



Beausoleil First Nation

Office of Council

Eleven O-Gemaa Miikaan

Christian Island, ON

L9M 0A9

705-247-2051 Fax: 705-247-2041

Chief Mary King, Chief Councillor Joanne Sandy, Councillor H. Neil Monague, Councillor Clayton King, Councillor David A. Sylvester, Councillor Kelvin Jamieson, Councillor Hank Monague

June 30th, 2017

Dear Beausoleil First Nation Members;

Re: Education Ratification Vote- Anishinabek Education System (AES).

On June 28, 2017, Chief and Council approved participation in the 2nd vote of the Anishinabek Education Agreement in partnership with the Union of Ontario Indians.

Approval of this agreement will ensure that we, as a First Nation, begin the important steps towards First Nation control of First Nation Education that our ancestors envisioned in signing the original treaties with the Crown. We consider education a key priority for future generations. We are certain that, with your approval, we can provide education programs and services that will contribute to even greater student success for BFN under the AES.

The Anishinabek Education Agreement is the culmination of over a decade of negotiations by the Union of Ontario Indians (Anishinabek Nation) through a high-level First Nation negotiation team comprised of lawyers, policy analysts and advisors. Therefore, we as First Nation leadership are confident that the Agreement was concluded in our best interest and with the best possible outcome.

In December 2016, many of our relatives to the north and south voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Agreement (14 First Nations met the threshold last time). Though BFN had a strong voter turnout in December, we did not meet the threshold at the last vote and therefore, we, along with 13 other First Nations are conducting a 2nd vote.

It is important for our First Nation to confirm our “yes” vote. We are asking you to vote in a second ratification vote to show to Canada that our First Nation members truly support better education for our students both on and off reserve.

The second vote will take place for one day only on **Saturday, July 29th, 2017**. There is no threshold for this vote. We will count all of the ballots that are cast and we need more “yes” votes than “no” votes. Therefore, vote will be carried by a simple majority of the ballots cast.

Attached to this letter are information sheet that describes what voting “yes” means and what voting “no” means.

If you wish to vote by mail-in ballot, please contact Clare Sylvester, Ratification Officer to receive your mail in ballot by July 10, 2017.

Clare can be reached at the BFN Administration Office beginning July 4, 2017 between the hours of 1 p.m to 4:30 p.m. or you can reach her by email at AES@chimnissing.ca

Respectfully,

Chief Mary McCue-King

Voting Yes	Voting No or Not Voting
We make their own education laws	Canada controls First Nation education through federal laws
We control education from JK to Grade 12 – control over spending education funding and all decisions on education program and service delivery	The Minister of INAC controls education funding and programs and services through federal policies and programs
Education funding decisions are made by the First Nation to support education needs of our students	Canada tells the First Nation how to spend education funding based on national programs and services not based on student needs
Streamlined education reporting	Complicated education reporting based on federal requirements
We work with the other Anishinabek First Nations to set up our own education system	Canada makes all decisions for First Nation education and each First Nation is on its own for education
We get new funding from Canada to pay for our education system	There is no new funding for running our education system. There is no First Nation education system.
Canada will fund education at agreed-upon funding levels under agreed-upon formulas for Students and for running our education system	Canada sets the funding levels and says how the funding can be spent without input from the First Nation
Canada agrees that the Education Agreement does not affect our treaty and aboriginal rights. Our rights are protected.	No written agreement that Canada on our aboriginal and treaty rights.
We can negotiate new treaties or other agreements, including agreements on education in the future	
The First Nations and Canada agree to education funding levels. Education funding will increase if we have more students.	Canada sets funding levels.
If Canada provides more education funding to other First Nations in the future, we will have matching increases.	
New funding to run the Anishinabek Education System	
New funding for setting up the Anishinabek Education System	
Post-Secondary Student Support Funding is included as part of education funding	Canada controls post-secondary funding and can change or eliminate the funding at any time
We can sign the Master Education Agreement with Ontario to set up a new partnership with Ontario to support Anishinabek students on- and off-reserve	No deal with Ontario in education
New funding for education from Ontario	No funding from Ontario for education

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – AES

Why is my community having ANOTHER education vote?

In December 2016, our First Nation citizens voted overwhelmingly “yes” to the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement. We had 14 communities who met the 25% + 1 threshold required under Canada’s ratification policies. There were some communities who had an overwhelming “yes” vote, but just didn’t have enough votes cast.

Canada’s position is that because we did not meet the 25% + 1 threshold required under Canada’s ratification policies, BFN did not ratify the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement. This time around, we are offering a simple majority vote.

BFN is one of the First Nations that voted last time and didn’t meet the threshold. However, there is an opportunity to run another ratification vote to secure a “yes” vote.

Last time the results were:

- 129 YES votes
- 19 NO votes
- 0 spoiled ballots
- 148 Ballots cast
- There was an 87% YES vote for those that voted from BFN
- Beausoleil required 442 YES votes to reach the threshold of 25% +1 votes in favour to approve the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement, therefore, we were 313 votes short!
- We are running a second vote to find out if our members want to be part of the Anishinabek Education System because the first vote had an 87% YES vote last time.
- Under the second vote, we need more YES votes than NO votes to approve the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement (no threshold required- we are not required to this time).
- As of today, 22 Anishinabek First Nations are moving forward to set up the Anishinabek Education System
- There are 13 First Nations running a second education ratification vote

Do I need to vote again even though I voted the first time?

YES, it is important for our First Nation to confirm our “yes” vote. We are asking you to vote in a second ratification vote to show to Canada that our First Nation members truly support better education for our students both on- and off-reserve.

We will count all of the ballots that are cast and we need more “yes” votes than “no” votes. The vote will be carried by a simple majority of the ballots cast.

How do I vote?

Voting will take place for one day only in the community SATURDAY, JULY 29th, 2017.

If you wish to vote by mail-in ballot, please contact CLARE SYLVESTER at AES@chimnissing.ca

Or by phone at 705-247-2051

MYTH BUSTERS

Myth 1: We have to vote again because it was unclear if we voted "YES" to the AES.

The True Story:

In December 2016, our First Nation citizens voted overwhelmingly "yes" to the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement. We had 14 communities who met the 25% + 1 threshold required under Canada's ratification policies. There were some communities who had an overwhelming "yes" vote, but just didn't have enough votes cast. Despite this, the Government of Canada does not accept our First Nation vote results. And there were two communities that had more "no" votes than "yes".

Canada's position is that because we did not meet the 25% + 1 threshold required under Canada's ratification policies, your community did not ratify the Education Agreement.

Your community is also one of the two First Nations that had voted "no" to the Anishinabek Education System. However, there is an opportunity to run another ratification vote to secure a "yes" vote. The same 25%+1 threshold will apply for this new voting opportunity in order to successfully ratify the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement in your community.

It is important for our First Nation to confirm our "yes" vote. We are asking you to vote in a second ratification vote to show to Canada that our First Nation members truly support better education for our students both on- and off-reserve.

There is no threshold for this vote. We will count all of the ballots that are cast and we need more "yes" votes than "no" votes. The vote will be carried by a simple majority of the ballots cast.

Education is important to us now and for future generations. Let's show the Government of Canada that we are certain that we want to move forward with the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement. We want to control education and provide the programs and services that our students require to achieve their educational goals.

Voting will take place for one day only in the community (please ask your Band Office for further information

for voting date and location). If you wish to vote by mail-in

ballot, please contact your band office to receive your mail in-ballot.

If you have any questions on this second ratification vote, please contact Barb Naveau: barb.naveau@anishinabek.ca

Myth 2: The Anishinabek Education System is just like Indian Residential Schools.

The True Story:

The purpose of Indian Residential Schools was to "kill the Indian in the Child". The Anishinabek Education System will promote culture, language, and well-being in our children.

Myth 3: The Union of Ontario Indians will get all of the funding for the Anishinabek Education System.

The True Story:

No, the funding will flow through the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body and go directly to the First Nations who are part of the system.

Myth 4: The Union of Ontario Indians will be administering post-secondary education funding for our students.

The True Story:

First Nations will be the ones administering post-secondary funding. Anishinabek control over Anishinabek education.

Myth 5: There is Own Source Revenue (OSR) in the Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement.

The True Story:

In section 11.1 and 11.5 of the Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement, it states that there is **NO** Own Source Revenue in this Agreement.