



BIIGTIGONG
NISHNAABEG

**CHIEF DUNCAN MICHANO
COMMUNIQUE RE FNEA ELECTION PROCESS
AUGUST 18, 2021**

From January to March 2021, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg undertook community engagement about moving elections from the Indian Act to the First Nations Elections Act (“FNEA”) (see: www.picriver.com/fnea). On March 30, 2021, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg passed a Band Council Resolution opting to hold elections under the FNEA. On August 17, 2021, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg was informed by the Department that we will be added to the list of communities that conduct elections under the FNEA. Our up-coming election, taking place on October 30, 2021, will take place under the FNEA.

The major changes you can expect under the FNEA are:

- There is a four-year term for Chief and Council (rather than a two-year term).
- An elector cannot be a candidate for both chief and councillor in the same election.
- An elector must consent to being a candidate *before* their name is put on a ballot.
- Only electors of the First Nation can run for and be selected as Chief.
- An elector can only nominate one person for the position of Chief and one person for the position of Council.
- An Electoral Officer can order an elector to leave a nomination meeting if:
 - they are behaving in a disorderly manner,
 - lie about a candidate withdrawing, or
 - if they are intimidating or using duress in connection with nominations.There are penalties and charges for this behaviour.
- The Minister has no more power to investigate election disputes. Instead, election disputes or appeals are handed directly by the Courts (Federal Court or Superior Court of Justice) and must be filed within 30 days of the election.
- Off-reserve or other members who want to participate by mailing in ballots MUST request a mail-in ballot to receive one.

We thank all our community members for your on-going patience and support.

Chief Duncan Michano

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