



McLeod Lake Indian Band

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RE: McLeod Lake Indian Band Membership Code Referendum Update

The Membership Code Committee regrets to inform that the referendum did not pass due to an inability to meet the first threshold of a Double Majority. The final count showed that 110 Members voted YES to the ratification of the 2019 draft and 33 Members voted NO. As of the voting day, there were 204 Members needed to vote in order to meet the threshold for the ratification to be validated. This will be the third failed attempt at ratifying the outdated 2004 Membership Code since 2013.

The Committee wants to give a special thanks to the Membership who made their voices heard and voted in the referendum. Participation in governance is part of what moves the Band forward in the right direction. Whether or not the Membership agree with the Code, your vote is what helps the Administration serve you better.

Not voting simply holds the Nation back.

The Committee understands that engagement is key, but it goes both ways. The Committee has to provide adequate engagement opportunities for the Membership, just as the Membership need to be willing to participate. The Committee held 21 community consultations over the past eight months with only a fraction of a turnout from the Membership. The Committee attempted to reach out to the Membership and offer one-on-one consultations to help bridge the gap of accessibility for Members. These efforts were a costly endeavour for the Administration and a significant time commitment for the Committee.

Over the next few weeks, the Committee will be meeting to determine the next steps and advise Chief and Council how to move forward at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

One thing remains the same: The 2004 Code still stands as the Nation's governing document regarding the acceptance or denial of new Members into the Band. The issues still remain within this document and will do so until the Nation decides that it's time for change and make their voices heard.

- The Membership Committee