



Akwesasne Election Law Amendment

2019 Update:

Special General Meeting secret ballot vote scheduled for September 28, 2019

10:00am-12:00pm, Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre

Background of Amendment

The Mohawks of Akwesasne enacted a customary law in 1988 ensuring that selection of leadership was in accordance with local community custom. This law was subsequently amended to the current document called the Akwesasne Election Law in 2005.

The Akwesasne Legislative Commission did select the amendment of the Akwesasne Election Law as a priority for 2019. This law is currently being amended according to the amendment provisions contained within that law.

The Akwesasne Legislative Commission is focusing on changing the amendment process, and if this amendment is approved, then there will be a focus on more substantive changes based on feedback provided by the community during previous consultation periods and upcoming public meetings.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne accepted the Akwesasne Election Law—Amendment in-principle to bring to the community at a Special General Meeting secret ballot vote.

If you are interested in contacting the Akwesasne Legislative Commission you can do so through the Akwesasne Justice Department by phone 613-575-2250 ext. 2403 or email kyrie.ransom@akwesasne.ca

The current Akwesasne Election Law (2005) reads like this:

Section 18 Amendments

18. (1) Subject to the following provisions contained in this section, this Akwesasne Election Law may be amended upon the results of a community consultation meeting after:
 - a) a decision or recommendation by the Akwesasne Election Appeal Board;
 - b) a motion made by one of the Chiefs; or
 - c) a petition presented to Council signed by at least seventy-five (75) eligible voters; setting out the proposed amendments presented at a duly constituted General Meeting of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.
18. (2) Notice shall be given by way of publication in community newspapers, announcements on community radio stations, or other public notices as determined by council. A full text of the proposed amendments is made available to the community members by announcement as to where copies thereof can be obtained.
18. (3) The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne shall hold public information meetings in each of Akwesasne's three districts in order to explain the accepted proposed amendments and to note the comments, suggestions, concerns and recommendations of the people.
18. (4) Council will decide which, if any of the appropriate or popular recommended amendments from the information meetings shall be incorporated in the final draft which would be approved by majority of Council for immediate publication in local community newspapers, announcements of said changes and amendments in summary form on our local community radio station, or other public notice as determined by Council.
18. (5) Notice shall be given by Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to the community members that the final proposed amendments shall be presented at a Special General Meeting. Council shall at the Special General Meeting open to eligible voters of Akwesasne, a vote on whether to accept the proposed amendments.
18. (6) Approval by a majority vote of eligible voters in attendance at the Special General Meeting, in the presence of the C.E.O., voting to accept the amendment to this Akwesasne Election Law will be ratified by Council under resolution.
18. (7) The accepted amendments shall come into effect on the date of the resolution giving final approval or on such date as specified in the resolution.

The amendment (2019) would change the law to read like this:

Section 18 Amendments

18. (1) This Law may be amended in accordance with the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Regulation.

COMMUNITY MEMBER

Information Meetings on Akwesasne Election Law—Amendment

Date:	Time:	Location:
Saturday, September 21, 2019	10:00am-12:00pm	Kawehno:ke Recreation Center
Monday, September 23, 2019	6:00pm-8:00pm	Kana:takon Recreation Centre
Thursday, September 26, 2019	3:30pm-5:30pm	Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre

Special General Meeting secret ballot vote scheduled Saturday, September 28, 2019 10:00am-12:00pm at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre.

This document summarizes the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's draft Akwesasne Election Law-Amendment. For a copy of the full text of the Akwesasne Election Law (2005) and the proposed amendment (2019) please contact the Akwesasne Justice Department at 613-575-2250 ext. 2400 and a printed copy can be mailed to you or made available for pickup in the office.