



CHACACHAS TREATY NATION

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Tansi Members of Chacachas Treaty Nation,

This letter is an update on the process to clarify member eligibility as well as how we will choose Leaders and establish a governing structure.

Our goal is to have a more clearly defined government and membership base, with a clear and fair method for choosing our leaders. Going forward, a more defined structure will empower our leaders when making important decisions and will show unity and strength to those we are negotiating with.

The process is interim, meaning that it is intended to be in place now, but will change as our Nation further develops.

We know that this experience will be a learning experience for all of us and we know it will make us stronger as a Nation.

OUTLINE OF PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP CODE AND ELECTION ACT DEVELOPMENT

We have taken various steps to get to this point. A list of these includes involvements with Members and with Outside Parties:

Member Activities

- Governance Survey of Members,
- General Assembly – July 2022
- Newsletters
- Governance Committee – started process in February, 2022

Outside Experts

- Governance Consultants - Ishkonigan
- Conference with Indigenous Experts in Victoria, BC to define Rights of a Treaty Band – December 2022
- Historian – Dr. J Clapperton
- First Nations Governance – meetings and website use - <https://fngovernance.org/>

Other First Nations

There are now 25+ self governing First Nations. We have examined the experiences, processes and documents of most to see what has worked and what best fits our situation.

NEXT STEPS

We've consulted with Members, Experts and other First Nations to get this far. We are now looking to discuss, explain and refine what we have and to get documents ratified. We envision this process:

- Draft Election Act prepared - January 2023
- Draft Membership Code prepared – January 2023
- Drive to collect Declarations and contact information for Members List – February – March.
- Communicated (mail and emailed) to membership - February
- Posted to www.chacachas.ca - February
- Membership educational meetings and ratification meeting - March – April
- General Assembly to ratify Membership Code and Election Act - May
- Formalization of Election Act – May

DECLARATION FORMS & UPDATING OF MEMBERS LIST

We are looking to clarify our community membership. To do this we have begun to distribute Declaration Forms to be signed by those who have not signed in the past. The Declaration Forms indicate that the individual intends to transition to the Chacachas Treaty Nation and eventually to give up membership in any other First Nation.

Forms should be signed by those who haven't Declared in the past. This includes:

- Those now 18+ years of age who have never Declared
- Parents with children under 18 years whom they have not previously Declared for

We will use the signing of Declaration Forms to update our Members List and contact information. Signed forms can be emailed or mailed to our Office Manager, Cynthia Watson.

cynthiawatson@chacachas.ca

OR

Chacachas Treaty Nation
Box 370
Whitewood, Saskatchewan
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MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

We recognize that Membership Eligibility is an enormous process and involves very important decisions for individuals and families.

Please take a look at the following draft Membership Code. This is a DRAFT – we need your feedback. We intend to do this with in person and online meetings, via survey and, of course, from direct feedback (phone calls, emails or texts)

This Code is intended to be for Phase 1 of clarifying our Membership. How we move forward beyond Phase 1, to expand eligibility to those outside of the Ochapowace First Nation, will be decided by our Declared Members.

DRAFT CHACACHAS INTERIM MEMBERSHIP CODE - (For Discussion Purposes)

Eligible for Membership

1. A person shall be eligible to be a registered Chacachas Member if:
 - a. he or she is presently on the Ochapowace Band List; and
 1. he or she is a descendant of the Chacachas Band; or
 2. her or his name appears on the Declaration List or is a descendant of such a person; or
 3. he or she is deemed by Membership Committee to be eligible.

This draft is intended to be our starting point for discussions.

ELECTION ACT

We have also built a Draft Election Act using the steps and inputs listed above. The draft Act is too long to include in this note, but can be viewed as an attachment to this letter.

The most important considerations to discuss are:

Structure of governance and leadership: 1 Chief, 4 Headmen or Headwomen

Method of choosing: Ballot election for all positions

Term: 3 years

Family Heads: Not at this time.

Overall, there is strong support for additional committees and other forms of participation. These include possible Elder Committee, Audit Committee and/or Membership Committees. However, before building these into our governing structure, we want to get clarification about our needs and size of Member population to “right-size” our structure to our needs. Traditional governance would lead to more of a committee or portfolio approach to governing and we look to move this direction, with more Member involvement, as we seek more clarity and have greater understanding of our needs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. There will be follow-up emails with updates as well as dates and times of meetings.

Your participation in this stage of re-building our Nation is necessary and appreciated.

Please contact us with further questions. The emails of our leaders are listed on our website, or Cynthia Watson can be contacted as above.

Sincerely,

Morley Watson
Director of Operations