

**ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
TREATY 8 ANNUITIES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
VOTING GUIDELINES**

1.0 DEFINITIONS

1.1 In these Voting Guidelines:

- a. **“Ballot Question”** means the clearly stated yes or no question posed to Voters as set out in Appendix “B” – Notice of Ratification Vote;
- b. **“Council”** means Chief and Council of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation;
- c. **“Declaration of Membership & Eligibility to Vote Form”** means a document substantially in the form of Appendix C setting out the Voter’s name and declaring that the Voter is a registered member of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and their registration number, that the Voter is at least 18 years of age, and that the Voter is eligible to vote in the Ratification Vote.
- d. **“Electronic Voting”** means a procedure where Voters cast their vote by indicating their choice to the Ballot Question utilizing an Electronic Voting Platform;
- e. **“Electronic Voting Period”** means the day(s) that Voters can cast their votes by utilizing an Electronic Voting Platform, and being the period from 9:00 am on Sunday April 20, 2025, to 8:00 pm on Thursday April 24, 2025;
- f. **“Electronic Voting Platform”** means a secured internet website that functions as a web-based platform and electronic ballots are stored and tabulated once cast;
- g. **“Finance Code”** means the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Finance Code;
- h. **“In-Person Voting”** means a procedure where Voters cast their vote by indicating their choice to the Ballot Question on a paper ballot;
- i. **“In-Person Voting Day”** means the day identified for In-person Voting, in respect of the Ratification Vote, being Thursday April 24, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
- j. **“Informational Meeting”** means the meeting or meetings identified in Article 6 of these Guidelines;

- k. **“Member”** is a member of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation;
- l. **“Voting Place”** means a place designated by the Ratification Officer where one or more Voting Stations are provided for the purposes of In-Person Voting on In-Person Voting Day, and being open at the start of In-Person Voting Day and close at the end of In-Person Voting Day;
- m. **“Voting Station”** means the area or areas designated by the Ratification Officer within the Voting Place where a Voter casts their vote;
- n. **“Notice of Ratification Vote”** means the notice that is to be prepared by the Ratification Officer in accordance with Article 4 and substantially in the form of Appendix B of these Guidelines;
- o. **“Ratification Officer”** means a person who is appointed by the Council to oversee the conduct of the Ratification Vote;
- p. **“Ratification Vote”** means the secret ballot voting conducted in accordance with these voting guidelines for the purpose of ratifying the Settlement Agreement, the Trust Agreement and the Finance Code;
- q. **“Voter”** means a Member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation who is at least 18 years of age on the final day of the Ratification Vote;
- r. **“Voters’ Addresses List”** means a list provided by the Council to the Ratification Officer at least 30 days before the In-Person Voting Day containing each Voter’s name, in alphabetical order, their respective Indian registration number (status card number), and their last known address if available and email address if available;
- s. **“Voting Day”** means both the Electronic Voting Period together with the In-Person Voting Day, the latter being the final day set for holding the Ratification Vote; and
- t. **“Voters List”** means a list provided by Council to the Ratification Officer at least 30 days before the In-Person Voting Day containing the names, in alphabetical order, of all of the Voters.

2.0 Interpretation

- 2.1 Where there is a reference to a number of days between two events, in calculating that number of days, the day on which the first event happens is excluded and the day on which the second event happens is included.

3.0 Method of Vote

- 3.1 In accordance with these Voting Guidelines, voting in the Ratification Vote will be by both Electronic Voting during the Electronic Voting Period; and In-Person Voting at a Voting Station during the In-Person Voting Day.

4.0 BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

- 4.1 The Council shall, at least 30 days before the first In-Person Voting Day, by resolution designate the Ratification Officer and order that the Ratification Vote be taken by secret ballot.
- 4.2 The Council shall, at least 24 days before the first In-Person Voting Day, by resolution or resolutions, approve the Notice of Ratification Vote, and recommend the acceptance of the Settlement Agreement, the Trust Agreement and the Finance Code in its substantial form to Members.

5.0 DESIGNATION OF RATIFICATION OFFICER AND APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT

- 5.1 The Ratification Officer must be designated prior to posting the Notice of Ratification Vote.
- 5.2 The Ratification Officer may appoint one or multiple assistant(s) and may delegate any of their duties as set out in these Voting Guidelines to the assistant(s) except those duties set out in Article 15.0.
- 5.3 Upon the appointment of an assistant, the Ratification Officer and assistant will execute an "Appointment of an Assistant" in the form attached as Appendix "A".

6.0 NOTICE OF RATIFICATION VOTE

- 6.1 The Ratification Officer will post a Notice of Ratification Vote substantially in the form attached as Appendix "B" at least twenty-three (23) days prior to the In-Person Voting Day.
- 6.2 The Ratification Officer will post the Notice of Ratification Vote in at least one visible place in the community, such as at the administrative office of the First Nation, to the First Nation's website where it can be accessed by Members, and they will also ask that it be posted on the First Nation's social media, if the First Nation has any social media.
- 6.3 The Notice of Ratification Vote will contain the following information:
- (i) the date, place and time of the Information Meeting(s);
 - (ii) the date, place and hours of the In-Person Voting Day for the Ratification Vote;

- (iii) the dates and hours for the Electronic Voting Period for the Ratification Vote;
- (iv) the Ballot Question;
- (v) a copy of the Settlement Agreement, Trust Agreement, Finance Code and such other information as Council or its designate determines;
- (vi) the name of the Ratification Officer and their office address, email address, and telephone number;
- (vii) the procedure for requesting revisions to the Voters List; and
- (viii) a statement that the Voting Guidelines will be available to each Voter upon request, or may be viewed on the ACFN website, or at ACFN's administrative office.

6.4 The Ratification Officer shall post the Voter's List with the Notice of Ratification in at least one visible place in the community, such as at the administrative office of the First Nation and to the First Nation's website where it can be accessed by Members.

6.5 The Ratification Officer will provide, upon request, a complete copy of these Voting Guidelines to any Voter on the Voter List.

7.0 VOTERS LIST AND REVISIONS

7.1 The Ratification Officer will ensure that they have received the Voters List from Council at least 30 days prior to the In-Person Voting Day.

7.2 It is the responsibility of each Voter to ensure that their voting information is correct.

7.3 A Member may apply to the Ratification Officer before the close of In-Person Voting Day to have the Voters List revised if such Member believes that:

7.3.1 the name of a Voter has been omitted from the Voters List; or

7.3.2 the name of a Voter is incorrectly set out or should not be included on the Voters List.

7.4 Where the Ratification Officer is satisfied that a revision of the Voters List is necessary following an application under Articles 7.3, they will make the revisions accordingly.

7.5 A Member may apply to the Ratification Officer to have their name added to the Voters List before the close of In-Person Voting Day if that Member provides:

7.5.1 proof of eligibility to vote by completing the Declaration of Membership and Eligibility to Vote Form substantially in the form of Appendix C. This proof shall include (a) documentation, (b) corroboration of the Membership Clerk, or (c) such other evidence to the satisfaction of the Ratification officer that verifies that the Voter's name is recorded on the Membership List, and that the Voter is at least eighteen (18) years old on the date of the Ratification Vote and not disqualified from voting at Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation elections.

7.6 Upon receipt and confirmation of the information in the Declaration of Membership and Eligibility to Vote Form as required in Article 7.5, the Ratification Officer will revise the Voters List where they are satisfied such revision is necessary.

8.0 INFORMATION MEETINGS

8.1 The Council will set the date, place and time for the Information Meeting(s).

8.2 At least one Information Meeting will be held at least seven (7) days after posting the Notice of Ratification Vote and at least ten (10) days prior to the In-Person Voting Day.

8.3 The Information Meeting(s) may be held on the internet through an electronic platform or via any electronic media.

8.4 At least one Information Meeting will be held for the purpose of providing an opportunity for Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's legal counsel to explain the Settlement Agreement, Trust Agreement, and Finance Code to Voters with a view to ensuring that all Voters have an opportunity to be informed prior to casting their votes on the Ballot Question.

8.5 The Information Meeting(s) will be open to all Voters and will be attended by Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's legal counsel.

9.0 PRELIMINARY PROCEDURES

9.1 The Ratification Officer will:

9.1.1 prepare sufficient copies of the Ballot Question that are uniform in size, appearance, quality and weight;

9.1.2 obtain a ballot box;

- 9.1.3 obtain a voting booth for the voting station(s) where the Voter can mark the ballot free from observation by any other person;
- 9.1.4 provide a sufficient number of pens or pencils for marking the Ballot Question;
- 9.1.5 ensure that examples of the Ballot Question are posted or available for examination by Voters at the voting station(s); and
- 9.1.6 ensure that an interpreter, a commissioner for taking oaths or a notary public will be available as required.

10.0 ELECTRONIC VOTING

- 10.1 Electronic voting shall be permitted only during the Electronic Voting Period, being from 9:00 am on April 20, 2025, to 8:00 pm on April 24, 2025.
- 10.2 The Ratification Officer shall work with the consultant managing the Electronic Voting Platform to design the Electronic Voting credentials.
- 10.3 The Ratification Officer shall have complete administrative access to the Electronic Voting Platform to:
 - 10.3.1 view and download daily reports and detailed activity reports;
 - 10.3.2 modify, update and view the Voters List, including contact information, at all times;
 - 10.3.3 receive an email notification confirming the Voter registration; and
 - 10.3.4 receive an email notification confirming the Voter voted by Electronic Voting.
- 10.4 To participate in Electronic Voting, Voters may be required to:
 - 10.4.1 provide their Indian registry number (status card number);
 - 10.4.2 provide their date of birth;
 - 10.4.3 visit the landing page of the Electronic Platform;
 - 10.4.4 Confirm their eligibility;
 - 10.4.5 Complete the authentication and Voter verification process; and
 - 10.4.6 mark their electronic ballot.

- 10.5 The Voter shall complete the process described in Article 10.4 and as otherwise provided in the Electronic Voting instructions in the Electronic Voting Platform to login, and once this is complete, shall vote either “Yes” or “No” in response to the Ballot Question or decline to vote.
- 10.6 After entering the information described in Article 10.4 into the Electronic Voting Platform to login, and if no vote is cast, a Voter shall be deemed not to have cast an electronic vote, and they may still vote in person on the In-Person Voting Day.
- 10.7 At the close of the Electronic Voting Period and on an ongoing basis, a report identifying who has voted shall be issued to the Ratification Officer. This report will contain no information regarding how an individual Voter has voted.
- 10.8 On an ongoing basis and at the close of the Voting Place(s) on the In-Person Voting Day, the Ratification Officer shall determine if any Voter voted in-person and/or electronically. For greater certainty, where the Voter has voted by electronic voting, the Voter shall not be given a ballot to vote in person, but their electronic vote shall be tallied.
- 10.9 The results of Electronic Voting shall be disclosed and counted as part of the counting of the ballots with the electronic ballot results reported on prior to the physical counting of paper ballots cast by in-person voting, as described in Article 13.

11.0 VOTING PROCEDURES

- 11.1 In-Person Voting will be allowed during In-Person Voting Day, which is April 24, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- 11.2 Voting Places will be open for the purposes of In-Person Voting on In-Person Voting Day.
- 11.3 No In-Person Voting will occur until the Voting Place is open.
- 11.4 All In-Person Voting will be by secret ballot only.
- 11.5 The Ratification Officer will keep the ballot box(es) secure during In-Person Voting Day and until such time as the ballots can be destroyed or otherwise properly secured following a challenge of the results, if any, in accordance with Articles 13.4 and 13.5.
- 11.6 Prior to any vote being cast by way of In-Person Voting, and immediately prior to opening of any Voting Places(s), the Ratification Officer, or their delegated assistant(s) if there is more than one Voting Place, will:

- 11.6.1 open the ballot box(es) and ask a Voter to witness that the ballot box(es) is empty;
 - 11.6.2 properly seal the ballot box(es) and place their signature on the seal in front of the witness, and ask the witness to place their signature on the seal;
 - 11.6.3 place the ballot box(es) in view for the reception of the ballots; and
 - 11.6.4 ensure that the witness executes a "Statement of Witness" in the form attached as Appendix "D".
- 11.7 On In-Person Voting Day, the Ratification Officer will maintain a copy of the Voters List (whether electronic or hard copy) on which it will be identified (by mark or line through the Voter's name) which Voters have voted by way of Electronic Voting or received a ballot for In-Person Voting.
- 11.8 The Ratification Officer will ensure that only those Voters who have not voted by way of Electronic Voting will be allowed to cast their vote by In-Person Voting.
- 11.9 The Ratification Officer, or their delegated assistant if there is more than one Voting Place, will explain the voting procedures in these Guidelines upon request or ensure that an interpreter is present to explain the voting procedures.
- 11.10 The Ratification Officer, or their delegated assistant(s) if there is more than one Voting Place, after being satisfied that a person is a Voter who has not already voted electronically or in-person, will affix their initials on the back of a ballot so that their initials can be seen when the ballot is folded and provide the Voter with the ballot. In order to satisfy themselves that a person is a Voter the Ratification Officer or their delegated assistant may request to see identification and/or rely on any other means of verification they deem reasonable;
- 11.11 If requested by a Voter who:
- 11.11.1 is not able to read;
 - 11.11.2 is incapacitated by blindness or other physical causes; or
 - 11.11.3 requires assistance for any other reason;
- the Ratification Officer, or their delegated assistant(s) or any person authorized by the ratification officer if there is more than one Voting Place, will assist that Voter by marking their ballot as directed by the Voter and the Ratification Officer will immediately fold and deposit the ballot into the ballot box on behalf of that Voter.

- 11.12 In the circumstances described in Article 11.11, the Ratification Officer, after assisting the Voter, will make an entry on the Voters List opposite the name of the Voter indicating that the ballot was marked by the Ratification Officer at the request and on behalf of the Voter.
- 11.13 Except as provided in Article 11.11, every Voter receiving a ballot will:
- 11.13.1 proceed immediately to a Voting Station;
 - 11.13.2 mark the ballot by placing a cross (“X”), check mark (“√”) or other mark, either in the box marked “YES” or in the box marked “NO” to clearly indicate the Voter’s response to the Ballot Question;
 - 11.13.3 fold the ballot to conceal the mark and to expose the initials of the Ratification Officer; and
 - 11.13.4 immediately give the folded ballot to the Ratification Officer who, without unfolding it, will:
 - i. verify their initials; and
 - ii. deposit the ballot into the ballot box
- 11.14 A Voter who receives a soiled or improperly printed ballot, or who accidentally spoils their ballot when marking it will, upon request and upon returning it to the Ratification Officer, be entitled to receive another ballot. The returned ballot will be recorded as spoiled.
- 11.15 A Voter who receives a ballot and does not return it to the Ratification Officer will not be counted as having voted. The Ratification Officer will make an entry on the Voters List stating that the Voter left the Voting Station without delivering the ballot.
- 11.16 At the time set for the close of In-Person Voting Day, the Ratification Officer will declare In-Person Voting closed but will allow those Voters who are in the Voting Place(s) or waiting in line to enter the Voting Place(s) at the close of the In-Person Voting Day the opportunity to vote. No additional Voters will be allowed to line-up at the Voting Place(s) after the polls close on In-Person Voting Day.
- 11.17 A Voter may vote only once.
- 11.18 If the Ratification Officer has evidence that a Voter has voted using Electronic Voting, the Voter will not be allowed to vote in In-Person Voting, and the Voter’s electronic vote shall be counted.
- 11.19 In the event that, contrary to 11.18 a Voter has voted by both Electronic Voting and In-Person, then the vote cast by Electronic Voting will be

rejected and treated as void as each Voter is only permitted to cast one vote that will be counted in the Ratification Vote.

11.20 Notwithstanding any of the In-Person voting procedures outlined in these Voting Guidelines, the Ratification Officer, in accordance with advice of public health officials, retains discretion on whether and how to conduct In-Person Voting and may amend these procedures as needed for health and safety of the Voters, of those conducting the Ratification Vote, and of the community at large.

12.0 ORDERLY VOTING

12.1 No person will interfere or attempt to interfere with a Voter when the Voter is waiting in line to enter a Voting Place or in a Voting Place, nor will a person obtain or attempt to obtain information as to how a Voter is about to vote or has voted.

12.2 The Ratification Officer will ensure that peace and good order are maintained around the Voting Place(s).

12.3 The Ratification Officer will allow only one Voter at a time into a Voting Station.

13.0 COUNTING OF RESULTS

13.1 After the poll is closed on In-Person Voting Day the Ratification Officer their designated assistant(s) shall, in the presence of at least one member of Council and one Voter:

13.1.1 report on the results of the Electronic Voting in accordance with Article 10.9;

13.1.2 check that the ballot box is properly sealed and signed;

13.1.3 open the ballot box and remove the ballots from the ballot box so that the ballots can be counted;

13.1.4 count the number of spoiled ballots in accordance with Article 11.14;

13.1.5 examine all ballots contained in the ballot box and confirm that they each contain initials from the Ratification Officer or their designated assistant(s);

13.1.6 reject all ballots that:

- i. have not been initialed by the Ratification Officer or their designated assistant(s);

- ii. have not been marked as either “YES” or “NO”;
- iii. have been marked as both “YES” and “NO”; or
- iv. have any writing or mark which can identify the Voter;

For greater clarity, ballots shall not be rejected if they are marked with a cross (“X”), check mark (“√”), or other mark that does not constitute identification of the Voter and the intent of the Voter to vote either “YES” or “NO” is clear; and

- 13.1.7 count the number of ballots marked “YES”, marked “NO” and the number of rejected ballots.
- 13.2 When the result of the Ratification Vote has been determined, the Ratification Officer will:
- 13.2.1 ensure that the Voter who was present when the ballots were counted executes the form attached as Appendix “E”;
 - 13.2.2 execute the “Certification by Ratification Officer,” in the form attached as Appendix “F”; and
 - 13.2.3 ensure that the member of Council who was present when the ballots were counted executes the “Certification by Member of Council” in the form attached as Appendix “G”.
- 13.3 The Ratification Officer, or their designated assistant(s), will separately seal in envelopes:
- 13.3.1 the ballots cast and accepted and any documentation evidencing the electronic results;
 - 13.3.2 the rejected ballots; and
 - 13.3.3 the spoiled ballots.
- 13.4 The Ratification Officer, or their designated assistant(s), will then affix their signature to the seals on each of the envelopes and the Ratification Officer will retain them for 60 days or such longer period of time required by 13.5.
- 13.5 After 60 days, unless an objection is filed in accordance with Article 15.0 or the Council has been notified that legal proceedings concerning the Ratification Vote have been commenced, the ballots, the rejected ballots, the spoiled ballots, and the documentation evidencing the electronic results may be destroyed.

14.0 PROCEDURAL AMENDMENTS

- 14.1 In order to give effect to and carry out the objectives and purpose of the Ratification Vote, the Ratification Officer and Council may agree on a departure from the procedural requirements of these Voting Guidelines where they deem it necessary and where they believe it will not result in any substantive changes to these Guidelines.
- 14.2 The Ratification Officer and Council will state in writing the nature and basis of any departure from the procedural requirements of these Voting Guidelines.
- 14.3 In the event that any of the procedures set out herein cannot be followed as set forth due to pandemic or other health related issues, the Ratification Officer shall be entitled to amend or adapt these Voting Guidelines in such manner that would not materially and directly affect the results of the Ratification Vote and which will, in the opinion of the Ratification Officer, reasonably ensure that all Voters have had an opportunity to have their vote recorded and counted if they choose to vote on or before the close of In-Person Voting Day.

15.0 OBJECTIONS

- 15.1 A Voter who voted and has reasonable grounds for believing that:
 - 15.1.1 there was a violation of these Voting Guidelines that affected the results of the Ratification Vote; or
 - 15.1.2 there was corrupt practice that affected the results of the Ratification Vote,

may, within seven (7) days from the In-Person Voting Day, file an objection by personal delivery to the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation via its administrative office:

- i. notice of their objection;
 - ii. a sworn declaration by the Voter setting out the grounds and evidentiary basis for the objection;
 - iii. the sworn declaration(s), if any, of any witnesses that the Voter wishes to be considered; and
 - iv. a list and a copy of such documentation or records that the Voter relies on, or a statement that the Voter does not intend to rely on any documentation or records.
- 15.2 Where an objection is filed under Article 15.1, the Council will determine:

- 15.2.1 whether the notice discloses the grounds for objection set out in section 15.1; and
- 15.2.2 whether there is a reasonable prospect that the objection will succeed.
- 15.3 In the event that the notice does not disclose the grounds for objection set out in 15.1.1 or 15.1.2 and/or has no reasonable chance of success, the Council shall dismiss the objection immediately, and notify the objector of its decision.
- 15.4 In the event that the notice does disclose the grounds for objection set out in 15.1.1 or 15.1.2 and there is a reasonable prospect that the objection will succeed the Council shall forward a copy of the objection by facsimile or overnight courier to the Ratification Officer within seven days of receiving it.
- For greater certainty, the Council shall determine that an objection has no reasonable chance of success if the grounds, as they are set out in the objection, would not have affected the results of the Ratification Vote.
- 15.5 The Ratification Officer will, within seven days of receiving the objection, forward to the Council a sworn declaration containing answers to the particulars stated in the Voter's declaration.
- 15.6 Subject to Article 15.7, the Council may dispose of an objection by allowing it and calling another vote.
- 15.7 Where the Council is of the opinion that the grounds of the objection
- i. are not established; or
 - ii. do not affect the results of the Ratification Vote
- the Council will dismiss the objection and notify the objector of its decision.

**APPENDIX "A" TO
ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
TREATY 8 ANNUITIES
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
VOTING GUIDELINES
(Article 5.2)**

APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT

Date

I, _____, Ratification Officer, appoint _____
to act as my assistant in carrying out my duties in accordance with the Voting
Guidelines of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement
Agreement for the purpose of the Ratification Vote.

Ratification Officer's Signature

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 these Voting Guidelines of the
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement for the
purpose of the Ratification Vote.

Assistant's Signature

**APPENDIX “B” TO
ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
TREATY 8 ANNUITIES
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
VOTING GUIDELINES
(Article 6.1)**

NOTICE OF RATIFICATION VOTE

March 24, 2025

TO: THE MEMBERS OF ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRT NATION

TAKE NOTICE that a **Ratification Vote** of the Voters of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation pursuant to the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement Voting Guidelines (the “Voting Guidelines”) will be held to determine if the Voters of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation approve and assent to the:

1. Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement (the “Settlement Agreement”) between Canada and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation,
2. Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Annuities Settlement Trust Agreement (the “Trust Agreement”), and,
3. Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Finance Code (the “Finance Code”)

The Settlement Agreement, Trust Agreement, Finance Code and Voting Guidelines can be accessed on the members only platform on ACFN’s website at <https://acfn.com>.

Copies will also be made available at the ACFN Band Administration Offices.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the Ratification Vote will take place by way of Electronic Voting and In-Person Voting as follows:

IN-PERSON VOTING (April 24, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Fort Chipewyan	Charlie Voyageur Conference Centre, Villebrun Ave, Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0
Edmonton	Chateau Nova Kingsway – 159 Airport Road, AB T5G 0W6
Fort McMurray	Stonebridge Hotel – 9713 Hardin St., Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2
Fort Smith	Salt River First Nation, 192 McDougal Road, Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

ELECTRONIC VOTING - April 20, 2025 to April 24, 2025 - 9:00 am to 8:00 pm daily.

To vote electronically go to the One Feather Website at <https://www.onefeather.ca/nations/athabasca>: When you get to the website you will be prompted through the process to cast your vote.

The following Ballot Question will be asked of the Voters of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation by secret ballot:

As a Voter of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (the “First Nation”), do you:

- (a) **agree** to all of the terms and conditions of the Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement initialled by the negotiators for ACFN and Canada, which settles and releases the Claim as defined in the Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement, the Trust Agreement in its substantial form, and Finance Code in its substantial form.

and

- (b) **authorize and direct** the Council of ACFN to sign all documents and do everything necessary to give effect to the Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement and the Trust Agreement?

YES

NO

Mark this Ballot by placing an “**X**”, check mark or other mark, under the word “YES” or “NO” within the appropriate box, clearly indicating your response to the question asked, but without identifying yourself.

AND TAKE NOTICE that an Information Meeting for purposes of the Ratification Vote will be held on **April 8, 2025** at the following location from **6:00pm to 8:00pm**:

In Person:

Charlie Voyageur Conference Centre,
Villebrun Ave, Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0

The information meeting will also be available by webinar, a zoom link will be emailed to you upon your registration.

Please note that to attend the webinar you must pre-register at the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9WAlny2nQxu0AmWUFBvoog

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that a Voters List is posted at the ACFN Administration Office and will be emailed to voters for whom ACFN has an email address for upon request.

Articles 7.2 through 7.6 of the Voting Guidelines provide:

- 7.2 It is the responsibility of each Voter to ensure that their current mailing address and/or current email address is on file with the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.
- 7.3 A Member may apply to the Ratification Officer before the close of In-Person Voting Day to have the Voters List revised if such Member believes that:
 - 7.3.1 the name of a Voter has been omitted from the Voters List; or
 - 7.3.2 the name of a Voter is incorrectly set out or should not be included on the Voters List.
- 7.4 Where the Ratification Officer is satisfied that a revision of the Voters List is necessary following an application under Articles 7.3, they will make the revisions accordingly.
- 7.5 A Member may apply to the Ratification Officer to have their name added to the Voters List before the close of In-Person Voting Day if that Member provides:
 - 7.5.1 proof of eligibility to vote by completing the Declaration of Membership and Eligibility to Vote Form substantially in the form of Appendix C. This proof shall include (a) documentation, (b) corroboration of the Membership Clerk, or (c) such other evidence to the satisfaction of the Ratification officer that verifies that the Voter's name is recorded on the Band List, and that the Voter is at least eighteen (18) years old on the date of the Ratification Vote and not disqualified from voting at Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation elections.
- 7.6 Upon receipt and confirmation of the information in the Declaration of Membership and Eligibility to Vote Form as required in Article 7.5, the Ratification Officer will revise the Voters List where they are satisfied such revision is necessary.

If the name of a Voter has been omitted from the Voters List or the name of a Voter is incorrectly set out or should not be included on the Voters List please contact the Ratification Officer.

DATED at Fort McMurray, in the Province of Alberta, this 24 day of March, 2025.

Pauline Gauthier, Ratification Officer for
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

You can contact the Ratification Officer at:

Email: pandjoe@gmail.com

Phone: 780-743-3436

**APPENDIX “C” TO
ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
TREATY 8 ANNUITIES
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
VOTING GUIDELINES
(Article 7.5.1)**

DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE FORM

In the matter of the Ratification Vote for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement (the “**Settlement Agreement**”), the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Annuities Settlement Trust Agreement (the “**Trust Agreement**”) and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Finance Code (the “**Finance Code**”) held on _____ 2025:

I, _____, of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation ,

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I am a registered Member of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, and my name is recorded on the Band List of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. My membership/registration number is _____;
2. I am or will be at least 18 years old on the date of the Ratification Vote; and
3. I am eligible to vote in the Ratification Vote regarding the Settlement Agreement, the Trust Agreement, and the Finance Code.

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 by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*. I understand that it is an offence to make a false statement in this declaration.

Signature

DECLARED BEFORE me at _____ in the Province of Alberta,
this ___ day of _____, 2025.

Commissioner for Oaths in and for the Province of Alberta

**APPENDIX "D" TO
ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
TREATY 8 ANNUITIES
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
VOTING GUIDELINES
(Article 11.6.4)**

STATEMENT OF WITNESS - SEALING OF BALLOT BOXE(S)

Date

I, _____, was personally present at _____ on _____, 2025 when Voters of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation voted in a Ratification Vote concerning the Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement, the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Annuities Settlement Trust Agreement, and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Finance Code and:

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

Witness' Signature

**APPENDIX “E” TO
ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
TREATY 8 ANNUITIES
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
VOTING GUIDELINES
(Article 13.2.1)**

STATEMENT OF WITNESS – COUNTING OF BALLOTS

Date

I, _____, was personally present at _____ on _____, 2025 when Voters of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation voted in a Ratification Vote concerning the Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement, the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Annuities Settlement Trust Agreement, and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Finance Code and:

1. I witnessed that the ballot box was properly sealed and signed following the close of the In-Person Voting Day and all voters either in the Voting Place at or in line to vote at the Voting Place at the close of the In-Person Voting Day had an opportunity to vote.
2. I witnessed the Ratification Officer, or the Ratification Officer’s delegated assistant(s), properly open the sealed ballot box at the close of the In-Person Voting Day.
3. I witnessed the Ratification Officer, or their designated assistant(s), remove the ballots from the ballot box so they could be counted.
4. I witnessed the Ratification Officer, or the Ratification Officer’s delegated assistant(s), properly examine each ballot to ensure it contained the signature of the Ratification Officer, or the Ratification Officer’s delegated assistant(s) after the ballots were removed from the ballot box.

Witness’ Signature

- d) _____ballots were marked “NO”;
- e) _____ballots were rejected in accordance with Article 13.1.6 the Voting Guidelines; and
- f) _____ballots were spoiled and were not counted in b. above in accordance with Article 11.14 of the Voting Guidelines.

6. The proposed Settlement Agreement, Trust Agreement, and Finance Code were [approved/not approved] by the Voters.

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 _____)
 _____ , in the Province of)
 Alberta, this ___day of)
 _____ , 2025.)
)
)
)
)
)

 Ratification Officer

 A Commissioner for Taking Oaths for the
 Province of Alberta

**APPENDIX "G" TO
ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST
NATION
TREATY 8 ANNUITIES
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
VOTING GUIDELINES
(Article 13.2.3)**

CERTIFICATION BY MEMBER OF COUNCIL

C A N A D A)
)
PROVINCE OF _____)

I, _____, [Chief or Member of the council of the Athabasca
Chipewyan First Nation], of _____, in the
Province of _____

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was present at the [DATE, TIME AND LOCATION] when Voters voted concerning the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement"), the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Annuities Settlement Trust Agreement (the "Trust Agreement"), and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Finance Code in accordance with the Voting Guidelines of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement (the "Voting Guidelines").
2. A true copy of the Notice of Ratification Vote is attached as Exhibit "1" to this Declaration.
3. In accordance with Article 6.1 of the Voting Guidelines, the Ratification Officer posted the Notice of Ratification Vote at least twenty-three (23) days prior to the In-Person Voting Day.
4. The results of the Ratification Vote are as follows:
 - a. the names of _____ Voters appeared on the Voters List prepared pursuant to Article 6.0 of the Voting Guidelines, and the number of Voters who were entitled to cast a vote was _____;

- b. _____ ballots were cast in the Ratification Vote in accordance with the Voting Guidelines;
- c. _____ ballots were marked "YES";
- d. _____ ballots were marked "NO";
- e. _____ ballots were rejected in accordance with Article 13.1.6 of the Voting Guidelines; and
- f. _____ ballots were spoiled in accordance with Article 11.14 of the Voting Guidelines and were not counted in b. above.

5. The proposed Settlement Agreement, Trust Agreement, and Finance Code were [approved/not approved] by the Voters.

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 _____)
 _____, in the Province of)
 Alberta, this _____ day of)
 _____, 2025.)

) Chief or Councilor of Athabasca
 Chipewyan First Nation

 A Commissioner for Taking Oaths within the
 Province of Alberta

**ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
TREATY 8 ANNUITIES
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT VOTING GUIDELINES**

FORM OF CERTIFICATION OF VOTE RESULTS & APPEALS

I, _____, Ratification Officer responsible for the ratification vote of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Treaty 8 Annuities Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement"), the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Annuities Settlement Trust Agreement (the "Trust Agreement"), and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Finance Code DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I, or my delegated assistant(s), was present at [location(s)] on [date] when Voters of the First Nation voted on the Settlement Agreement, the Trust Agreement and the Finance Code in accordance with the Voting Guidelines.
2. A true copy of the Notice of Vote is attached as Annex "1" to this Certification.
3. The number of Voters whose names were recorded on the List of Voters was _____.
4. The results of the Ratification Vote are as follows:
 - a. _____ in-person ballots were cast
 - b. _____ electronic ballots were cast
 - c. _____ ballots were spoiled
 - d. _____ ballots were rejected
 - e. _____ ballots were marked "YES" for the Ballot Question
 - f. _____ ballots were marked "NO" for the Ballot Question.
5. *(There were no appeals received during the appeal period) / (All appeals received during the appeal period were resolved in accordance with the Voting Guidelines).*
6. The Settlement Agreement, the Trust Agreement, and the Finance Code were *(approved / not approved)* by the Voters.

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 _____
in the Province of Alberta, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Ratification Officer

Commissioner for Oaths in Alberta