



Pasqua FIRST NATION

TO: PASQUA FIRST NATION ELECTORS
FROM: GRAEME DREW, ELECTORAL OFFICER
DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025
RE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ELECTION

As you may be aware, the Pasqua First Nation Council passed a resolution to replace portions of the Indian Act relating to elections (including the Indian Band Election Regulations) with the First Nations Election Act (FNEA) and First Nations Elections Regulations (FNER).

To minimize confusion and concerns regarding the new rules for this election, I offer a summary of my responses to the most common questions that electors have asked me during this election process:

Q1) When and where can I vote?

A1) You can vote either in person on Monday, March 3, 2025 from 9am to 8pm (CST) at the Chief Ben Pasqua Memorial Hall or by mail.

According to the new election rules, the deadline to request a mail-in ballot from the Electoral Officer was February 25, 2025.

Q2) Why do I have to ask for a ballot to be mailed to me?

A2) Section 15 of the FNER states “*An elector who wants to receive a mail-in ballot must make a written request to the electoral officer that includes a copy of their proof of identity*”. Previously, every elector living off-reserve with a mailing address on record with the Pasqua administration would automatically be sent a mail-in ballot.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ELECTION (continued)

Q3) Can I deliver a mail-in ballot on behalf of another elector?

A3) Yes, as long as the elector requests your assistance by delivering the ballot on their behalf and you sign a form provided by the Electoral Officer when you arrive at the polling station with their ballot.

Q4) Why can't I vote online like the ratification vote in December 2024?

A4) Unfortunately, the election rules do not allow online voting.

Q5) How many scrutineers can a candidate appoint?

A5) A candidate is entitled to two representatives in the polling station.

Q6) Who can attend the counting of the ballots?

A6) The election rules do not specify who can attend or can not attend the count; therefore, it is my view that any elector can observe the count provided they ensure that they turn their cell phones off or on vibrate and do not disrupt the counting process.

Q7) Can members who are being mean in this election be punished?

A7) The FNEA and FNER include numerous references to actions that are prohibited during an election and corresponding penalties so members are encouraged to be familiar with these rules of conduct.

Q8) What if I am not satisfied that the election was fair?

A8) An elector has up to 30 days from when the election results are announced to file their application to "a competent court" as detailed on Sections 31 to 35 of the FNER.

Sincerely,



Graeme Drew, Electoral Officer