



MEMORANDUM

TO: Ontario First Nations Leadership
FROM: Gary Dokis, Oshkabewis to the Election Officer
DATE: April 9, 2024
RE: Chiefs of Ontario 2024 Election process Update

The Chiefs of Ontario Annual Chiefs Assembly and Ontario Regional Chief election will occur from June 11 to 13, 2024 in Six Nations of the Grand River. The election this year will be conducted by Gordon “Chop” Waindubence and Gary Dokis and will be conducted in the traditional stand up election process as specified in the Chiefs of Ontario Charter.

Nomination Process – Chiefs Circle June 11

1. Smudge building
2. Chiefs Nomination Circle – invited by the drum. Chiefs will introduce themselves.
3. Break – Drum invites Chiefs and Candidates back to the circle
4. Candidates will be invited to join the Chiefs circle and sit next to their Nominator
5. Election officer will explain the nomination and election process, explain that nominations open when the pipe ceremony occurs, nominations are closed when the pipe is taken apart
6. Elder Gordon “Chop” Waindubence will conduct a pipe ceremony and begin the circle
7. Nominator offers tobacco to Nominee during the circle. If the tobacco is accepted, the Nominee accepts the nomination for Ontario Regional Chief. Each Nominator for Ontario Regional Chief will have 5 minutes to introduce their Nominee.
8. The Nominee can be seconded by any of the Chiefs or designated voting delegate in the circle.
9. Nominators and Candidates will be given time to address the Assembly tomorrow morning. This will be done by order of nomination.
10. An optional Sweat Lodge will be conducted for the Nominees this afternoon at approximately 5:00 p.m.
11. A Feast will be held after the Sweat Lodge

Election Process – June 12

1. Smudge building
2. Each Nominee for Ontario Regional Chief will have 10 minutes to address the Assembly
3. Break – Confirm the number of Chiefs/Proxies registered
4. Call for stand up election for Ontario Regional Chief

5. Chiefs/Official delegates will be asked to stand behind their candidates. The Drum will play, when the drum stops, the Chiefs will be counted.
6. The candidate with the least amount of Chiefs/Delegates will be asked to sit and given two minutes to address the assembly. Chiefs/Proxies will return to their seats
7. This process will continue until all Chiefs/Delegates are lined up behind one candidate
8. Pipe and blanket ceremony will be conducted with Ontario Regional Chief
9. Unity song / Victory song. Ontario Regional Chief will dance with all Chiefs/Proxies
10. The Ontario Regional Chief will address the All Ontario Chiefs Conference
11. Giveaway – Giveaway song
12. Oath of Office

Notes:

- The Candidate(s) must be a citizen of a First Nation community within the Ontario Region. The nominator and seconder must be a Chief or a Proxy from a First Nation community within the Ontario Region.
- Delegates that are representing their First Nation who are not the Chief should bring documentation to identify that they are the appointed delegate
- Nominators should bring tobacco that can be presented to their Nominee on June 11, 2024

The Chiefs of Ontario and Six Nations of the Grand River will host the Annual Chiefs Assembly (ACA) and Regional Chief Election on June 11-13, 2024. Please note that Traditional Election Processes will be in place, as listed in the Charter of Chiefs of Ontario.

Dates: June 11-13, 2024.

Location: Six Nations Sports and Cultural Memorial Centre
1738 Fourth Line, Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0 (Map [here](#))

Please note that participation in this Assembly and Regional Chief Election is limited to in-person only.

Any questions regarding the election may be directed to Gary Dokis at dokisgary@gmail.com

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