



XAT'SŪLL FIRST NATION

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Notice of Xat'sūll Election Code Amendment Process 2024

In the Spring of 2024, there will be a vote (Plebiscite) of Xat'sūll "Electors" (members of at least 18 years of age) to consider changes (amendments) to the Xat'sūll Custom Election Code (the "2009 Code").

Below is a list of amendments proposed for Elector consideration in the Plebiscite. The list is based on:

1. a review of comments made over the years by community members (including former Council Members), former Electoral Officers, and the Complaints and Appeal Board.
2. a review of Election Codes from several other First Nations, including ones with treaties, ones in formal treaty negotiations, and ones outside the treaty process.
3. an informal focused survey of Xat'sūll members in November 2022; and
4. a formal comprehensive survey of Xat'sūll members in November 2023.

Amendments Proposed for Consideration

Some of the amendments that are proposed for Elector consideration are:

- modifying the election schedule to ensure that:
 - All-Candidates Forums occur before mail-in ballots are finalized.
 - there is no overlap between the election process for Chief and the election process for Councillors.
- providing for voting by electronic means in addition to in-person and mail-in balloting.
- reducing the nomination meeting from 3 hours to 2 hours.
- making people ineligible to run for a position on Council if they:
 - are currently serving a jail sentence.
 - have been convicted of a serious criminal offense within the past 10 years.
 - have been found by a court to have defrauded Xat'sūll or a Xat'sūll business.
 - are in arrears in debt to Xat'sūll or a Xat'sūll business without a repayment agreement in place.

- fail to provide a summary of their election platform or attend an All-Candidates Forum.
- moving procedures for Council meetings and Removal of Council Members from the Election Code to a Governance Policy developed with community input.
- disallowing Council members who resign or are removed from running in a by-election to fill the position they vacated.
- limiting the ability of a Chief to resign and run in a by-election for a vacant Council position.
- providing a by-election process if all Council positions become vacant.
- requiring one of the members of the Board dealing with election appeals to be a qualified arbitrator or similar professional.
- modifying some definitions, adding others, and removing gender-specific language throughout.
- clarifying election procedures such as:
 - preparation of voter lists and contact information.
 - posting/publication of election-related notices.
 - receipt of mail-in ballots.
 - identification of Deputy Electoral Officers; and
 - assisted voting.

A full copy of the proposed amendments in the 2024 Xatsùll Election Code Concordance Document, as well as a draft Election Code Amendment Ballot and Plebiscite Information Package, can be obtained at the Xatsùll Administration Office, 3419 Mountain House Road, Williams Lake, BC, or viewed on the www.xatsull.com website.

Amendment Process

- 1. Special Membership Meeting:** There will be two Special Membership Meetings in the **Deep Creek gymnasium from 5:00 pm to 8 pm on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, and from 5:00 pm to 8 pm on Thursday, March 21, 2024,** to get further membership input on the proposed amendments. You can attend in person (supper provided) or by videoconference (link to be provided later).

Your input from the meetings will be considered in preparing the final amendments to be voted on in the Plebiscite.

- 2. Written Suggestions:** You may also provide written suggestions on amendments to the Election Code by emailing them to Gordon Keener at g.keener@xatsull.com or delivering them to the reception desk in the Administration Office.

Written suggestions received on or before **March 31, 2024**, will also be considered in preparing the final amendments to be voted on in the Plebiscite.

- 3. The Plebiscite:** After receiving input at the Special Membership Meetings and reviewing written suggestions, Council will:

- prepare a final Election Code amendment ballot.
- establish a Plebiscite Voting Day; and
- appoint a Plebiscite Officer to manage the Plebiscite process.

Electors will be able to vote in the Plebiscite by mail-in ballot, or in-person at the Deep Creek gymnasium on the Plebiscite Voting Day.

Proposed amendments supported by a majority of Electors who participate in the Plebiscite will be incorporated into the Xatsūll Election Code.