



Beausoleil First Nation

Office of Council

Eleven O-Gemaa Miikan
Christian Island, ON
L9M 0A9
705-247-2051 Fax: 705-247-2239

Chief Guy Monague, Councillor Joanne Sandy, Councillor Kristin Monague, Councillor L. Judith Jamieson, Councillor Hank Monague, Councillor Angela Beedie, Councillor C. Susan Copegog

MEMORANDUM

To: Beausoleil First Nation Membership
From: Chief and Council
Date: October 2, 2020
RE: Postponement of 2020 Election

Today, I am here to advise the membership of the Beausoleil First Nation of your Chief and Council's decision to postpone the November 28, 2020 election. The rationale for this decision was concluded primarily for the safety, security, health and wellbeing of our community.

Many have become aware of the rising numbers of COVID-19 infections in our province which have been communicated through various media outlets. Further reporting is telling us that we are at the beginning of a second wave of the pandemic situation.

In our territory, we have been successful as a community in holding back the virus from invading. We have ourselves and commend our staff for their efforts and are very thankful for the challenging work that continues every day. This is no time to relax and claim victory. A second wave of the pandemic is upon us and should serve as a sober reminder that we must continue with all measures and step up our efforts in prevention. This includes reducing the number of future community events and gatherings and curtailing any actions that may increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission among our residents and thereby putting our isolated community in danger.

This dangerous virus had subsided for a short period over the summer months due to compliance with health and safety protocols. With the relaxation of restrictions, it is coming back in a second wave which is expected to be greater in scope with each passing day. We cannot wait until we see a positive COVID19 case in the community. If this occurs, we will have failed and this is why it is now that we must take further action to prevent gatherings.

Our Emergency Operations Team has continued with their regular meetings and monitors the pandemic situation and continue to make recommendations to the council as the situation evolves.

Our council has consulted with government officials, and the Electoral Officer regarding this option. We have debated the postponement quite a few times and know a decision had to be made with an impending nomination and voting processes in motion in parallel with a second wave of COVID-19 that is a reality right now. This decision to postpone the election for a second time was not taken lightly, given the understanding of the responsibility placed upon us to act in the best interest of the entire membership.

Despite the numerous challenges and tough decisions that have had to be made by the council during these unprecedented times, we continue to face new obstacles on a daily basis. Our commitment to your safety as a community remains our highest priority. The last 7 months have been a great learning experience, a challenging experience and a fearful experience for all of us. The thought of losing someone to COVID-19 because of poor planning or inaction remains in our minds, each and every one of us as community leaders. That possibility remains because the enemy of COVID-19 is not one that we can see, and we won't know that we've been exposed to the virus until it's too late.

Today, I am not only asking for your understanding of our difficult decision, but also seeking your ongoing support and continued participation by demonstrating your seriousness of this crisis by exercising all precautions and safety measures put in place to prevent infection. Please use this education as part of your everyday life by making these habits second nature for the continued safety of you and your family.

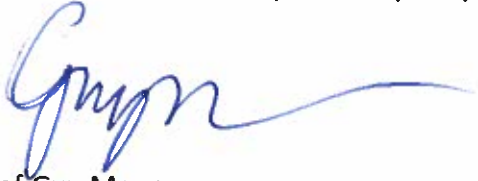
The upcoming election will be set according to our Custom Election Code on June 1st 2021, which is only a few months after our original term expires. Indigenous Services Canada has promised that they will have this prepared and signed off by the Minister within the next 3 months. Council will ensure that this happens by lobbying with our Political Organizations and seek any other support required to ensure they stick to their time-line.

There are many other advantages to moving in this direction and using our Custom Code for our next election. It will be our own election process.

If we proceed with this election, we will be subject to another Indian Act Election and it may be hard to move our election back to our normal date of June and we may be stuck to a November election for another term or two until we can transition back to a June election date.

It is a custom for this community to have our election in June. This will already be set with no more extensions. If COVID persists in 2021, we will be able to conduct our Custom Election online.

I assure you that this decision was not done in haste, nor is it any advantage for this council other than to maintain our responsibility for your safety.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Monague', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chief Guy Monague