SAPOTAWEYAK CREE NATION ELECTIONS BOARD

NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SAPOTAWEYAK CREE NATION ELECTION CODE

Issued pursuant to section 96 of the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation Election Code

Date of Notice:	November 3, 2026
Comment Deadline:	December 3, 2026

At Sapotaweyak Cree Nation ("**SCN**"), we have our own custom election code that was adopted by membership on November 18, 2024 (the "**Election Code**"). The Election Code allows for amendment proposals to be brought by any elector to the Sapotaweyak Cree Nations Elections Board (the "**Board**") which is reviewed and provided to SCN membership for a vote.

The Board received a written amendment proposal from an elector which has triggered the amendment process under the Election Code.

This notice explains what the amendment process is, what the proposed changes are, and where you can get a full copy of the proposed changes to the Election Code.

1. The Amendment Process

Only the SCN electors can change the Election Code. These are the steps required under the Election Code:

1. Proposal and Review (done)	An Elector gave the Board a written proposal of amendments to the Election Code to the Board.
2. Notice (we are here)	The Election Code requires that the Board provide notice of the amendment proposal which includes the information set out in this notice.
3. Comment period	Electors have an opportunity to provide written comments on the changes proposed within thirty days after this notice is published. The deadline is **December 3, 2026**
4. Election Code finalized for vote	The Board must review all comments and make any changes to Election Code it thinks are needed to reflect the comments received. **This is when the amended Election Code is finalized for the vote. No changes will be made after this step.**
5. Special Meeting	The Board will hold a Special Meeting to present the final amended Election Code to Electors before the vote. This meeting is for information only. It is not another chance to comment on or change the proposal. The date, time, and place of the meeting will be announced separately.
6. Referendum	After the Special Meeting, Electors will vote on the final amended Election Code. The changes will pass only if: at least 200 Electors vote, and more than half of those who vote, vote yes.

Please note: Some of the proposed changes would change how the Election Code is amended in the future. Those changes do not apply now. This process follows the current Election Code, as described above.

2. Overview of the Proposed Changes

In general, the proposed would:

- clarify the steps and requirements for becoming a candidate;
- make the Electoral Officer and the Elections Board more independent and more accountable;
- add protections for voters' lists, mail-in ballots, vote counting, appeals and complaints;
- set out the duties of Chief and Council, and add a Election Code of Conduct, a standard Oath of Office;
- require that Chief and Council must live on an SCN reserve;
- require that Chief and Council submit to mandatory drug and alcohol testing; and
- change the process for how the Election Code can be changed in the future.

Please see the attachment to this notice for a further breakdown of the changes to the Election Code.

3. How to Provide Your Comments

As mentioned, you have thirty (30) days from the date this notice is posted to provide your written comments regarding any of the proposed changes to the Election Code, or additional changes you would like to see made.

Comments can be sent to electionsboard@sapotaweyak.com

The deadline to provide comments is December 3, 2026.

4. How to Get a Full Copy of the Proposed Changes

You can get a full copy of the proposed Election Code and the Elector's written reasons for each change in two ways: pick one up at the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation Administration Office during regular business hours, or ask for one by emailing the SCN office at cc314@sapotaweyak.com

5. Questions

Questions about this notice or the amendment process may be directed to the Board at: electionsboard@sapotaweyak.com

Dated at Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, Manitoba, this 3rd day of November, 2026.

SAPOTAWEYAK CREE NATION ELECTIONS BOARD

Summary of the Proposed Changes to the Election Code

This is a summary only. The section numbers in the right-hand column are from the current Election Code. If the changes pass, the sections would be renumbered. Please read the full proposed Election Code for the exact wording.

Topic	Summary of Proposed Change	Current Election Code Sections Affected
1. Minor corrections	Fix grammar and wording so the Election Code is consistent. Correct the conflicting nomination fee amounts. Renumber the sections and update all references, headings, and form names to match.	Entire Election Code; ss. 4, 11(1)(f), 16(1)(d), 37(1)(b)
2. Definitions and forms	Put the definitions in a lettered list and add a name for each form. A "Conflict of Interest" would cover only a direct personal, family, financial or business interest. The appendices would be replaced: a new Code of Conduct (Appendix A), the Oath of Office (Appendix B), and the forms (Appendices C to J). The ballot, envelope and instruction appendices would be removed.	s. 4; Appendices
3. Nomination vs. candidacy	Being nominated and becoming a Candidate would be two separate steps. Any Elector aged 18 or older could be nominated. To become a Candidate, the person would need to accept on time, pay the fee, provide a criminal record check, and Child Abuse Registry check, and not have a disqualifying conviction or Corrupt Practice finding in the past five years. A person nominated for both Chief and Councillor must choose one, or both nominations would not count. If criminal record or child abuse registry check results are delayed for reasons outside the person's control, proof of applying would be enough. The Electoral Officer must formally confirm each nomination and give written reasons for any rejection.	ss. 11(1)(f), 16, 17, 37
4. Endorsements	Candidates would no longer need 10 endorsements (Chief) or 5 endorsements (Councillor) They would still need a nominator and a seconder.	s. 4 ("Candidate"), s. 16(1)(h)
5. Electoral Officer	The Electoral Officer could not be an Elector, and would be hired by January 15 of an election year (now June 1). Their duties would include staying neutral, treating everyone fairly, avoiding conflicts, and keeping an election file for five years. The sections on pay and waivers would be removed. Appointing Deputies would be optional, and each Deputy's powers would be set out in writing.	ss. 18(5)–(6), 20, 21(4), 22
6. Quorum during vacancies	If there are not enough Chief and Councillors in office to hold a meeting, and a by-election has been called to fill the empty seats, Council could still meet with whoever is in office, even if that is fewer than four people.	s. 8
7. Oath of Office and first meeting	A person who is elected cannot act in office until they take the Oath of Office. The first meeting can still go ahead if someone has not taken the Oath, but that person can only watch.	ss. 10(1), 10(4), 12

Topic	Summary of Proposed Change	Current Election Code Sections Affected
8. Voters' List	Electors would have until 15 days before the Election to ask for a correction to the Voters' List, and would need less proof to do so. There would also be new steps to check and record people who were incorrectly left off the Voters' List but are allowed to vote on Election Day.	ss. 25, 26, 33
9. Candidate withdrawal	Candidates could withdraw up to 35 Days before Election Day. A Candidate would be treated as withdrawn in certain cases, such as death, no longer being eligible, a disqualifying record check, being unable to serve, or being found guilty of a Corrupt Practice. Votes for a Candidate who withdraws after the deadline would not count. If withdrawals leave only one Candidate for Chief, or five or fewer Candidates for Council, those Candidates would be elected without a vote (by acclamation).	s. 39
10. Acclamation	Whether someone is elected without a vote (by acclamation) would be decided only after nominations are confirmed. The Electoral Officer would provide a notice to membership which would say who is elected, which positions are filled, and whether there will still be a vote for any position.	s. 38
11. Mail-in ballots	Mail-in ballots would have to arrive before the polls open on Election Day (instead of by the time voting closes), and would be processed before the polls open. Ballots that arrive after the polls open would not count.	ss. 44(1)(f), 51
12. Notice to absent Nominees	The Electoral Officer would have 3 Days (instead of 5 Days) to tell people who were nominated for a Chief or Councillor position but did not attend the Nomination Meeting.	s. 40
13. Deputy Chief succession	The Deputy Chief would act as Chief when the Chief is away or unable to serve. If the Deputy Chief position is empty, it must be filled within 30 days. If both positions are empty, the remaining Councillors would choose an acting Chief.	s. 13
14. Nomination Meeting and fee	The Nomination Meeting would be held at least 60 Days before Election Day (now 42 Days). It could be delayed by up to 7 Days (now 10 Days). The nomination fee the a Candidate must pay would be $100.	ss. 4 ("Candidate"), 16(1)(d), 34(1), 34(3), 37(1)(b)
15. Elector privacy	Candidates would get only Electors' names. They would get an Elector's mailing address only if that Elector agrees in writing. Candidates could use this information only to campaign in that Election, and must destroy or return it within 30 Days after Election Day, unless it is needed for an Appeal, Complaint or court case.	s. 32
16. Candidate list posting	The list of Candidates would be posted within 3 Days after the deadline to accept a nomination, instead of 7 Days after the Nomination Meeting.	s. 40(2)

Topic	Summary of Proposed Change	Current Election Code Sections Affected
17. Voting assistance and mail-in safeguards	Any Elector who needs help to vote, for example because of a disability, language or reading, could get help. A Candidate or Scrutineer could not be the helper. There would be new protections for Electors who were sent a mail-in package but then vote in person or at an advance poll.	ss. 44, 50(10), 51(4)
18. Ballot validity and counting	The Election Code would say clearly what makes a Ballot valid and when a Ballot is rejected. Objections would be handled as part of the count. The witness statement would be signed when ballot boxes are opened for counting. The Election Code would also list when a Ballot can be cancelled at the Polling Station.	ss. 48, 50, 54, 55
19. Reporting and ballot retention	The Election Code would list what the Electoral Officer's Report must include. Ballots would be kept for 60 Days (now 35 Days), or longer if an Appeal or court review is filed. The Elections Board would be responsible for destroying ballots.	ss. 59, 60
20. Elections Board governance	For each new Elections Board, people would be invited to apply, and members would be appointed at least six months before an Election Day. Terms would be four years (now three), and members would stay on until replaced. The Election Code would list the Board's duties and require it to be independent from Chief and Council. Members with a conflict would also have to step aside from Complaints. There would be new rules for filling empty seats and removing members. At least four members would be needed to make decisions, and a removed member could not be reappointed for six years.	ss. 74, 76, 77, 80, 81
21. Appeals	Appeal deadlines changes to streamline the process. Responses would have to be sworn or affirmed statements (affidavits).	ss. 84–87
22. Complaints	Complaints about Chief and Council could be sent by email to the Elections Board. Decisions would need written reasons. Outcomes could range from a warning, apology or training, to a suspension of up to 90 Days, or removal from office. A decision would be due within 14 Days after the response period ends. Responses would have to be sworn statements (affidavits).	ss. 88–92
23. Amendment process	When the Board receives an amendment proposal from an Elector, the Board would have to give written reasons if it rejects a proposal. The Special Meeting would be removed, and the vote would be held within 60 Days after the comment period. If major changes are made after comments, there would have to be a new notice and comment period.	ss. 94–99

Topic	Summary of Proposed Change	Current Election Code Sections Affected
24. Duties, Code of Conduct and Oath	The Election Code would list the duties of the Chief and Councillors. These include being regularly present in the community and not missing more than two Council meetings in a row without permission. A Code of Conduct (Appendix A) and a standard Oath of Office (Appendix B) would be added.	New s. 8; new Appendices A and B
25. Residency requirement	The Chief and Councillors would have to make an SCN reserve their main home within 60 Days after their term starts. If they do not, they would lose their position.	New ss. 9, 14(1)(h)
26. Drug and alcohol testing	The Chief and Councillors would be tested for drugs and alcohol within 30 Days of taking office, at random times set by the Elections Board, and when there is a good reason to suspect use. An outside qualified tester would do the testing. Anyone who refuses or tests positive would lose their position. Results would be kept confidential.	New ss. 10, 14(1)(g)
27. Advance polling	Chief and Council may order a single-day advance poll held 7 to 10 Days before Election Day, with at least two advance Polling Stations. Electors who vote early could not vote again on Election Day. Winnipeg, Brandon, Swan River, and Saskatoon would become regular Election Day Polling Stations, with six ballot boxes.	ss. 4, 33(3), 43(1)(f), 46(2)–(4), 49(2), 54(1), 62(3)
28. Ballot box custody	Ballot boxes would stay sealed and with the Electoral Officer or a Deputy until counting.	ss. 46(4), 48, 51(3), 52
29. Candidate orientation	The Elections Board would no longer hold an orientation session for Candidates.	s. 36