

January 22, 2021

Dear Adams Lake Indian Band Electors

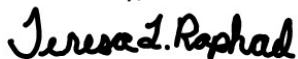
Covid-19 infections are increasing in the Adams Lake Indian Band community and surrounding areas. I have discussed this concerning information with the Adams Lake Indian Band Health Department and have confirmation that Interior Health Medical Health Officers have stated that there is a dramatic increase in positive Covid-19 infections in the Shuswap area which includes Adams Lake Indian Band, Neskonlith, Little Shuswap. Dr Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer has also stated that Interior Health has become a hot spot for Covid-19 infections and transmission. The Health Department working with Interior Health is working on containing and limiting the spread of the current Covid-19 infections. Covid-19 numbers in the Salmon Arm Health Region have increased significantly. The week of January 2-9th 2021 there were 17 cases in the area. During the week of January 10-16<sup>th</sup> 2021 those numbers grew to 36, which I find alarming. The incubation period of the virus is two (2) weeks and so there is still a high risk to the community.

The gatherings required to ensure that the election is fair and inclusive of all members would be putting members of the community at risk of exposure. There are directives that the Health Department has provided to me that will continue to be included and strictly followed in the Safety Plan for the Election when the election proceeds. Today, January 22, 2021, the Provincial Health Office has released a timeline that is being proposed which will depend on the availability of vaccines is that they are to be received as expected. The timeline would have Adams Lake included in Phase 2 of the Immunization Plan which is expected to take place between February and March 2021. I do not feel safe for myself, the Deputy Electoral Officer or the community to continue with the Election. There was consideration to hold all upcoming election events online, however this would not be deemed fair to limit access of Electors. I need to ensure that the Election process is fair and inclusive of all Electors and Candidates.

I have made the decision to postpone all Election events as of Friday, January 22, 2021 to limit the spread of the Covid-19 Virus with the support of the Executive Director and Adams Lake Indian Band Chief and Council. To ensure continuance of governance for Adams Lake Indian Band during the pandemic and with the Covid-19 virus posing an imminent and severe risk to the community, I propose to extend the term of the current Chief and Council for four months with the Election taking place Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> 2021. Please return or destroy the mail-in packages that were provided. The ballots and mail packages sent out will not be used for the upcoming election. A new mail in package will be provided with all the correct information.

I feel that given the current situation in the community that this is the right decision to limit the spread of Virus within the communities and within the province.

Sincerely,



Teresa Raphael

Electoral Officer  
Adams Lake Indian Band Chief and Council 2021 Election  
(778) 538-1186  
PO Box 28046 Lansdowne PO  
Kamloops, BC V2C 0C9