



June 25, 2021

THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

Summary from the Office of the Secretary, April McCormick, Tribal Executive Committee

RE: Action taken by Tribal Executive Committee regarding the topic of Enrollment/Membership

The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) hosted a special meeting on June 22, 2021 called for by a memo from President Chavers. The Committee heard perspectives from the constitutional delegates present and discussion centered around changing Enrollment Criteria within the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution. Currently, the MCT Constitution requires that in order to be eligible for MCT membership, a person's combined blood quantum from their parents must be at least 25% in order to be eligible for enrollment.

During the TEC meeting, a motion was made to begin a process that would allow MCT members to weigh in on whether the Constitution should be changed to allow each of the six Bands to adopt their own Enrollment Eligibility Criteria, instead of being required to follow the 25% blood quantum. The motion was made and passed.

What this means for members is that the TEC would like all Minnesota Chippewa Tribe members whom are eligible to vote to participate in a referendum election. The purpose of this MCT Referendum will be to understand what members want to happen by asking members to answer a defined question. In this case, the defined question would be whether members want to be able to vote on whether to change the enrollment criteria in Article II of the current MCT constitution to allow the six sovereign Bands to determine tribal membership of their Band, possibly through Band Enrollment Ordinances.

It is important to be clear with our voters that participating in a referendum vote does not change the constitution. However, a referendum is the first step that will guide the TEC's decision about whether to request a Secretarial Election about changing the constitution (by an amendment). A Secretarial Election is the only way to make this change under our current constitution. The results of a Secretarial Election can change the constitution if enough MCT members vote to pass an Amendment. Referendums and Secretarial Elections are distinct and defined in Article XIV: Referendum and Article XII: Amendment, of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution.

This will likely be a lengthy process and members should expect to receive more information about this topic in the future from their TEC members and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe as we progress toward addressing membership and enrollment criteria together.

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