



Rainy River First Nations

MANITOU RAPIDS

Proposed RRFN Custom Election Code Amendment

Version 2: May 14th, 2025

- Below is the RRFN Custom Election Code Amendment proposed by a Member via a petition (Appendix H) per Part 17, 184 a. of the RRFN Custom Election Code which states:

184. *The process for development and passage of amendments to this Code may be initiated by:*

*(a) a petition presented to Council (**See Appendix “H”**), **signed by at least 25 eligible voters** and setting out the specific area in this Code proposed for amendment;*

- The process for the review of this amendment is at the end of this document, and a schedule of this process is attached.

Proposed Amendment per the wording of the Petition received by Council:

“The sections of the Election Code that I am wanting to amend is anywhere that it mentions methods of voting: I am proposing that no online voting be permitted, and that mail in votes will only be accepted under special circumstances.

These circumstances will include if a Member is incapacitated due to medical reasons or is away at school. Mail in packages will only be mailed or delivered to these individuals by the Electoral Officer if requested. Members in these circumstances will have to provide a signed form stating the reason that the request was made. For Members not in these circumstances voting will only be permitted in person at the on Community Polling Station.

Members will not be permitted to ask the Nation for any travel or Emergency funds to vote on Community. Members are to vote in person at their own expense.

This rule will apply to both General and By Elections.

Nominations: Nominations for the position/s of both Chief and Councillor/s will only be accepted in person at the location on Community stipulated by the Electoral Officer. Notice of Nominations and Elections will still be mailed out to all Members to provide them the opportunity to travel to the Community. The sections of the code that will need to be amended if this is passed are: Sections 99-107.”

Proposed Amendment Reasoning:

- It makes the voter accountable to who they believe in, to the Community and its issues.
- It helps diminish the perceived discrepancy in online voting.
- This does not take away anyone’s right to vote but asks for only one polling station on reserve for General and By Elections and in person Nominations.

Proposed Amendment Explanation:

If this Amendment passes it will mean that:

- All voting will be IN PERSON on the Community at the assigned polling station unless you are medically incapacitated or enrolled in school.
- There will be no online voting permitted.
- This will apply to General and By Elections.
- No funds will be given by the Nation for travel to vote.
- Nominations will only be IN PERSON on the Community at the assigned venue.
- The sections of the Election Code that will need to be modified are Sections 99-107.

Next Steps:

- Members will then have 30 days to review the proposal, during which two Community Discussion Sessions will be held to discuss the final proposal and ask questions about it.
- Once 30 days are up, Members’ will vote on whether to pass or dismiss the proposed amendment.
- The vote and information sessions will be made available online. The teams link for these will be posted on the RRFN app or Facebook or can be requested via email at lauren.hyatt@manitourapids.ca

Please see the Amendment process, according to the RRFN Custom Election Code, outlined below: (Part 17- Amendments pgs. 32-33)

184. The process for development and passage of amendments to this Code may be initiated by:
 - (a) a petition presented to Council (See Appendix “H”), signed by at least 25 eligible voters and setting out the specific area in this Code proposed for amendment; or
 - (b) a Band Council Resolution.
185. Upon receipt of an amendment proposal in accordance with section 184(a), Council shall prepare a notice that sets out:
 - (a) a summary of the proposed amendments to this Code;
 - (b) a statement that the full copy of the proposed amendments can be obtained at the Nations administration office, which statement Council will ensure is true; and
 - (c) a description of the amendment process.
186. The notice provided for in section 185 shall be:
 - (a) published in the community’s newsletter that is delivered or mailed to Nation voters, or by separate notice delivered or mailed to voters of the Nation;
 - (b) posted in at least one visible place in a public area of the Nations Administration building, and in other visible places on the Community deemed appropriate by the Council in the.
187. Voters may, within fourteen (14) days of publication of the notice required under section 185, provide comments concerning the proposed amendments in writing to Council.
188. Following receipt of comments concerning the proposed amendments, the Council shall review the comments and make such changes to the proposed amendments as it deems necessary in order to arrive at a final amendment proposal.

189. Council shall forward notice of the final proposed amendments to all Members, in writing, at least thirty (30) days in advance of a special general meeting scheduled by Council for the purposes of voting on the amendments. The notice shall contain the text of any proposed amendment and an explanation as to why the amendment(s) are being proposed.
190. Council shall schedule at least one (1) meeting per calendar year to consider and vote on any amendments to the Code. Quorum at such a meeting is 25 eligible voters.
191. Should quorum be met, the proposed amendments will be deemed approved with 75 % or more of votes cast in favour and Council shall amend the Code accordingly.
192. Any amendment passed one hundred (100) days or more prior to an election shall be incorporated into the Code and shall govern the election. Any amendment passed less than one hundred (100) days prior to an election shall not take effect until after the election.

[Have Questions?](#)

If you have any questions or concerns about this amendment proposal, please feel free to contact **Lauren Hyatt, Policy and Communications Analyst for RRFN.**

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