

## Community Approval Questions

### 1. **How will the Anishinabek First Nations' members ratify the Education Agreement?**

Ratification begins with a decision by a First Nation to put the agreement to its members for their approval. Of the 39 Anishinabek First Nations, 30 have made this decision. Their members will vote by December 2nd of this year. Eligible voters are 18 or older and live on or off reserve.

The education agreement requires that 12 or more First Nations vote in its favour. Only those First Nations that approve the agreement would be included in the Anishinabek Education System. A First Nation that votes against the agreement, or that chooses not to hold a vote, will continue to have its education program managed by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

### 2. **What does the ratification process look like?**

A self-government agreement with a First Nation cannot take effect unless its members say so. They will vote on the agreement between November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 2nd.

The vote has two steps. First, a First Nation that wants to join the education system must pass a Band Council Resolution before June 1. This resolution will confirm that the First Nation will hold a vote. Second, the First Nation will hold the vote during the last week in November.

Leading up to the vote, the First Nation will hold information meetings on and off reserve, and share information through mass media. This will help Anishinaabe to learn about the agreement and decide whether to approve it.

A ratification committee, with members from the Anishinabek Nation and federal government, is overseeing the ratification process. This committee will see that the vote follows the rules set out in the agreement.

### 3. **When will the Anishinabek First Nations ratify the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement?**

The ratification vote is set for November 28 to December 2, 2016.

### 4. **What are people voting on?**

Anishinabek First Nation members will vote on two things — the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement and their First Nation's constitution. The education agreement would create the system. The constitution would define how the First Nation would manage the system.

**5. Who will be able to vote on the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement?**

An eligible voter is any Anishinabek First Nation member who is 18 or older on or before December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. The eligible voter can live on or off reserve. The member's name must appear on the First Nation's membership list.

**6. How many "yes" votes are required to ratify the Education Agreement?**

A First Nation will ratify the agreement if 25% of its members, plus one more member, vote in favour. Also, the number of "yes" voters must be larger than the number of members who vote "no."

For example, in a First Nation with 1,000 eligible voters living on and off reserve, at least 251 members must vote "yes," and fewer than 251 would vote "no." If fewer than 251 members vote "yes," then the First Nation would not approve the agreement.

This requirement applies to each First Nation.

As well, 12 or more First Nations would need to approve the education system. If fewer than 12 First Nations vote to approve the system, then the system would not be created. The Anishinabe Nation and the federal government would meet to figure out what would happen next.

**7. Will non-Anishinabek First Nation members who reside on-reserve be able to vote in the ratification of the Education Agreement?**

No. Only Anishinabe may vote. They must be 18 or older and may live on or off reserve.

**8. Is there electronic voting?**

No. The rules do not allow for electronic voting. A vote requires a paper ballot.

**9. What follows the Education Agreement ratification vote?**

If 12 or more First Nations approve the education agreement, then the federal government will ask Parliament also to vote in favour. If Parliament approves the agreement, then the Anishinabek Education System will be created.

If fewer than 12 First Nations approve the education agreement, then the Anishinabek Nation and federal government will meet to discuss what would happen next.