

INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

Dear Elector:

The Okanagan Indian Band is holding a referendum under the *Indian Referendum Regulations* to determine if the voters of the Okanagan Indian Band are in favor of the designation as described in the enclosed Information Document and Designation Document.

Information related to the designation is enclosed in this package. As a member of the Okanagan Indian Band, you are entitled to vote, and we invite you to do so. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT. To vote, please read these instructions carefully.

If you have any questions about the voting process, please contact the electoral officer of Indigenous Services Canada:

Adina Chang
Telephone: 236-334-4732
Adina.Chang@sac-isc.gc.ca

ENCLOSURES

The following documents are enclosed:

1. Notice of Referendum dated November 18, 2022, and with Annex A attached;
2. The Information Document;
3. COVID-19 precautions letter
4. Mail-in Ballot, initialed on the back by the electoral officer;
5. Voter Declaration form;
6. An envelope marked "FOR BALLOT(S) ONLY" in which the completed Ballot must be inserted;
7. Postage-paid return envelope, Marked "Return Envelope" and addressed to the "Electoral Officer";

HOW TO VOTE

STEPS TO FOLLOW	COMPLETED
STEP 1 <i>Do you have the seven enclosures listed above? If not, contact the electoral officer listed above, and whose address and telephone number is also in the "Notice of Referendum".</i>	
STEP 2 <i>Read the "Information Document". It discusses the designation you will be voting on.</i>	

STEPS TO FOLLOW		COMPLETED
STEP 3	Read the “ <i>Notice Of Referendum</i> ”. It sets out the question you must vote on, and the date your mail-in ballot must be received by the electoral officer. (Your mail-in ballot must be received by the date on which the referendum is held).	
STEP 4	<i>Do you wish to attend an information meeting to learn more about the proposal?</i> If so, the date, time and location of the information meeting are in the “ <i>Notice of Referendum</i> ”.	
STEP 5	Mark the ballot by placing an X or check mark in the appropriate box. OR If you are unable to complete the ballot by yourself, find someone who can assist you in completing it. This person will then complete Steps 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for you and can assist you with Steps 12 and 13.	
STEP 6	Fold the ballot so that the question and your vote are hidden and you can still see the electoral officer’s initials on the back.	
STEP 7	Put the ballot in the small envelope entitled “BALLOT(S) ONLY”. Seal this envelope.	
STEP 8	Read and complete the “ <i>Voter Declaration Form.</i> ”	
STEP 9	Find a person who is willing to witness your signature and who is at least 18 years old.	
STEP 10	Sign the “ <i>Voter Declaration Form</i> ” in front of the witness. Please cross out whichever words do not apply to you under your signature.	
STEP 11	Ask the witness to sign, and print (on the form) his or her name, address and telephone number.	
STEP 12	Put the small envelope entitled ‘BALLOT(S) ONLY’ and the completed “ <i>Voter Declaration Form</i> ” in the postage-paid return envelope.	
STEP 13	Mail or deliver the postage-paid return envelope to the electoral officer.	

Notes

A. *What is the witness doing?*

The witness is witnessing the signature of the person who is completing the “*Mail-In Voter Declaration*”.

B. *When must your ballot be received?*

If you are mailing your ballot, it must be received by the electoral officer by 1:00 p.m. on the Voting Day, which is February 1, 2023. **MAIL YOUR BALLOT IN TIME**. Alternatively you can hand deliver your ballot to the electoral officer at any time up until 8:00 p.m. on the Voting Day. Ballots may not be hand delivered on a Saturday or Sunday, and if hand delivered on the Voting Day, they must be delivered to the electoral officer who will be at the voting station on the reserve noted on the “*Notice of Referendum*”.

C. *Have you accidentally spoiled your ballot?*

If so, mail the spoiled ballot immediately to the electoral officer whose name appears on the “*Notice of Referendum*”. The electoral officer will send you a new ballot. Your ballot must still be received by the electoral officer, if sent by mail, then by 1:00 p.m. on the Voting Day, or, if hand delivered to the electoral officer, by 8:00 p.m. on the Voting Day at the polling station on reserve.

D. *Have you accidentally lost your ballot?*

If so, immediately contact the electoral officer whose name appears on the “*Notice of Referendum*”. The electoral officer will send you a statement to complete, stating that you have lost your ballot. This statement must be signed by you in the presence of the electoral officer, a justice of the peace, a notary public or a commissioner for oaths. Once the electoral officer receives the completed statement, he or she will send you a new ballot. Your ballot must still be received by the electoral officer, if sent by mail, then by 1:00 p.m. on the Voting Day, or, if hand delivered to the electoral officer, by 8:00 p.m. on the Voting Day at the polling station on reserve.

E. *Do you want to vote in person instead of by a mail-in ballot?*

You can do so if you follow the procedure set out below:

- (i) visit the voting station on the Voting Day. Identify yourself and return the mail-in ballot to the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer, who will instruct you how to cast your vote.

- (ii) if for any reason you do not have your mail-in ballot, visit the voting station on the Voting Day and advise the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer that you wish to vote in person. The electoral officer or deputy electoral officer will provide you with a Voter Declaration Form that must be completed and signed by you in the presence of the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer, a justice of the peace, a notary public or a commissioner for oaths. The electoral officer will then give you a ballot so you may cast your vote in person.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!