



APPENDIX 'A'

ELECTORAL RULES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ONTARIO REGIONAL CHIEF AND TRADITIONAL ELECTION PROCESS

1.0 CANDIDATES FOR ONTARIO REGIONAL CHIEF

1. An incumbent Ontario Regional Chief must inform the COO Chief Operating Officer of his/her intention to stand for re-election on or before three (3) months from the start of the All Ontario Chiefs Conference of the election year.
2. Should the incumbent Ontario Regional Chief decide to run for re-election, travel funds will be restricted to specific COO business in the three (3) months leading up to the All Ontario Chiefs Conference of the election year.
3. The incumbent Ontario Regional Chief shall not use COO resources or funds to campaign for re-election.
4. Any individual that has declared candidacy for Ontario Regional Chief shall not be compensated or reimbursed for any expenses related to attendance or participation in any COO-related events or meetings, as may be applicable, in the three (3) months leading up to the election.
5. An incumbent Ontario Regional Chief must inform the COO Chief Operating Officer of his/her intention to run for any other leadership position, including but not limited to National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, no less than 60 days prior to the election date.

2.0 TIMING OF THE ELECTION

The election for the Office of Ontario Regional Chief shall take place on the morning of the second day of the All Ontario Chiefs Conference at which the election is to occur.

3.0 TRADITIONAL ELECTION PROCESS

This section outlines the process that is utilized to conduct Regional Chief elections. The sections are apportioned into three different categories: ceremonial, nominations, and election processes.

Ceremonial Processes

1. Seven pipe ceremonies during the election process
 - a. Welcome – utilize community resident pipe carrier if one is available
2. Nomination
3. Sweat lodge
4. Sunrise ceremony
5. Before election
6. Ceremony with elected Ontario Regional Chief
7. 3rd morning of the assembly
8. Sweat lodge on the night of nomination day
9. Feast after the sweat lodge
10. Sunrise ceremony – election morning
11. Grandmothers ceremony with elected Ontario Regional Chief

Nomination Process

1. Smudge building
2. Chairs for 133 Chiefs will be set in the circle.
3. Chiefs will be invited to the Circle. Invited by the drum.
4. The Election Officer will address the assembly.
5. The Oshkabewis will explain the rules prior to nomination.
6. Conduct a Chief's Introduction Circle; Chiefs will have an opportunity to introduce themselves. A microphone will be passed clockwise to each of the Chiefs – Proxies, beginning at the doorway.
7. The drum will play a second song to invite Ontario Regional Chief candidates to the Circle.

Rules:

- i. After the Chiefs Introduction Circle, candidates for Ontario Regional Chief that are not in the circle will be invited by the Election Officer to join the circle and sit next to their Nominator and Secunder. Nominators sit on the right side of the candidate; Secunder sits on the left-hand side of the candidate.
 - ii. The candidate(s) must be a citizen of a First Nation community within the Ontario Region. The nominator and secunder must be a Chief or a Proxy from a First Nation community within the Ontario Region.
 - iii. The Nominator will offer tobacco to their Nominee during the circle. If the tobacco is accepted, the Nominee is considered to have accepted the nomination.
 - iv. The Nominee will have to be seconded during the circle. Youth Council members will record the Nominations, Nominator, and Secunder, please identify yourself as a Nominator or Secunder to ensure that the proper information is recorded.
8. Elder will conduct a pipe ceremony and speak to begin the circle. Talking stick.
 9. The pipe ceremony will identify that nominations are open. No photos when the pipe and stem are together. This is a ceremonial process.
 10. The nominations for Ontario Regional Chief will occur during the ceremony. The Youth will record names of nominees, nominators, seconders. A microphone will be passed clockwise to each of the Chiefs/Proxies, beginning at the doorway to the circle.
 11. The Nominators for Ontario Regional Chief will have 5 minutes to introduce their Nominee. The Drum will keep time.
 12. The nominee will be asked whether they accept the nomination.
 13. The secunder will have 5 minutes to speak about the candidate. The Drum will keep time.
 14. The Oshkabewis will ask three times if there are any further nominations.
 15. When Elder takes the pipe apart, nominations will be closed, after the circle.

Photos may be taken after the pipe is taken apart.

16. The Oshkabewis will ask for a motion to accept the nominations.
17. Nominees will have an opportunity to address the All Ontario Chiefs Conference tomorrow morning prior to the stand-up election.
18. An optional sweat lodge will be conducted for Nominees and others that may be interested this afternoon at approximately 5:00pm. Candidates are encouraged to attend to express their intentions to the Creator, but attendance is optional. Everyone is invited to attend.
19. A feast will be held for sweat lodge participants after the sweat lodge. Candidates that were unable to attend the sweat lodge are encouraged to attend the feast.

Election Process

1. Sunrise ceremony – 6 am. Grandmothers from the PTOs and Independents will remove blanket (bonnet) from the Ontario Regional Chief. Thank the Ontario Regional Chief for their contributions to the Ontario Region.
2. The Election Officer will address the Assembly.
3. The Drum will call all Chiefs/Official Proxies to the circle for the election.
4. Each Nominee for Ontario Regional Chief will have 10 minutes to address the Assembly. The Drum will keep time. The nominees will speak by order of nomination.
5. The Chiefs of Ontario election is following the Traditional method of selecting the Ontario Regional Chief.
6. Break.
7. Drum will call Chiefs/Proxies and candidates back into the circle.
8. The Oshkabewis will confirm the number of Chiefs/Proxies that have registered with Chiefs of Ontario staff.
9. The Youth will be invited into the circle.
10. Acknowledge the Youth for the important work that they will be doing during the election

1st ballot

1. Stand-up election for the Ontario Regional Chief will be conducted. The Nominees will be called up by order of nomination and will be lined up in different directions. Elder will line up the candidates during the drum song. The candidates are lined up in directions towards the drum.
 - a. The Drum will play a drum song.
 - b. Chiefs or Official Proxies will be asked to stand behind their candidate during the drum song.
 - c. The candidates will be lined up in lines of 10 to assist the Youth in obtaining the right count.
2. Youth Council members will count the number of Chiefs/Proxies behind each candidate and report this information to the Election Officer. The Chiefs/Proxies will have yellow lanyards.
3. The candidate with the least number of Chiefs/Proxies will be asked to sit and will have 2 minutes to thank their supporters. Chiefs/Proxies will return to their seats.

2nd ballot

1. This process will continue until one candidate has the majority of the registered Chiefs/Proxies lined up behind them.
2. Announce the successful candidate. The runner(s) up will be allowed 2 minutes to thank their supporters.
3. All Chiefs/Proxies will then be asked to stand behind the successful candidate.
4. The Ontario Regional Chief will dance with all the Chiefs/Proxies. The Drum will play a unity song.
5. Break.
6. A pipe and blanket ceremony will be conducted with the Ontario Regional Chief.
 - a. Pipe ceremony by Elder, or Woman Elder, depending on if a female or male is elected.
 - b. Blanket ceremony conducted by the Grandmothers. Grandmothers will also provide instruction to the Ontario

Regional Chief, then raise the Ontario Regional Chief and wrap the blanket around her/him.

c. Religious ceremony.

11. The Ontario Regional Chief will address the All Ontario Chiefs Conference.

12. Youth set up a blanket and bring in giveaway gifts.

13. Giveaway for Nominators if applicable.

14. Giveaway. Elders. Chiefs, Community, Visitors.

15. Giveaway song.

16. Youth will serve strawberries and water.

17. The Ontario Regional Chief will sign the oath of office.