



NOTICE

ELECTION POSTPONED TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

On Thursday, January 7th, 2021, Premier Doug Ford announced that the lockdown that is currently in place for Northern Ontario is being extended for an additional two (2) weeks, through to the date of the January 23rd, 2021 election. Due to this extension, in-person voting for the Election on January 23rd, 2021 cannot take place due to restrictions on meeting spaces, as per the regulations from the Province of Ontario.

In April 2020, the Government of Canada developed a policy titled *First Nations Election Cancellation and Postponement Regulations (Prevention of Diseases) (SOR/2020-84)*. According to Section 4 (1) of these regulations, "The council of a First Nation whose Chief and Councillors are chosen according to the custom of the First Nation may extend the term of office of the Chief and Councillors if it is necessary to prevent, mitigate or control the spread of diseases on its reserve, even if the custom does not provide for such a situation".

Therefore, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) will be extending the term of office for Chief and Councillors to Saturday, February 20, 2021, and postponing its election for a period of **four (4) weeks**.

NEW ELECTION DATE to Elect a Chief and two (2) Councillors: Saturday, February 20th, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Prince Arthur Waterfront Hotel & Suites, 17 Cumberland Street North, Thunder Bay, Ontario. All ballots cast at this election will be counted at the above noted location immediately following the close of the polls.

Please note that the Electoral Officer will retain under seal, all envelopes that contain mail-in ballots that are received up until the new election date of Saturday, February 20, 2021.

We strongly encourage all BNA members to send in their mail-in ballots as soon as possible to ensure they are received in a timely manner. Members also have the option of dropping off their mail in ballots at Shoppers Drug Mart Post Office at 572 Arthur St. W. Thunder Bay, Ontario. For members choosing to vote in-person on February 20th, please have valid government issued ID (Status Card, Drivers Licence and/or Passport) with you.

It is important for all members to remember to adhere to all COVID-19 Protocols on Election Day. These include: sanitizing your hands before entering the election room, wearing a mask at all times, and maintaining social distancing at a minimum of 6-ft apart. We also recommend that members bring their own pen. Please remember that these health and safety protocols are in place for the safety of all members during this Pandemic.

Given under my hand this 11th day of January, 2021.

Tara Ingram
Electoral Officer

P.O. Box 32084 Arthur P.O.
Thunder Bay, ON
P7E 0A1

Telephone: (807) 474-6268
Email: tara.ingram@hotmail.com