



06/25/2024

MEMBER VOTE TO AMEND THE 1991 WLFN MEMBERSHIP RULES

Date: **Wednesday, July 24TH, 2024**

Time: **5:00pm to 8:00pm**

Location: **Elizabeth Grouse Gym (2674 Indian Drive)**

Dinner will be provided!

TAKE NOTICE that Williams Lake First Nation (“WLFN”) will be holding a vote to amend its Membership Rules at a Members only meeting on Wednesday, July 24th, 2024, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at the Elizabeth Grouse Gym (2674 Indian Drive). The meeting will begin with dinner and a presentation on the proposed amendments to the Membership Rules and will then be followed by a secret ballot vote on the proposed amendments.

WLFN’s current Membership Rules were adopted in 1991 in accordance with the requirements of Section 10 of the *Indian Act*. The rules set out the procedures for adding and removing individuals from the WLFN Band List and for appealing the outcome of decisions made under the Membership Rules. WLFN has been operating under the 1991 Membership Rules for over 30 years, and it has become clear that updates to these rules are required. Council has therefore arranged for the Membership Rules be redrafted.

The redrafted Membership Rules were presented to Members by WLFN staff at a meeting held on May 6th, 2024, with the purpose of soliciting feedback and answering questions related to the proposed amendments. Council has since considered the feedback provided by Members and

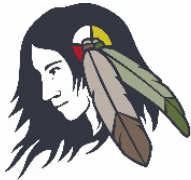


Williams Lake
FIRST NATION

NOTICE

has arranged for the Membership Rules to be revised to address the feedback provided, where practicable. In order for the proposed amendments to officially be made to the Membership Rules, a Membership vote must be conducted. For the changes to be adopted, the rules require that a Majority (50% + 1) of electors participate in the vote and that a Majority of those participating electors vote in favour of the amended rules (i.e. a “Double Majority”). The vote is now scheduled to be held on July 24th, 2024. **Members must attend the meeting in-person to vote on the proposed amendments.**

If you have any questions about the proposed changes to the Membership Rules, please contact Lisa Camille, Director of Member Services. She can be reached at 250-296-3507 ext. 103, or via email at Lisa.Camille@wfn.ca. A fully copy of the current version of the Membership Rules and/or the proposed new Membership Rules can be obtained from Lisa, or the WLFN Quigli Administrative Building (2561 Quigli Drive), or the WLFN Yorston Administrative Building (315 Yorston Street).



Williams Lake
FIRST NATION

FACT SHEET ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WLFN MEMBERSHIP RULES

Dated: June 25, 2024

Question: What are the Membership Rules?

Answer: The Membership Rules set out the process for becoming a Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) Member. The WLFN Membership Rules were adopted under Section 10 of the Indian Act in 1991 and gave WLFN the ability to make its own determination about who can become a WLFN Member.

Question: Why is WLFN considering amendments to the existing Membership Rules?

Answer: We've had the opportunity to work with these rules for some time and have found that there are a number of areas that could be expanded or improved in the rules.

Question: What amendments are being proposed to the Membership Rules?

Answer: There is an entirely new draft of the Membership Rules being proposed. This new draft is intended to be easier to understand, manage, and administer. The updated Membership Rules will provide additional details regarding the application and approval process for WLFN Membership, alongside distinct and improved guidelines for appealing decisions made under these rules.

A summary of some of the key content in the new Membership Rules is as follows:

- There is a person called the "Membership Administrator" responsible for administering the process under the Membership Rules. The Membership Administrator is the keeper of the official Membership List.
- To be eligible to apply for WLFN membership, a person must be a status Indian under the Indian Act and they must not be a member of another First Nation (or they must confirm they will be removed from the Membership of the other First Nation prior to their addition to the WLFN Membership List).
- There are two categories of applicants:
 - Applicants who have at least one parent who is a WLFN Member (Category 1 Applicants); and
 - Applicants whose parents are not WLFN Members (Category 2 Applicants).
- Category 1 Applicants can be automatically added to the Membership List (provided they comply with all other requirements of the Membership Rules).
- In order to be added to the Membership List, applicants in Category 2 must be approved by a vote of WLFN Electors at a Special Membership Meeting. The process for this vote is set out in detail in Part V of the new Membership Rules.
 - An Elector may attend a Special Membership Meeting conducted under Part V virtually, through the use of Microsoft Teams, Zoom or a similar platform, and may participate in the vote by secret ballot through an online or other electronic voting platform authorized by resolution of Council.

- A person whose application has been rejected in a vote of the Membership may make reapply to a maximum of three (3) times, under the new rules.
- If a person has a dispute over the decision of the Membership Administrator or the outcome of a vote there is a process for appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent party called an “arbitrator”.
- The new Membership Rules can be amended by a referendum conducted in accordance with the WLFN Land Code.

Question: What is required for Council to adopt the new Membership Rules?

Answer: In order to adopt the new Membership Rules, we must follow the process for amendment set out in the **existing** Rules. This requires a vote of the membership. If 51% of all electors are not present for the vote, then the amendments must be approved by a petition signed by 51% of all electors.

Question: When will the vote to approve the new Membership Rules take place?

Answer: The vote is scheduled to take place July 24th, 2024 at a Membership meeting held from 5pm-8pm at the Elizabeth Grouse Gymnasium (2674 Indian Drive).

Question: Is there someone who I can talk to, or ask questions, about the proposed changes to the Membership Rules?

Answer: Yes. Please contact Lisa Camille at:

Lisa Camille
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2561 Quigli Drive
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