

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation
COMMUNITY RATIFICATION PROCESS

- In accordance with -

***The Framework Agreement on
First Nation Land Management***

And

The First Nations Land Management Act

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**ALGONQUINS OF PIKWAKANAGAN FIRST NATION
COMMUNITY RATIFICATION PROCESS**

1. TITLE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 The title of this document is the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process.
- 1.2 The purpose of this document is to set out the procedure by which Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation will decide whether to approve its *Land Code* and the Individual Agreement with Canada, as required under the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* and the *First Nations Land Management Act*.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 In this Ratification Process:

“Act” means the *First Nations Land Management Act*, S.C. 1999, c. 24;

“Advance Polls” means any early Voting Day held prior to the Official Voting Day to permit Eligible Voters who expect to be absent on the Official Voting Day to cast their ballots;

“Background Documents” means:

- (a) the Framework Agreement;
- (b) the First Nations Land Management Act;
- (c) a summary of the Framework Agreement;
- (d) a summary of the First Nations Land Management Act;
- (e) a summary of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code; and
- (f) a summary of the Individual Agreement.

“Ballot Question” means the question asked in the Ratification Vote in Form 1;

“Council” means the Chief and Councillors of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation;

“Department” means the Department of Indigenous Services Canada;

“Eligible Voter” means a Member of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation who is 18 years of age or older on the Official Voting Day;

“Electronic Voting Platform” means a web-based database where cast electronic ballots and telephone ballots are stored;

“Electronic Voting Methods” means casting an electronic ballot via internet voting and/or automated telephone voting;

“First Nation” means the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation;

“*Framework Agreement*” means the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* entered into between Canada and the signatory First Nations on February 12, 1996, and amended to include Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation in March 2013.

“Individual Agreement” means the Individual Agreement made between Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Her Majesty in right of Canada in accordance with clause 6.1 of the *Framework Agreement*;

“Land Code” means the proposed Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation *Land Code*;

“Land Code Coordinator” means the First Nation employee responsible for the coordination of the development of the *Land Code*;

“List of Eligible Voters” means the list of Members who are eligible to vote and where Voters shall be recorded;

“Ballot” means a paper ballot used to cast a secret vote;

“Member” means a person who has been accepted under the Membership Code as a member of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Membership;

“Minister” means the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada;

“Official Voting Day” means the date set for holding the Ratification Vote;

“Ratification Documents” means the *Land Code* and the Individual Agreement;

“Ratification Officer” means the person appointed by Council and confirmed under clause 5.11.1(a);

“Ratification Process” means this Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;

“Ratification Vote” means a vote by the Voters on the Ballot Question conducted according to the Ratification Process;

“Verifier” means an independent person appointed as a Verifier pursuant to clauses 8 and 44 of the *Framework Agreement* to monitor and verify the opting in process and includes any assistant appointed by the Verifier;

“Voter Access Code” or “Personal Identification Number (PIN)” means the one-time voter security code issued to an Eligible Voter for Electronic Voting Methods;

“Voter Information Package” means the package of information containing voting information sent to all Eligible Voters who has provided a current mailing address; and

“Voting Days” means any Advance Polls, Official Day of Voting and additional day for voting if required.

- 2.2 Unless otherwise provided, words defined in the *Framework Agreement* have the same meaning in this Ratification Process.
- 2.3 When calculating timeframe, where anything is to be done within a time after, from, of, or before a specified day, or where a time is expressed to begin after or to be from a specified day, the time does not include that day.
- 2.4 Words in the singular include the plural, words in the plural include the singular and words in the masculine include the feminine and words in the feminine include the masculine, as the context may require.

3. INFORMATION TO VERIFIER

- 3.1 At least 84 days before the Official Voting Day, Council shall by resolution in *Form 2* send, or cause to be sent an electronic copy of the Ratification Process, *Land Code* and List of Eligible Voters to the Verifier.
- 3.2 Prior to the Official Voting Day, Council shall by resolution in *Form 10* send, or cause to be sent to the Verifier an electronic copy of the addendum to the List of Eligible Voters under clause 3.1, listing any changes to the List of Eligible Voters.
- 3.3 The addendum to the List of Eligible Voters may also include a list of Members who are deceased with accompanying supporting documentation or comments by the person who has confirmed that the Member is deceased and the person’s full name, address and relationship to the deceased Member.
- 3.4 If the Ratification Officer determines that the name of a deceased Member should not be included on the List of Eligible Voters, he or she shall, in his or her sole discretion, make the decision and such decision shall be final.
- 3.5 Notwithstanding clauses 3.4 and 17.12, the List of Eligible Voters confirmed by the Ratification Officer under clause 3.4 shall determine the number of Eligible Voters.

4. CONFIRMATION BY VERIFIER

- 4.1 Upon receipt of the documents under clause 3.1 the Verifier shall review the *Land Code* and the Ratification Process to determine whether they are consistent with the *Framework Agreement* and the *Act*. In accordance with clause 8.8 of the *Framework Agreement*, the Verifier will, within 30 days of receiving the documents, issue a notice in *Form 3* to the First Nation, the Minister and

the Lands Advisory Board stating whether the *Land Code* and the Ratification Process are consistent with the *Framework Agreement* and the *Act*.

5. COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

5.1 After the Verifier confirms the *Land Code* and this Ratification Process under clause 4.1, Council shall pass a Resolution in Form 4 to:

- (a) confirm the Ratification Officer;
- (b) confirm the List of Eligible Voters;
- (c) authorize the use of Electronic Voting Methods, internet and/or automated telephone voting, with the use of an Electronic Voting Platform service offered by an independent service provider;
- (d) confirm the text of the *Land Code* and the Ratification Process;
- (e) order that the Ratification Vote be held to determine if the community approves the Ratification Documents;
- (f) confirm the wording of the Ballot Question; and
- (g) set the Advance Polls and the Official Voting Day.

5.2 Council shall pass a Resolution in Form 5 to confirm the Individual Agreement.

6. DUTY OF RATIFICATION OFFICER AND APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT

6.1 Upon the appointment of the Ratification Officer, the Ratification Officer shall execute an Appointment of a Ratification Officer in Form 6.

6.2 The Ratification Officer is responsible for overseeing the conduct of the Ratification Vote and has all the powers necessary to carry out that responsibility.

6.3 The Ratification Officer may appoint assistants and may delegate any of the duties set out in the Ratification Process to the assistants, except:

- (a) the determination to hold an additional day for voting under clause 12.1;
- (b) the deposit of the Delivered Ballots in the ballot box under clause 17.17;
- (c) the safekeeping of ballot boxes under clause 15.10; and
- (d) the counting of ballots under section 20.

6.4 Upon the appointment of an assistant, the Ratification Officer and each assistant shall execute an Appointment of an Assistant Ratification Officer in Form 7.

6.5 If the Ratification Officer is unable to perform his or her duties, Council may appoint an acting Ratification Officer.

7. NOTICE OF VOTE

- 7.1 The Ratification Officer, in consultation with Council, shall post a Notice of Vote in *Form 8* at least 56 days prior to the Official Voting Day in public places where it can be read by the Members.
- 7.2 Forthwith after posting the Notice of Vote, the Ratification Officer shall e-mail a true copy of the Notice of Vote to the Verifier.
- 7.3 The Verifier shall publish the Notice of Vote in one or more newspapers at least 15 days prior to Official Voting Day.
- 7.4 The Notice of Vote shall contain the following information:
- (a) the date, place and time of the Advance Polls and Official Voting Day;
 - (b) that internet and/or automated telephone voting is available and the time and days designated for Electronic Voting Methods;
 - (c) the Ballot Question;
 - (d) the procedures for voting by mail;
 - (e) the procedures for Electronic Voting;
 - (f) the procedures for voting by telephone; and
 - (g) the name, office address, email address and telephone number of the Ratification Officer.

8. VOTER INFORMATION PACKAGE

- 8.1 The Ratification Officer shall, at least 56 days prior to the Official Voting Day, send a Voter Information Package to each Eligible Voter that have provided a current address. Voter Information Packages may be e-mailed, mailed, couriered or hand delivered to the Eligible Voter.
- 8.2 The Voter Information Package shall contain:
- (a) a copy of the Notice of Vote;
 - (b) a copy of the *Land Code*;
 - (c) a summary of the *Land Code*;
 - (d) a summary of the Individual Agreement;
 - (e) map(s) of the reserve land that will be subject to the *Land Code*;
 - (f) instructions on obtaining copies of the Ratification Documents, Background Documents and the Ratification Process; and
 - (g) an invitation to vote by Electronic Voting Method or by telephone with instructions.
- 8.3 The Voter Information Package shall advise Eligible Voters that the Ratification Documents, Background Documents and the Ratification Process shall be available on the community website:
- (a) a copy of the *Land Code*;
 - (b) a summary of the *Land Code*;

- (c) a copy of the Individual Agreement;
 - (d) a summary of the Individual Agreement;
 - (e) map(s) of the reserve land that will be subject to the *Land Code*;
 - (f) a copy of the Framework Agreement;
 - (g) a summary of the Framework Agreement;
 - (h) a copy of the *Act*; and
 - (i) a summary of the *Act*.
- 8.4 Eligible Voters may request to receive a paper copy of the information in clause 8.3 by contacting the Ratification Officer or the Land Code Coordinator.
- 8.5 Council may conduct or cause to be conducted:
- (a) visits at the homes of Eligible Voters;
 - (b) telephone contact with Eligible Voters;
 - (c) information meetings at Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and other appropriate places; and
 - (d) such other information activities as may be deemed appropriate.
- 8.6 Activities conducted in accordance with clause 8.5 may take place up until the day before the Official Voting Day.
- 8.7 Notwithstanding clause 8.6, personal visits, text, email, telephone or other contact with an Eligible Voter on Official Voting Day may take place for the purposes of assisting such Eligible Voters to vote.
- 8.8 The Ballot Package information can be included with the Information Package.
- 9. INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES**
- 9.1 At least 28 days prior to Official Voting Day the Council shall send or cause to be sent the following information to persons who are not Members and who hold an interest in Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation land:
- (a) the date of the Ratification Vote;
 - (b) a communiqué from Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation explaining the effect of the Ratification Vote;
 - (c) a summary of the *Land Code*;
 - (d) a summary of the *Act*;
 - (e) a summary of the *Framework Agreement*; and
 - (f) the name, office address and telephone number of a person who may be contacted for purposes of obtaining copies of the *Land Code* and Background Documents or further information about the management of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation land.
- 9.2 In addition to information provided in accordance with clause 9.1, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation may meet with, or otherwise provide information directly to, persons who are not Members and who hold an interest in Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation land.
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- 9.3 Nothing in this Ratification Process precludes Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation from providing information in any form it deems appropriate to a municipal corporation, regional district, another First Nation or other entity with an interest in land in the vicinity of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation land.

10. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 The Ratification Officer shall ensure that sufficient paper copies of the Ratification Documents, Background Documents and Ratification Process are available at the administrative offices of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and that electronic copies are available upon request.
- 10.2 Any person who holds an interest in First Nation land may, on request, obtain a copy of the Ratification Documents and Background Documents free of charge.
- 10.3 Any Member may, on request, obtain a copy of the Ratification Documents, Background Documents and Ratification Process.
- 10.4 Any representative of the Minister, as per clause 8.2 of the *Framework Agreement*, may, on request, obtain a copy of the Ratification Process in relation to an objection under section 22.

11. PRELIMINARY PROCEDURES

- 11.1 The Ratification Officer, in consultation with Council, shall:
- (a) designate the polling places;
 - (b) prepare and initial sufficient copies of Ballots, which shall be uniform in size, appearance, quality and weight;
 - (c) prepare sufficient copies of the secrecy envelopes, declaration envelopes, and the return envelopes;
 - (d) prepare sufficient copies of the voting instructions;
 - (e) obtain a sufficient number of ballot boxes;
 - (f) provide for a designated voting area at the polls such that a Voter can mark a ballot free from observation;
 - (g) provide a sufficient number of lead pencils and blue or black ink pens for marking the ballot;
 - (h) ensure that samples of the Ballot Question are posted or available for examination at the polls; and
 - (i) ensure that a Commissioner for taking Oaths or Notary Public shall be available as required.

12. ADDITIONAL DAY FOR VOTING

- 12.1 Immediately upon the close of the polls on the Official Voting Day, the Ratification Officer may, in his or her sole discretion, determine that an additional day for voting shall be held where less

than 25% of the Eligible Voters actually voted by the close of the polls on the Official Voting Day, as a direct consequence of, but not limited to:

- (a) severe inclement weather;
- (b) death of a community Member;
- (c) natural disasters such as fire, earthquake, tornado; or
- (d) other disasters such as explosion, power failure, act of sabotage.

- 12.2 The Ratification Officer shall ensure that the Electronic Voting Platform remains active and available until the additional day for voting.
- 12.3 Within 24 hours of the decision under clause 12.1, the Ratification Officer shall formally advise the Verifier and Council in writing.
- 12.4 The Ratification Officer and Council shall, within 2 days of the Ratification Officer's written decision under clause 12.3, set a date for an additional day for voting which shall not be more than 20 days after the original date of the Official Voting Day and shall determine the hours during which the polls shall remain open on such additional day for voting.
- 12.5 The Ratification Officer shall publish a notice showing the decision, the reason for an additional day for voting, the number of Eligible Voters who voted by the Official Voting Day, the date of the additional day for voting, and shall notify all Eligible Voters by mail, hand delivery service or e-mail.
- 12.6 Only Eligible Voters who did not vote by the close of the polls on the Official Voting Day shall be entitled to vote on the additional day for voting.
- 12.7 Voting on the additional day provided for in this section may be accomplished by extending the receipt of Ballots Packages up to the close of the polls on the additional day for voting.
- 12.8 Electronic Voting Methods may be extended and shall open and close at the hours and dates specified in the notice under clause 12.5.
- 12.9 To be valid Ballots and electronic Ballots must be received by the close of the polls on the additional day of voting.
- 12.10 In the event that an additional day for voting is scheduled, the counting of Ballots in accordance with section 20 shall occur after the close of polls on the additional day for voting.
- 12.11 In the event that an additional day for voting is scheduled, the period of days under sections 22 and 23 shall be calculated from the additional day for voting.

13. ELECTRONIC VOTING METHODS

- 13.1 Each Eligible Voter may cast a vote by Electronic Voting Methods.
- 13.2 No proxy voter shall be used at any time.

- 13.3 Electronic Voting Methods shall open and close at the hours and dates specified in the Notice of Vote.
- 13.4 In the event that an additional day for voting is established under section 12, the Electronic Voting Methods shall re-open and close at the hours and dates specified by the Ratification Officer.
- 13.5 Electronic Voting Methods shall not be permitted on Voting Days.
- 13.6 The Ratification Officer shall, at least 56 days before the Official Voting Day, send to each Eligible Voter who have provided a current address, a Voter Information Package that includes an invitation to vote by the Electronic Voting Methods, PIN, instructions for internet and/or automated telephone voting, and voting information.
- 13.7 The electronic ballot shall contain the same Ballot Question as the printed Ballot.
- 13.8 Automated telephone voting can only be done either through a touch tone telephone or cellular telephone, voting cannot be completed by using a rotary telephone.
- 13.9 To cast an electronic ballot, a Voter must follow the instructions provided by the third-party service.
- 13.10 Upon submission of the final electronic ballot, no changes can be made.
- 13.11 An Eligible Voter shall be limited to only one vote through the use of a unique VIN.
- 13.12 The Electronic Voting Platform shall:
- (a) Record the name of the Eligible Voter on the List of Eligible Voters;
 - (b) confirm that the Eligible Voter has not previously voted;
 - (c) record on the List of Eligible Voters that the Eligible Voter cast an electronic ballot and the date and time the electronic ballot was received;
 - (d) put the electronic ballot cast by a Eligible Voter into the electronic ballot box; and
 - (e) allow the Ratification Officer to confirm if the Eligible Voter has cast their electronic ballot successfully or unsuccessfully.
- 13.13 Once an Eligible Voter has voted electronically, they cannot vote again electronically or otherwise, and shall be restricted from doing so again.
- 13.14 Where the Ratification Officer is notified of an incomplete electronic vote, the Ratification Officer shall contact the Eligible Voter immediately with alternative voting solutions, including by completing a Ballot Package or voting in person.

14. ELECTRONIC VOTING PLATFORM PROTOCOL

- 14.1 Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation has authorized the use of Electronic Voting Methods, internet and/or automated telephone voting, with the use of an Electronic Voting Platform service offered by an independent third-party service provider.
- 14.2 All Eligible Voters can exercise their right to cast a ballot with full confidence that the following principles are assured:
- (a) the secrecy and confidentiality of individual votes is paramount;
 - (b) the Ratification Vote shall be fair and non-biased;
 - (c) the Ratification Vote shall be accessible to all Eligible Voters;
 - (d) the integrity of the Ratification Process shall be maintained throughout the Ratification Vote;
 - (e) certainty that the results of the Ratification Vote reflect the votes cast; and
 - (f) Eligible Voters shall be treated fairly and consistently.
- 14.3 At a minimum, the Electronic Voting Platform shall meet the threshold of verification and due diligence for all other Ballots.
- 14.4 The Electronic Voting Platform shall be populated with the confirmed List of Eligible Voters at least 70 days prior to the Official Voting Day.
- 14.5 The List of Eligible Voters shall be a live web-based list.
- 14.6 Once an Eligible Voter casts an electronic ballot, their name shall be automatically recorded on the List of Eligible Voters as having cast their electronic ballot indicating the date, time and IP address of the vote.
- 14.7 Weekly detailed activity reports shall be generated and provided by the Ratification Officer to the Verifier and an inventory of all reports shall be maintained and accessible on the Electronic Voting Platform.
- 14.8 The Ratification Officer shall make arrangements with the independent service provider for the following from the Electronic Voting Platform:
- (a) providing weekly reports and detailed activity reports;
 - (b) modifying, updating and viewing the List of Eligible Voters;
 - (c) viewing, issuing and canceling unique PINs;
 - (d) providing the List of Eligible Voters who have registered and voted on the Electronic Voting Platform; and
 - (e) providing the summary of the vote results.
- 14.9 Individual voting results shall remain secret at all times, shall not be revealed and shall be encrypted in such a way that it can never be revealed.

- 14.10 Following the limitations of this Ratification Process and prescribed time frame, all electronic data shall be deleted and wiped.
- 14.11 At the official close of Electronic Voting Methods, the option to vote electronically is removed as an option from the Electronic Voting Platform.
- 14.12 Any Voter who is in the electronic polling station, or in the process of voting when the poll is closing, shall receive a notification that they have 5 minutes to complete their vote or their vote shall be suspended and not count.
- 14.13 If an Eligible Voter violates the time limitation, they are in effect ejected from the vote sequence and the poll is closed.
- 14.14 After the close of polls on the Official Vote Day, the Ratification Officer shall cause the Electronic Voting Platform to seal the electronic ballot box, and the results shall be sent to the Ratification Officer.
- 14.15 In the event that an additional day for voting is established under section 12, the Ratification Officer shall ensure that the Electronic Voting Platform remains active and the Alternative Voting Method shall re-open and close at the hours and dates specified by the Ratification Officer.

15. BALLOT PACKAGES

- 15.1 Each Eligible Voter may cast a Ballot.
- 15.2 The Ratification Officer shall send to each Eligible Voter a Ballot Package at their last known address.
- 15.3 Ballot packages may be mailed, couriered or hand delivered to the Eligible Voter.
- 15.4 The Ballot package shall contain a pre-folded and initialed ballot in *Form 1*, a secrecy envelope, a declaration envelope in *Form 9*, a return envelope and voting instructions.
- 15.5 To cast a Ballot, an Eligible Voter shall:
- (a) clearly mark the ballot in the box marked "YES" or in the box marked "NO" in a manner that does not identify the voter;
 - (b) enclose and seal the ballot inside the secrecy envelope;
 - (c) enclose and seal the secrecy envelope in the declaration envelope;
 - (d) complete and sign the outside of the declaration envelope in the presence of a witness who is at least 18 years of age;
 - (e) enclose and seal the signed and witnessed declaration envelope in the return envelope; and
 - (f) deliver the sealed return envelope to the Ratification Officer.
- 15.6 A Ballot package may be delivered to the Ratification Officer by mail, courier or hand delivered.

- 15.7 A Ballot package shall be received by the Ratification Officer no later than the close of the polls on the Official Voting Day.
- 15.8 An Eligible Voter who inadvertently spoils or loses a Ballot may obtain another Ballot by contacting the Ratification Officer, and the Ratification Officer shall make an entry on the List of Eligible Voters indicating that a second Ballot was provided to the Eligible Voter.
- 15.9 After the Ratification Officer has received a Ballot, and opens the return envelope, the Ratification Officer shall:
- (a) confirm that the sender of the Ballot is an Eligible Voter;
 - (b) confirm that the declaration envelope was duly signed and witnessed;
 - (c) record the date when the Ballot package was received; and
 - (d) store the Ballot package in a secure location until the Official Voting Day.
- 15.10 The Ratification Officer is responsible for the safekeeping of Ballot packages until such time as the packages are opened, verified and deposited in a Ballot box in accordance with clause 15.9.
- 15.11 The Ratification Officer shall, after the last mail delivery on the Official Voting Day and prior to the close of the polls on that day, retrieve any Ballot packages from the mail.
- 15.12 The Ratification Officer may contact an Eligible Voter if a declaration envelope is not signed and/or witnessed in order to allow the Eligible Voter to correct the declaration or to provide confirmation to the Ratification Officer of the Eligible Voter's identity and that the declaration was completed by the Eligible Voter, the Ratification Officer, in his or her sole discretion, make the determination to accept or reject the Ballot.
- 16. ORDERLY VOTING**
- 16.1 Council, with the assistance of the Ratification Officer, shall ensure that peace and good order are maintained at the polls.
- 16.2 The Ratification Officer shall allow only one Voter at a time into a designated voting area, except for a Voter receiving special assistance.
- 16.3 An Eligible Voter who is present and available to register and vote at a poll before the closing time shall be entitled to register and vote.
- 16.4 No person shall:
- (a) interfere or attempt to interfere with an Eligible Voter when the Eligible Voter is voting;
 - (b) obtain or attempt to obtain information as to how an Eligible Voter is about to vote or has voted;
 - (c) mark a ballot in a way that identifies the Eligible Voter;

- (d) mark the secrecy envelope for a Ballot Package in a way that indicates how the ballot was cast;
- (e) use another Eligible Voter's PIN to vote electronically;
- (f) take, seize, or otherwise deprive an Eligible Voter of his/her PIN; or
- (g) sell, gift, transfer, assign or purchase a PIN.

17. VOTING PROCEDURES AT THE POLLS ON VOTING DAYS

- 17.1 The Ratification Officer and Council shall post the locations of the polling station and the hours that the polls shall be opened on the Notice of Vote.
- 17.2 The polls shall be opened during the hours specified on the Notice of Vote.
- 17.3 All voting at the polls shall be by secret Ballot.
- 17.4 If someone has a Power of Attorney for an Eligible Voter, they can vote on behalf of that Voter.
- 17.5 No proxy voter shall be used at any time.
- 17.6 The Ratification Officer is responsible for determining whether a person is an Eligible Voter.
- 17.7 At each poll, the Ratification Officer shall:
 - (a) before the first vote is cast, open the ballot box and request an Eligible Voter to witness that the ballot box is empty;
 - (b) thereupon seal the ballot box and place his or her signature on the seal in front of the witness, and ask the witness to place his or her signature on the seal;
 - (c) keep the ballot box in view for reception of Ballots;
 - (d) execute a Declaration of Ratification Officer in *Form 13*; and
 - (e) ensure that each witness executes a Statement of Witness in *Form 14*.
- 17.8 When a person at a poll requests to vote, the Ratification Officer shall:
 - (a) ensure that the person is an Eligible Voter;
 - (b) check the List of Eligible Voters to ensure that the person has not already voted, either in person or by electronic ballot;
 - (c) provide the Voter with a Ballot, on the back of which are affixed the Ratification Officer's or Assistant's initials so that the initials can be seen when the Ballot is folded.
- 17.9 The Ratification Officer shall record, on the List of Eligible Voters, the name of every Eligible Voter who receives a Ballot at a poll.
- 17.10 The Ratification Officer shall establish a process of ongoing communication by telephone, online or other effective means between polls, where there are more than one polling station.
- 17.11 Upon request, the Ratification Officer shall explain the method of voting.

- 17.12 If the Ratification Officer determines that the name of an Eligible Voter has been omitted, incorrectly set out or incorrectly included on the List of Eligible Voters, he or she shall, in his or her sole discretion, make the necessary revision and such revision shall be final.
- 17.13 A Voter may request special assistance from the Ratification Officer at the polls.
- 17.14 The Ratification Officer shall, on request and in the presence of a witness acceptable to the Voter and the Ratification Officer, provide special assistance to a Voter at the polls by marking a Ballot in secret as directed by the Voter and immediately folding and depositing the Ballot into the ballot box.
- 17.15 The Ratification Officer, after providing special assistance to a Voter, shall make an entry on the List of Eligible Voters indicating:
- (a) that the Ballot was marked by the Ratification Officer at the request of the Voter;
 - (b) the reason for the Voter's request; and
 - (c) the name of the witness.
- 17.16 Except for a Voter requiring special assistance, every Voter will be provided with a Ballot at a poll and shall:
- (a) proceed immediately to a designated voting area;
 - (b) clearly mark the Ballot in the box marked "YES" or in the box marked "NO" in a manner that does not identify the voter;
 - (c) fold the Ballot so as to conceal the mark and expose the initials of the Ratification Officer; and
 - (d) immediately give the folded Ballot to the Ratification Officer.
- 17.17 Upon receiving a marked Ballot, the Ratification Officer, without unfolding it, shall:
- (a) verify the Ratification Officer's initials;
 - (b) remove the perforated strip, if any; and
 - (c) deposit the Ballot into the ballot box.
- 17.18 A Voter at a poll who receives a spoiled or improperly printed Ballot, or who accidentally spoils his or her Ballot when marking it, is entitled to receive another Ballot from the Ratification Officer after returning the original Ballot.
- 17.19 The Ratification Officer shall record a Ballot returned in accordance with clause 17.18 as spoiled.
- 17.20 A Voter at a poll who receives a Ballot and does not return it to the Ratification Officer shall forfeit the right to vote and the Ratification Officer shall make an entry on the List of Eligible Voters stating that the Voter left the poll without delivering the Ballot and shall record the Ballot as cancelled.

- 17.21 At the time set for closing the polls, the Ratification Officer shall declare the polls closed, and entry shall be denied to the polls until all remaining Eligible Voters in the polls at that time have voted.
- 17.22 After the close of a poll on any Advance Polls, and Official Vote Day if an additional day for voting is scheduled, the Ratification Officer or Assistant Ratification Officer presiding at that poll, and a witness, shall:
- (a) seal the ballot box at that poll such that no further Ballots may be deposited in that ballot box; and
 - (b) initial the seal.
- 17.23 After the close of a poll other than the poll at which the Ratification Officer is presiding, the Assistant Ratification Officer presiding at that poll, with the Assistant Verifier who shall act as a witness, shall:
- (a) seal the ballot box at that poll such that no further Ballots may be deposited in that ballot box;
 - (b) initial the seal; and
 - (c) forthwith transport the sealed ballot box to the Ratification Officer at the poll at which he or she is presiding.
- 17.24 The Ratification Officer is personally responsible for ensuring the safekeeping of the ballot boxes, and any and all other material and documents related to any polls.

18. REJECTED BALLOTS

- 18.1 A cast ballot or electronic ballot shall be rejected if:
- (a) the Ballot was not supplied by the Ratification Officer or assistant Ratification Officer;
 - (b) the PIN was not issued by the Ratification Officer or the independent service provider;
 - (c) the Ballot was not marked as either "YES" or "NO";
 - (d) the Ballot was marked as both "YES" and "NO";
 - (e) the Ballot was marked outside a box marked "YES" or "NO" such that the Ratification Officer cannot reasonably discern the intent of the Eligible Voter; or
 - (f) the ballot has any writing or mark which can identify the Eligible Voter.
- 18.2 A ballot marked with anything other than a lead pencil or blue or black pen, shall not be rejected if:
- (a) the mark is in a box;
 - (b) the mark does not identify the Eligible Voter; and
 - (c) in the opinion of the Ratification Officer, the intent of the Eligible Voter is clear.

19. OPENING DELIVERED BALLOT PACKAGE

- 19.1 The Ratification Officer shall reject the Delivered Ballot Package and note the reason for the rejection on the List of Eligible Voters and on the unopened declaration envelope, and shall

forthwith place the unopened declaration envelope into a suitable envelope retained for that purpose, where:

- (a) an Eligible Voter has previously voted in person, by electronic Ballot, or by Ballot Package;
- (b) a voter is not an Eligible Voter;
- (c) a Ballot Package is not accompanied by a declaration envelope; or
- (d) the declaration envelope is not signed and/or witnessed and cannot be verified by the Ratification Officer under clause 15.9.

19.2 If it is determined that the voter's ballot has not been rejected, the Ratification Officer will:

- (a) open the Ballot box for Ballot Package;
- (b) open the secrecy envelope and confirm the authenticity of the ballot by verifying the Ratification Officer's initials; and
- (c) deposit the Ballot, without showing it, in a ballot box used at the polls.

19.3 The Ratification Officer shall:

- (a) execute a Declaration of Ratification Officer in *Form 12*; and
- (b) ensure that each witness executes a Statement of Witness in *Form 13* and *14*.

20. COUNTING OF BALLOTS

20.1 Where there is more than one poll, the Ratification Officer shall not begin the count until all the ballot boxes are returned to the poll at which the Ratification Officer is presiding.

20.2 After the Ballots from the Ballot package have been deposited in the ballot box and after the close of polls on the Official Vote Day, the Ratification Officer, in the presence of the Verifier and any Eligible Voter who may be present, shall:

- (a) count the number of spoiled Ballots under clause 17.19;
- (b) examine all Ballots contained in the ballot boxes;
- (c) reject any Ballots as required under clause 19.1 and section 18;
- (d) count the number of Ballots marked "YES", the number of Ballots marked "NO" and the number of rejected Ballots; and
- (e) include the number of Ballots cast by Electronic Voting Methods based on the report in clause 14.8(e).

20.3 When the results of the Ratification Vote have been determined the Ratification Officer shall execute a Confirmation by Ratification Officer in *Form 15*.

20.4 The Ratification Officer shall seal in separate envelopes the spoiled ballots, the rejected ballots, the ballots cast in favour and the ballots cast against and shall thereupon:

- (a) affix his or her signature to the seals; and
- (b) request the Verifier to affix his or her signature to the seals.

- 20.5 The Ratification Officer shall retain in his or her secure possession the separate envelopes.
- 20.6 After 75 days from Official Voting Day, unless otherwise instructed by Council, the Ratification Officer may thereafter destroy the ballots cast, including the rejected ballots, and the spoiled ballots.

21. PROCEDURAL AMENDMENTS

- 21.1 In order to give effect to and carry out the objectives and purpose of the Ratification Vote, the Ratification Officer, Council or its designate and the Verifier may agree upon a variation of the procedural requirements of this Ratification Process if they:
- (a) deem it necessary to do so; and
 - (b) reasonably believe the variation shall not result in any substantive change to those procedural requirements.
- 21.2 The Verifier shall state in writing the nature and basis of a variation under clause 21.1 and make a copy of the statement publicly available.
- 21.3 The Ratification Officer or Verifier may modify a form appended to this Ratification Process to add or update, but not remove, material detail.

22. OBJECTIONS

- 22.1 Any Eligible Voter or the Minister, or his/her representative as per clause 8.2 of the *Framework Agreement*, may file an objection with the Verifier if the Eligible Voter or representative has reasonable grounds for believing that:
- (a) there was a violation of, or irregularity in, this Ratification Process; and
 - (b) the final result of the Ratification Vote might have been different but for the violation or irregularity.
- 22.2 An objection shall be received by the Verifier within 5 days of the Official Voting Day.
- 22.3 An objection shall be in writing and shall:
- (a) identify the name, address and telephone number of the Eligible Voter or representative of Canada making the objection;
 - (b) summarize the grounds for the objection; and
 - (c) be accompanied by a statutory declaration setting out the grounds for the objection.
- 22.4 The Verifier may, if the material provided under clause 22.3 is insufficient to decide the validity of the objection, conduct such further investigations as the Verifier deems necessary.
- 22.5 If an objection is filed under this section, the Verifier shall, within 10 days of the Official Voting Day determine whether the objection is valid.

22.6 If the Verifier determines the objection is valid, the Verifier may allow the objection and call another Ratification Vote.

22.7 The Verifier shall dismiss the objection if the Verifier determines that:

- (a) there was neither a violation of this Ratification Process nor an irregularity in that process; or
- (b) there was a violation or an irregularity but the final result of the Ratification Vote was not affected.

23. REPORT BY VERIFIER

23.1 Within 15 days of the Official Voting Day, the Verifier shall send a written report in *Form 16* on the conduct of the Ratification Vote to the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, the Minister and the Chair of the Lands Advisory Board.

24. CERTIFICATION OF LAND CODE

24.1 The *Land Code* and the Individual Agreement shall be approved if:

- (a) a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of Eligible Voters participated in the vote; and
- (b) a majority of fifty percent plus one vote (50% plus 1 vote) of participating Eligible Voters vote to approve them.

24.2 If the *Land Code* and the Individual Agreement are approved, Council shall as soon as practicable after receiving the report of the Verifier under clause 3.4, sign 3 copies of the Individual Agreement and send the copies to the Department for signing by the Minister.

24.3 The Minister shall sign the 3 copies of the Individual Agreement, keep one copy, send a copy to the First Nation and send a copy to the Department Regional Office.

24.4 Council shall as soon as practicable after receiving the fully signed Individual Agreement, pass a resolution in *Form 17* as a declaration of the results of the vote.

24.5 Council shall send the resolution, a copy of the approved *Land Code*, and a copy of the fully signed Individual Agreement to the Verifier.

24.6 Upon receiving the *Land Code*, the fully signed Individual Agreement and the resolution in *Form 17* from Council, the Verifier shall certify the *Land Code* and forward a completed copy of *Form 18* together with a copy of the certified *Land Code* to the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, the Minister and the Chair of the Lands Advisory Board.

Sample Form 1 - Ratification

BALLOT QUESTION

Do you approve:

- ***The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code, dated for reference _____, 201__; and***

- ***The Individual Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, dated for reference _____, 201__?***

EXPLANATION

A **“YES”** vote means that Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation will manage its own reserve lands under the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code*.

A **“NO”** vote means that Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Reserve Lands will continue to be managed by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs under the *Indian Act*.

YES

NO

Sample Form 2 - Ratification Process

FIRST NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(Information to Verifier)

At a duly convened meeting on _____, The Council, in accordance with the clause 8.3 of the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* and section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, do hereby resolve to submit the following information to the Verifier:

1. the proposed *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* dated for reference _____, 201__;
2. the proposed Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, dated for reference _____, 201__; and
3. the initial List of Eligible Voters who, according to the records of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, would be eligible to vote on whether to approve the proposed *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code*.

Sample Form 3 - Ratification Process; Sample

CONFIRMATION BY VERIFIER

(*Land Code* and Individual Agreement Ratification Process)

CANADA)
)
PROVINCE OF _____)

I, _____, of _____, in the Province of _____,

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was appointed as the Verifier for Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation by the First Nation on the ___ day of _____ 201__ and by Canada on the ___ day of _____ 201__ for the purpose of verifying the community approval of their *Land Code* and their Individual Agreement, in accordance with the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* and the *First Nations Land Management Act*.
2. In accordance with clause 8.3 of the *Framework Agreement*, I received the following information from Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on _____, 201__:
 - (a) a copy of *the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code*;
 - (b) a detailed description of the Community Ratification Process that Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation proposes to use; and
 - (c) a list of the names of every Member of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation who, according to Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation’s records at that time, would be eligible to vote on whether to approve the *Land Code* and the Individual Agreement.
3. A true copy of the *Land Code*, entitled the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code*, dated for reference _____, 201__ is attached hereto as Annex “1” to this declaration.
4. A true copy of the Community Ratification Process, entitled Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, dated for reference _____, 201__ is attached hereto as Annex “2” to this declaration.
5. In accordance with clause 8.4 of the *Framework Agreement* and section 8 of the *Act*, I reviewed the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process to decide whether:
 - (a) the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* conforms with the requirements of clause 5 of the *Framework Agreement* and section 6 of the *Act*; and
 - (b) the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process conforms with clause 7 of the *Framework Agreement* and section 8 of the *Act*.

- 6. In accordance with clause 8.8 of the *Framework Agreement* and section 8.1(a) of the *Act*, the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process are hereby confirmed/not confirmed as being consistent with the *Framework Agreement*.
- 7. My reasons for not confirming the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* or Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process are as follows:

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

DECLARED BEFORE me at the)
_____ of _____,)
in the Province of _____, this)
____ day of _____, 201__.)
)
)
)
)
)
)

A Commissioner for Taking Oaths in and)
for the Province of _____.)

Verifier

Sample Form 4 - Ratification Process

FIRST NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(Commencement of Vote)

At a duly convened meeting on _____, the Council, in accordance with the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* and section 5.1 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, do hereby resolve to:

1. Confirm _____ as the Ratification Officer;
2. Confirm the List of Eligible Voters;
3. Authorize the use of Electronic Voting Methods, internet and/or automated telephone voting, with the use of an Electronic Voting Platform service offered by _____, an independent service provider, _____;
4. Confirm the text of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, as confirmed by the Verifier and dated for reference _____, 201__;
5. Confirm the text of the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code*, as confirmed by the Verifier and dated for reference _____, 201__;
6. Hold a Ratification Vote to determine if the community approves the Ratification Documents in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
7. Confirm the Ballot Question in the form attached as Annex #1;
8. Authorize the electronic voting methods to become available as soon as the Notice of Vote is posted;
9. Set the Advance Voting Day(s) to be ___ day(s) of _____, 201__; and
10. Set the Official Voting Day to be the ___ day of _____, 201__.

Sample Form 5 - Ratification Process

FIRST NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(Approval of Individual Agreement for Vote)

At a duly convened meeting on _____, the Council, in accordance with the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* and section 5.2 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, do hereby resolve to confirm the text of the Individual Agreement, dated for reference _____, 201__, which includes a process for amendment.

Sample Form 6 - Ratification Process

APPOINTMENT OF RATIFICATION OFFICER

Date: _____

I, _____, agree to act as Ratification Officer for the Ratification Vote to determine if the Eligible Voters of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation approve the Ratification Documents, and shall discharge my duties in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process and the requirements of confidentiality.

Ratification Officer

Sample Form 7 - Ratification Process; Sample

APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT RATIFICATION OFFICER

Date: _____

I, _____, Ratification Officer, appoint _____ to act as my assistant in carrying out my duties in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process for the purpose of the Ratification Vote.

Ratification Officer

I, _____ agree to act as an assistant to the Ratification Officer for the purpose of the Ratification Vote and promise to carry out all assigned duties to the best of my abilities and in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process and the requirements of confidentiality.

Assistant Ratification Officer

Sample Form 8 - Ratification Process; Sample

NOTICE OF VOTE

TO: MEMBERS OF ALGONQUINS OF PIKWAKANAGAN FIRST NATION

TAKE NOTICE that a Ratification Vote shall be held in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process in order to determine if Eligible Voters approve the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and the Individual Agreement.

The following question will be asked of the Eligible Voters of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation by ballot:

"Do you approve:

- **The *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code*, dated _____, 201__; and**
- **The Individual Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada?**

Advance Polls for the Ratification Vote will take place on _____ (day of the Week) the ___ day(s) of _____, 201__ from ___ a.m. until _____ p.m. at: _____ (Location) and _____ (Street address) _____, Province of _____ (Street address), _____, Province of _____.

The Official Voting Day for the Ratification Vote will take place on _____ (day of the Week) the ___ day(s) of _____, 201__ from ___ a.m. until _____ p.m. at: The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Administration Offices _____ and _____ (Street address) _____, Province of _____ (Street address), _____, Province of _____.

The Electronic Voting Methods will be available from ___ a.m. on _____ (day of the Week) the ___ day(s) of _____, 201__ to ___ p.m. on _____ (day of the Week) the ___ day(s) of _____, 201__. Electronic Voting Methods will not be available during regular polls on voting days (Advance Polls and Official Voting Day).

Electronic and paper copies of the Background Documents, the Ratification Documents and the Ratification Process may be obtained from _____, Land Code Coordinator, at the

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Administration Offices, (address) Province of _____,
telephone _____. Copies may also be obtained from the website: _____.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that all Members of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation who are 18 years of age or older as of the date of the Official Voting Day of the Ratification Vote are eligible to vote, .

DATED at Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, Province of _____ this ____ day of _____ 201__.

_____, Ratification Officer
_____, Province of _____, _____

Telephone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX Facsimile: (XXX) XXX-XXXX e-mail: _____

NOTE: All Eligible Voters shall receive instruction on how to vote electronically, by telephone or by mail.

Sample Form 9 - Ratification Process

To Vote in the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Ratification Vote

DECLARATION ENVELOPE

Declaration of Voter

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Ratification Vote

PLEASE ENCLOSE ONE SECRECY ENVELOPE CONTAINING ONE BALLOT

I, (Full Name of Eligible Voter): _____
(Please print your name)

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I am a Member of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation.
2. I confirm that I am at least 18 years of age, or will be 18 years of age by the Official Voting Day of _____, 201__.
3. My 10 digit status number is _____.
4. My date of birth is _____.
5. I live at _____
_____.
6. I have read and understood the mail-in ballot package sent to me regarding the ratification of the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and the Individual Agreement.
7. I have folded the ballot, hiding my mark and showing the initials marked on the back, and I have placed the ballot in the secrecy envelope.
8. I confirm that this envelope contains only my ballot, which is sealed inside a secrecy envelope.

SIGNED THIS ____ day of _____, 201__.

At _____
(town/city and province/state)

In the presence of:

Witness' signature

Signature of Eligible Voter

Witness, please print name

Witness address

Witness telephone

(Witness must be 18 years of age or older and is attesting that the Voter signing the Declaration is the person whose name is set out in the form.)

DEADLINE FOR RETURNING THE BALLOT ENVELOPE WITH BALLOT

In order for your ballot to be valid, it **must** be received by the Ratification Officer by the close of polls on the Official Voting Day: ___ p.m. on ___ day of _____, 201___. If you are returning the Ballot envelope by mail, please ensure you leave enough time for the package to arrive by this deadline. Ballot envelopes received **after** this deadline will not be opened and will be considered “spoiled Ballots”.

Sample Form 10 - Ratification Process

FIRST NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(List of Eligible Voters)

At a duly convened meeting on , the Council in accordance with clauses 3.3 and 3.2 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, do hereby resolve to:

1. Confirm this addendum to the List of Eligible Voters;
2. Confirm that the attached list of Members are deceased; and
3. In accordance with clause 3.3 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process request that the Verifier consider the removal of the deceased Members from the List of Eligible Voters.

Sample Form 11 - Ratification Process

DECLARATION OF RATIFICATION OFFICER
(Delivered Ballots)

CANADA)
)
Province of _____)

I, _____, Ratification Officer, of _____, in the Province of _____,

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was personally responsible for receiving all Delivered Ballots at Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation when Eligible Voters of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation voted in a Ratification Vote concerning the Ratification Documents.
2. I personally deposited all of the Delivered Ballots received by me into the Ballot Box and kept the ballot box sealed when not in my custody until the ballots were counted.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

DECLARED BEFORE me at the _____)
of _____ in the Province of _____)
_____, this ___ day of _____, 201__)

_____)
Ratification Officer

_____)
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the Province of _____

Sample Form 12 - Ratification Process

STATEMENT OF WITNESS
(Opening of Delivered Ballots)

Date

I, _____ was personally present at _____ on the __ day of _____, 201__ when the Ratification Officer opened the Delivered packages; and

1. I am an Eligible Voter.
2. The Declaration envelopes were unopened immediately prior to the time the Ratification Officer opened them.
3. The Ratification Officer checked the List of Eligible Voters and ensured that the Eligible Voter whose name appeared on the Ballot package had not previously voted in person, by delivery or electronically.
4. The Ratification Officer recorded the name of each Eligible Voter on the List of Eligible Voters and deposited the Ballot of that Eligible Voter in the ballot box.

Witness

Sample Form 13 - Ratification Process

DECLARATION OF RATIFICATION OFFICER

(Regular Polls)

CANADA)
)
Province of _____)

I, _____, Ratification Officer, of _____, in the Province of _____,

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was personally present at _____ on the __ day of _____ 201__ when Eligible Voters of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation voted in a Ratification Vote concerning the Ratification Documents.
2. Immediately before the Ratification Vote began, I opened the Ballot box number.
3. I saw that the Ballot box was empty and I asked Eligible Voters who were present to witness that the Ballot box was empty.
4. I then properly sealed the Ballot box, in front of those persons who were present, and kept it in view for the reception of Regular Ballots.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

DECLARED BEFORE me at the _____)
of _____ in the Province of _____)
_____, this ____ day of _____, 201__)
)

_____))
Ratification Officer

_____))
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the)
Province of _____

Sample Form 14 - Ratification Process

STATEMENT OF WITNESS
(Regular Polls)

Date

I, _____, was personally present at the polling place at _____ on the __ day of _____, 201__ when Eligible Voters of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation were to vote in a Ratification Vote concerning the Ratification Documents, and

1. I am an Eligible Voter.
2. I witnessed that the ballot was empty before any votes were cast in the Ratification Vote.
3. I witnessed the Ratification Officer seal the Ballot box and sign the seal.
4. I signed the seal, as requested by the Ratification Officer

Witness

Sample Form 15 - Ratification Process

CONFIRMATION BY RATIFICATION OFFICER
(Conclusion of Vote)

CANADA)
)
Province of _____)

I, _____, Ratification Officer for Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation in the Province of _____,

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was present at Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on the _____ day(s) of _____, 201__ when Eligible Voters of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation voted concerning approval of *the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and Individual Agreement in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process.
2. A true copy of the Notice of Vote is attached as Annex "1" to this Declaration.
3. In accordance with clause 7.1 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, I posted the Notice of Vote at least 56 days prior to the Official Voting Day.
4. The voting procedure, including the handling of electronic ballots, Delivered Ballots and the counting of results, was conducted in accordance with sections 13 to 20, both inclusive, of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process.
5. The names of _____ Eligible Voters appeared on the List of Eligible Voters.
6. The number of Eligible Voters who registered was _____ and their names were recorded on the List of Eligible Voters.
7. The number participating Eligible Voters who constituted the minimum twenty percent (20%) of all Eligible Voters required for participation under clause 24.1(a) was _____.
8. The number of participating Eligible Voters who constituted a majority under clause 24.1(b) was _____.
9. The results of the Ratification Vote are as follows:
 - (a) _____ electronic ballots were cast in the Ratification Vote in accordance with section 13, **Error! Reference source not found.** and 16.4 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;

- (b) _____ Delivered Ballots were cast in the Ratification Vote in accordance with section 15 and clause 16.4 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
- (c) _____ Ballots at the poll were cast in the Ratification Vote in accordance with section 16 and 17 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
- (d) _____ Delivered Ballots were rejected in accordance with clause 19.1 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process and not opened or deposited into the ballot box;
- (e) _____ Ballots at the poll were spoiled as provided in clause 17.18 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
- (f) _____ Ballots at the poll were cancelled in accordance with clause 17.20 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
- (g) _____ ballots were rejected in accordance with section 18 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
- (h) _____ ballots were marked "YES" for the Ballot Question; and
- (i) _____ ballots were marked "NO" for the Ballot Question.

10. Based on the need to meet or exceed the number of participating Eligible Voters in item 7, and the number of Eligible Voters in item 8, above, the Ratification Documents were *approved/not approved* by the Eligible Voters of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

DECLARED BEFORE me at the _____)
of _____ in the)
Province of _____, this _____ day of)
_____ 201__.

_____)
Ratification Officer)

_____)
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the)
Province of _____

Sample form 16 - Ratification Process

REPORT BY VERIFIER

(Conclusion of Vote)

CANADA)
)
Province of _____)

I, _____, in the Province of _____,

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was present at Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on the __ day(s) of _____, 201__ when Eligible Voters voted concerning approval of *the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and their Individual Agreement in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process.
2. A copy of the Notice of Vote is attached as Annex "1" to this Declaration.
3. In accordance with clause 7.1 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, the Ratification Officer posted the Notice of Vote at least 56 days prior to the Official Voting Day.
4. In accordance with clause 7.3 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, I arranged for the Notice of Vote to be published in the _____ at least 15 days prior to the Official Voting Day.
5. In accordance with section 8.2 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, a copy of the Notice of Vote and a Voter Information Package were sent to each person on the List of Eligible Voters at their last known address or e-mail address at least 56 days prior to the Official Voting Day.
6. In accordance with clauses 8.5, 8.68.6 and 8.7 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, visits at the homes of Eligible Voters, telephone contact with Eligible Voters and information meetings were conducted.
7. In accordance with clause 9.1 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, the information package was sent to any persons who are not Members who hold an interest in Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land at least 28 days prior to the Official Voting Day.
8. The names of _____ Eligible Voters appeared on the List of Eligible Voters.

9. The number of Eligible Voters who registered was _____ and their names were recorded on the List of Eligible Voters.

10. The number participating Eligible Voters who constituted the minimum twenty percent (20%) of all Eligible Voters required for participation under clause 24.1(a) was _____.

11. The number of participating Eligible Voters who constituted a majority under clause 24.1(b) was _____.

12. The results of the Ratification Vote are as follows:
 - (a) _____ electronic ballots were cast in the Ratification Vote in accordance with section 13, **Error! Reference source not found.** and 16.4 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
 - (b) _____ Delivered Ballots were cast in the Ratification Vote in accordance with section 15 and clause 16.4 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
 - (c) _____ Ballots at the poll were cast in the Ratification Vote in accordance with section 16 and 17 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
 - (d) _____ Delivered Ballots were rejected in accordance with clause 19.1 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process and not opened or deposited into the ballot box;
 - (e) _____ Ballots at the poll were spoiled as provided in clause 17.18 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
 - (f) _____ Ballots at the poll were cancelled in accordance with clause 17.20 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
 - (g) _____ ballots were rejected in accordance with section 18 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;
 - (h) _____ ballots were marked "YES" for the Ballot Question; and
 - (i) _____ ballots were marked "NO" for the Ballot Question.

13. Based on the need to meet or exceed the number of participating Eligible Voters in item 10, and the number of Eligible Voters in items 11, above, the Ratification Documents were *approved/not approved* by the Eligible Voters of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

DECLARED BEFORE me at the _____)
of _____ in the _____)

Province of _____, this _____ day of)
_____ 201___.)

_____))
Verifier)

_____))
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the)
Province of _____)

Sample Form 17 - Ratification Process

FIRST NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(Submission to Verifier at Conclusion of Vote)

Whereas the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and the Individual Agreement were submitted to a Ratification Vote at Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on the _____ day of _____, 201__;

And Whereas the Verifier has reported that the Ratification Vote was conducted in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process confirmed by the Verifier;

And Whereas the Eligible Voters approved these documents at the Ratification Vote;

And Whereas the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Council and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada have fully signed the Individual Agreement; and

Now therefore the Council of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, in accordance with the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* and clause 24.4 and 24.5 of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process, do hereby resolve to send to the Verifier a true copy of the fully signed Individual Agreement hereto attached as Annex "1", and the approved *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code*, attached hereto as Annex "2" for certification by the Verifier.

Sample Form 18 - Ratification Process

CERTIFICATION OF LAND CODE

Whereas the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and the Individual Agreement were submitted to a Ratification Vote at Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on the _____ day of _____, 201__;

And Whereas I have reported that the Ratification Vote was conducted in accordance with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Community Ratification Process;

And Whereas the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and the Individual Agreement were approved by the Eligible Voters at the Ratification Vote on the _____ days of _____, 201__;

And Whereas the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Council has sent a true copy of the fully signed Individual Agreement and a statement that the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* and the Individual Agreement were properly approved;

And Whereas clause ___ of the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* states that the *Land Code* shall take effect on the first day of the month following the certification of *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* by the Verifier;

Therefore, I hereby certify the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code*, attached as Annex "1" hereto, and the effective date of the *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Land Code* is ___ day of _____, 201__.

DECLARED BEFORE me at the _____)
of _____ in the)
Province of _____, this _____ day of)
_____ 201__.)

_____)
Verifier)

_____)
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the)
Province of _____.)