

Updating the Constitution

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...



Constitutional Amendments Information Package

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What is the Constitution?



The **Tla'amin Constitution** is a set of principles by which the Tla'amin Nation will be governed.

The Constitution is the framework that lays out our values, according to our **Ta'ow**.

It contains everything needed for us to collectively live and work together as one nation.

The Constitution is the **foundation** of our Tla'amin Government and provides the basis for all decision making, law making, and policies.

Background Information

The Tla'amin Constitution was developed by our nation over several years, with the endorsement of Chief and Council.

There have been many Tla'amin people that have contributed to the development of the Constitution over the years.

The Constitution incorporated the results of over 10 years worth of nation-wide surveys and comprehensive community plans to identify key

issues important to Tla'amin citizens, including financial administration, lands and resources, governance and culture and heritage.

A Tla'amin Constitution community working group was established to provide input on the development of the draft constitution. As part of this process they also reviewed the constitutions from numerous other First Nations communities.

As each section came together the Constitution was also assessed and reviewed by legal counsel.

After the comprehensive process was completed, the final version went to community vote and was approved and adopted by the Tla'amin Nation in 2009.

Our Constitution can be found under the Government heading on the Sliammon Website:

<http://www.sliammonfirstnation.com>

and also on the Sliammon Treaty Website:

<http://www.sliammontreaty.com>

Constitution Updates



Why are we voting to amend the Constitution?

Many years have passed since the Constitution was first rolled out. Now that the Final Agreement has been approved and we are moving towards self-governance, the nation has been very busy developing the laws which will be implemented come effective date, April 2016.

As part of this process we have noticed a couple of minor things in the Constitution that need to be updated to simplify processes and reflect the direction we have chosen to take, now that we are much further ahead in the process.

The Tla'amin Constitution is a 24 page document covering everything from our founding principles, financial administration, lands and resource management, to governance and culture and heritage.

The proposed changes are fairly minor amendments and do not alter the intention and scope of the original Constitution in any way.

Proposed Changes

1. Adding a new land section 23.1 to make it easier for the Nation to allot, grant or sell land to Tla'amin Citizens.
2. Merging finance and audit committee into a single committee comprising members who are all independent to simplify and maintain Financial Management Board Certification.
3. Removing requirement of the CFO to be on the Finance Committee.
4. Clarifying that the Fishing Vessel Fund does not need to be part of the Trust Settlement.
5. Clarifying the role of the executive branch to "oversee implementation and enforcement of Tla'amin Laws and manage the function of the CFO" in section 61.
6. Minor changes - adding the word "water" in section 3(a), changing the word "People" to "Citizens" in section 4 (d), changing the word "President" to "Hegus (Chief)" in section 60, and replacing the "Vice President" and "Secretary Treasurer" with "Four elected officials".

For more detailed information on the above changes, please refer to the March 2015 Neh Motl available on the Sliammon First Nation and Treaty websites.

Voting Information

Sliammon First Nation has appointed *Frances Ladret* as the Chief Electoral Officer to oversee the voting process.

Voting is open to all enrolled Sliammon First Nation members 18 years or older. Voter Information packages will be mailed out to everyone at the end of April.

Do not lose your Voter Information package, as your package includes an official ballot and a unique Personal Identification Number (PIN) that can be used to cast your ballot electronically (by Internet or telephone).

How to Vote

Online

Cast your ballot using your unique PIN provided in your Voter Information package.

Online voting will be open from May 7 to May 25, 2015 inclusive.

By Phone

Cast your ballot using your unique PIN provided in your Voter Information package.

Telephone voting will be open from May 7 to May 25, 2015 inclusive.

Mail-In

Mark your ballot with your vote and send it to the address included in your Voter Information package.

Mail-In ballots must be received before **May 25**. Please remember to mail it early.

In Person

Your ballot can be submitted in person to one of the following polling stations:

Vancouver Polling Station

Atrium Inn

2889 Hastings St E, Vancouver, BC V5K 2A1

Sat. **May 23**, 2015, 9am-8pm

Sliammon Polling Station

Salish Centre

4885 Highway 101, Powell River, BC V8A 0B6

Mon. **May 25**, 2015, 9am-8pm



IT'S YOUR NATION,
YOUR VOTE COUNTS!