

Transparency

Lands Governance Director, Land Manager or Land Management staff should not be directly involved in any of the duties related to the conduct of the vote. This keeps the process transparent and unbiased.

Beausoleil First Nation is NOT instrumental in carrying out most of the Community Ratification Process tasks. The Ratification Officer is. The Ratification Officer should be keeping Beausoleil First Nation “at arm’s length” for most of the tasks.

Beausoleil First Nation will hold a Ratification Vote in *May 2014* to allow our membership to make an informed decision on the Beausoleil First Nation Land Code.



Beausoleil First Nation
Land and Resource
Department

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SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY RATIFICATION PROCESS

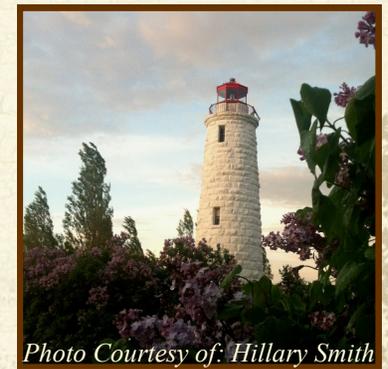


Photo Courtesy of: Hillary Smith

Section 7.3 of the Framework Agreement

In order for Beausoleil First Nation to assume control over its lands, a Land Code and Individual Agreement must be ratified (voted on) by the members of Beausoleil First Nation.

The *Framework Agreement* in Section 7.3 sets out three different ways to consider how a First Nation can carry out their community approval and voting processes.

- 1: Registered Voting:
- 2: Un-Registered Voting
- 3: Other

The main difference is that the registered method is set up so that only interested eligible voters will be allowed to vote.

Registered method is the one used by most First Nations to-date. Even though the registered method results in an extra step and more work this is the approach most First Nations choose because it is easier to acquire the required voter's participation numbers. The unregistered method is set up where all eligible voters can vote.

Another difference between registration and non-registration is in the numbers participating and the minimum approval.

Beausoleil First Nation Community Ratification Process

Beausoleil First Nation would allow registration by mail and at the poll on voting day. Therefore, all eligible voters have the opportunity to vote even if they do not register before the voting day because they can come to the poll and register first and then cast their ballot. However, if a person registers and then does not vote, this essentially contributes toward a "no" vote.

If an eligible voter does not want to vote they should formally indicate that they do not wish to vote and are not issued a ballot. They are not counted in terms of the overall ratification exercise.

Registering to vote is for the Beausoleil First Nation Land Code and Individual Agreement vote only. This registration has nothing to do with registration as a band member or other votes (e.g. Council vote) that Beausoleil First Nation may conduct.

Beausoleil First Nation has chosen the Registered Voting method.

The Land Advisory Board Resource Centre field staff are there to aid any development Beausoleil First Nation has in regards to the community approval process, the Community Ratification Process, Verifier and Ratification Officer.

The Community Ratification Process sets out how an eligible voter can vote. An eligible voter is a Registered Member of Beausoleil First Nation who is 18 years of age or older on the voting day on which that member votes. It outlines the way (s) in which you can vote: 1) By mail-in ballot, or, 2) In person at a polling station (s).

The Community Ratification Officer is how Beausoleil First Nation meets its obligation to ensure that each eligible voter has the opportunity to become informed and the opportunity for a free vote.



The community approval calculation for a Registered Vote and Non-Registered vote can be difficult to understand because the concept of multiple thresholds (i.e. at least 25% of eligible voter, at least 50% of registered voters, at least 50% of those who participate) is not a concept that has traditionally been used. As a result the verifier is well prepared for these discussions with Beausoleil First Nation.

Scott Jacobs was appointed as the Verifier for the Beausoleil First Nation Land Code.