packages** consisting of a checklist, nomination form, an envelope and other required forms and documents, will be available for pick-up by any eligible voter intending to run for the office of Chief or Councillor at the designated locations.
- During the one (1) day walk-in nomination process, the nominee and his or her nominator and seconder will also attend to the same designated location for the purposes of **dropping of a completed nomination package** to be placed into secure boxes that will be in the custody of the Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Electoral Officers.
- During the one (1) day walk-in nomination process, election officials and administrative support staff will be available to assist nominees, nominators and seconders with the nomination form. Commissioners for Oaths will be available at the designated locations to assist with the process.
- At the conclusion of the walk-in nomination process at each of the designated locations, the Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Electoral Officers will ensure all secure boxes containing the nomination packages will be kept secure until the commencement of the nomination meeting.

SUMMARY OF NOMINATION MEETING PROCEDURES:

- The nomination meeting will occur on the same day as the one (1) day walk-in nomination process **commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the evening and concluding at 9:00 p.m. in the evening**.

- Due the implementation of all safety measures, including social distancing requirements, **ONLY** the Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Electoral Officer(s), Scrutineers, administrative support staff and any security officers will be in attendance at the nomination meeting.
- The nomination meeting will be **live-streamed** so that Blood Tribe members will be able to view it.
- The Chief Electoral Officer will open each secure box and each nomination envelope individually and will announce the names of each nominee, nominator and seconder and the office for which they are being nominated.
- The names of each candidate will be entered into a computer by administrative support staff and written on a flip chart so that Blood Tribe members viewing the nomination meeting will be able to see the names of the candidates for each of the offices of Chief and Councillor.

PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES

- In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Blood Tribe members, election officials and administrative support staff, public safety measures will be implemented and enforced at the designated locations for the walk-in nomination process, nomination meeting and the polling stations for any advance poll and polls on the Election Day. Some of these measures include:
 - Physical distancing of at least two (2) metres between individuals will be implemented and enforced.
 - At all times, the number of individuals that will be allowed into the designated locations for the walk-in nomination process and at each polling station will be based upon the recommendation of the Director of Emergency Management.
 - All individuals entering the designated locations for the walk-in nomination process and the polling stations will be provided a mask and gloves upon entering such buildings.
 - Elders and other individuals requiring physical assistance will be allowed to move to the front of the line and will be provided assistance.
 - All tables and voting compartments will be sanitized and disinfected regularly

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION REGULATIONS:

ONE (1) DAY WALK-IN NOMINATION PROCEDURES

- 5.01 No later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Blood Tribe Election date, a walk-in nomination process shall commence at the time, date and locations described in the Notice of Blood Tribe Election.

- 5.02 The Chief Electoral Officer will attend to one (1) of the designated locations and will delegate one (1) Deputy Electoral Officer to attend to each of the other designated locations.
- 5.03 For greater certainty and in accordance with section 4.03 of the Regulations, the Deputy Electoral Officers at each of the other designated locations will perform all the duties that the Chief Electoral Officer will perform for the walk-in nomination process and the expression "Chief Electoral Officer" in this part 5 of this Schedule shall include the Deputy Electoral Officers.
- 5.04 At the time, date and locations scheduled for the commencement of the walk-in nomination process, the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
- 5.04.01 Declare the walk-in nomination process open for the purposes of eligible voters picking up and dropping off nomination packages for the offices of Chief and Councillor;
 - 5.04.02 Immediately, after declaring the walk-in nomination process open, open the secure box into which the completed nomination packages will be placed and call the Scrutineers and such other persons as may be present to view that the secure box is empty;
 - 5.04.03 Lock and seal the secure box to prevent it from being opened without breaking the seal and shall place the box in public view for the reception of completed nomination packages and the seal shall not be broken until the walk-in nomination process is officially closed and the nomination meeting is to commence;
 - 5.04.04 Act as supervisor of the walk-in nomination process; and
 - 5.04.05 Declare the walk-in nomination process closed at the end of the said time period.
- 5.05 Any eligible voter may nominate any other person eligible to stand for office pursuant to the Bylaw or Regulations for either the office of Chief or Councillor provided:
- 5.05.01 Each nomination shall be seconded by another eligible voter;
 - 5.05.02 Each nomination shall be accompanied by the appropriate nomination fee payable;
 - 5.05.03 The nomination fee shall be paid by money order only made payable to the Blood Tribe at the time of dropping off the completed nomination package;
 - 5.05.04 The nomination fee shall be non-refundable except in the case of withdrawal of a candidate under the Regulations;
 - 5.05.05 No nomination is valid or shall be acted upon by the Chief Electoral Officer unless it is accompanied by the fee specified;
 - 5.05.06 The nomination fee for each candidate for the office of Chief is Five Hundred (\$500.00) dollars. The nomination fee for each candidate for the office of Councillor is Three Hundred (\$300.00) dollars;

- 5.05.07 Each nominee shall provide to the Chief Electoral Officer a criminal record check that clearly shows that he or she has not been convicted of an indictable offence during the three (3) year period prior to the date of the Blood Tribe Election;
 - 5.05.08 For greater certainty, the onus is on the nominee to provide the criminal record check to the Chief Electoral Officer and to ensure that his or her criminal record check meets the requirements set out in subsection 5.05.07 above;
 - 5.05.09 Such criminal record check must have been obtained within thirty (30) days prior to the nomination meeting;
 - 5.05.10 Each nominator shall also provide sworn evidence in the form stipulated by the Chief Electoral Officer that he or she believes the nominee is eligible to be nominated and hold office pursuant to the Bylaw and Regulations;
 - 5.05.11 A person shall only be nominated for either the office of Chief or the office of Councillor but not both; and
 - 5.05.12 A person shall not be a candidate for both Chief and Councillor in the same election.
- 5.06 The following procedures shall apply to the walk-in nomination process:
- 5.06.01 The walk-in nomination process will commence at the designated locations at 9:00 a.m. in the morning and conclude at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon on the day of the walk-in nomination process, however those individuals who are waiting in line, either inside or outside due to public safety measures, to drop off their completed nomination packages shall be allowed to drop off their nomination packages;
 - 5.06.02 During the walk-in nomination process, nomination packages consisting of a checklist, a nomination form, an envelope, and other required forms and documents, will be available for pick-up by any eligible voter intending to run for the office of Chief or Councillor at the designated locations;
 - 5.06.03 The Chief Electoral Officer will ensure that the individual picking up a nomination package is an eligible voter intending to run for the office of either Chief or Councillor;
 - 5.06.04 During the walk-in nomination process, the nominee and his or her nominator and seconder will also attend to the same designated location for the purposes of dropping off a completed nomination package in the envelope designated for that purpose into a secure box that will be in the custody of the Chief Electoral Officer;
 - 5.06.05 During the walk-in nomination process, election officials and administrative support staff will be available to assist nominees, nominators and seconders with the nomination form and will ensure that:
 - 5.06.05.01 for each nominee a criminal record check that meets the requirements set out in subsection 5.05.07, obtained within thirty

- (30) days prior to the walk-in nomination process, and money order for the appropriate nomination fee amount, is included; and
- 5.06.05.02 the nomination form has been declared before a Commissioner for Oaths who will be available to assist with that process;
- 5.06.06 At the conclusion of the walk-in nomination process at each of the designated locations:
 - 5.06.06.01 the Chief Electoral Officer will ensure the secure box is kept secure until such time as the nomination meeting commences at the designated location he or she is at; and
 - 5.06.06.02 each of the Deputy Electoral Officers at each of the other designated locations will ensure the secure boxes are kept secure and will immediately transport the secure boxes to the designated location of the nomination meeting where they will be dealt with by the Chief Electoral Officer in accordance with part 6 of this Schedule.

NOMINATION MEETING PROCEDURES

- 6.01 No later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Blood Tribe Election date, a nomination meeting shall commence at the time, date and location described in the Notice of Blood Tribe Election.
- 6.02 At the time, date and location scheduled for the nomination meeting, the Chief Electoral Officer shall:
 - 6.02.01 Declare the nomination meeting open for the purposes of opening all secure boxes and the nomination envelopes for the offices of Chief and Councillor;
 - 6.02.02 Act as chairperson of the nomination meeting; and
 - 6.02.03 Declare the nominations closed at the end of the said time period.
- 6.03 The following procedures shall apply to the nomination meeting:
 - 6.03.01 The nomination meeting will occur on the same day as the walk-in nomination process concludes, commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the evening and concluding at 9:00 p.m. in the evening;
 - 6.03.02 Only the Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Electoral Officer(s), Scrutineers, administrative support staff, and security officers (if necessary), will be in attendance at the nomination meeting;
 - 6.03.03 The nomination meeting will be live-streamed so that Blood Tribe members will be able to view it;
 - 6.03.04 The Chief Electoral Officer will open each secure box and open each nomination envelope individually;
 - 6.03.05 The Chief Electoral Officer will read and announce the names of each nominee, nominator and seconder and the office for which they are being nominated;

- 6.03.06 The names of each candidate will be entered into a computer by the administrative support staff and written on a flip chart so that Blood Tribe members viewing the nomination meeting will be able to see the names of the candidates for each of the offices of Chief and Councillor;
 - 6.03.07 If only one person shall have been nominated for the office of Chief, the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare that person as duly elected by acclamation;
 - 6.03.08 If twelve (12) or fewer persons have been nominated for the office of Councillor, the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare those persons as duly elected by acclamation; and
 - 6.03.09 If the number of persons nominated for the office of Chief exceeds one (1), or the number of persons nominated for Councillor exceeds twelve (12), the Chief Electoral Officer shall declare that a poll will be held at the time, date(s) and location(s) specified in the Notice of Blood Tribe Election to elect the said Chief and Councillors as required.
- 6.04 Following the nomination meeting, the Chief Electoral Officer shall cause to be posted a preliminary list of candidates. If within seven (7) days of posting, no notices are received under this section, the list shall be the final list of candidates for office.
- 6.05 An eligible voter may give the Chief Electoral Officer notice that one (1) or more of the candidates is ineligible to hold office pursuant to the Bylaw or Regulations. In respect of such notice received within the seven (7) day limit, the Chief Electoral Officer shall convene a hearing to which the Chief Electoral Officer shall summon the said voter, the candidate and any other person in the Chief Electoral Officer's sole discretion. The Chief Electoral Officer shall resolve the matter at the hearing in a summary manner and may consider any information or evidence presented and shall not be bound by the rules of the evidence or procedure in so doing. The decision of the Chief Electoral Officer regarding the eligibility of candidates shall be final and binding.
- 6.06 Forthwith after any such hearing or hearings, the Chief Electoral Office shall post the final list of candidates.
- 6.07 Only the legal name of each candidate, as it appears in the Blood Tribe membership list, shall be included on the preliminary and final list of candidates, and on the ballots, and each candidate is responsible for ensuring that eligible voters know their legal name.

PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES

- 7.01 In addition to any other procedures prescribed in the Regulations or this Schedule, in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Blood Tribe members, election officials, administrative support staff, and any other individuals allowed to be present, the following public safety measures shall be implemented and enforced at the designated locations for the walk-in nomination process, nomination meeting and polling stations for any advance polls and polls on the Election Day.
- 7.02 All election officials, administrative support staff and Commissioners for Oaths will be equipped with name tags and personal protective equipment ("PPE") including but not limited to, masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and disinfecting solutions or cloths.

- 7.03 Physical distancing of at least two (2) metres between individuals will be implemented and enforced at the designated locations for the walk-in nomination process and nomination meeting and at each polling station.
- 7.04 At all times, the number of individuals that will be allowed into the designated locations for the walk-in nomination process and at each polling station shall be based upon the recommendation of the Director of Emergency Management.
- 7.05 All individuals entering the designated locations for the walk-in nomination process and the polling stations will be provided a mask and gloves upon entering such buildings.
- 7.06 Elders and other individuals requiring physical assistance will be allowed to move to the front of the line and will be assisted by election officials or administrative support staff.
- 7.07 If the weather is not favourable for individuals waiting in line and outside for the walk-in nomination process or at the polling stations, they will be provided a ticket or number by election officials or administrative support staff in order to allow them to wait in their vehicles until they have been summoned to attend inside the building by election officials or administrative support staff.
 - 7.07.01 At the polling stations, provided an eligible voter has been provided a ticket or number by election officials or administrative support staff, they will be allowed to vote.
- 7.08 Administrative support staff shall sanitize and disinfect all tables and voting compartments regularly.
- 7.09 Any other public safety measures that are required in order to ensure the safety and well-being of individuals shall be implemented as necessary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Blood Tribe Tribal Government at (403) 894-8105 or (403) 737-8614