



KWAKIUTL FIRST NATION

Phone (250) 949-6012 Fax (250) 949-6066 Box 1440, Port Hardy, BC, VON 2P0

Notice to Kwakiutl First Nation Members:

In order to safeguard the health and security of Kwakiutl First Nation members, Council recently decided to postpone the May 2020 Council election to September 2020. Council therefore passed the following BCR at a duly convened meeting:

WHEREAS: There currently is a Covid-19 pandemic that threatens the health & safety of Kwakiutl Band members;

WHEREAS: Council is responsible to safeguard the health & security of Kwakiutl Band members;

WHEREAS: A Council election was due to be held in May 2020;

WHEREAS: Under the Covid-19 pandemic conditions are unsafe for in-person voting;

THEREFORE, COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT: The Council election originally scheduled for May 2020 is postponed until September 2020, pending a determination by health authorities of whether the pandemic will have subsided enough by then to allow safe in-person voting.

It is hoped that by doing this there will be enough time for the current Covid-19 pandemic to be under sufficient control to allow for in-person voting, subject to whatever social distancing rules may be appropriate at that time. Council places foremost priority on the health and well-being of Kwakiutl First Nation members.

It should be noted that Council recently received a notice from Indigenous Services Canada advising that Council has the authority to adapt election scheduling to address conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic as follows:

Cancellation or Postponement of an Election

Your First Nation, under the *Indian Act* or the *First Nations Elections Act*, has the option to cancel or postpone an election process that is underway (undergoing election) or to postpone an election process that has not yet commenced (upcoming election).

Please be assured that during the Covid-19 pandemic Council and staff of Kwakiutl Nation are making best efforts to deliver all essential services to Kwakiutl Nation members while ensuring their health and safety.