



# ELECTION LAW

## WHAT IS IT?

### The Election Law

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) will be opting out of the election provisions of the Indian Act and will be undertaking their own process for carrying out their elections. The Election Law has been drafted specifically for MCFN.

## PURPOSE

### How It Started

The journey began in 1991, when Members wished to make changes on how elections were run in MCFN. Members expressed interest in controlling their own election process, and have continued to request changes be made to how they elect their leaders. The Election Law will set out the process by which elections of MCFN leadership take place and the principles that our leaders must uphold.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

### Role of MCFN Members

The Election Law means that Members will be able to elect their leaders based on MCFN's inherent right to self-governance and not as outlined in the Indian Act. This means that MCFN will be able to exercise their rights to elect their leaders in their way. The Election Law will not come into force until it has received community support through a ratification (approval) process.

## KEY DIFFERENCES

### MCFN Election Law vs Indian Act

There are a number of differences between our Election Law and the Indian Act election provisions. Some of these include: a change of term from 2 years to 3 years; specific requirements to run for Chief (previous experience on Council or completing a pre-election training session); online voting; an appeal body - the Debwewin Administrative Tribunal - to address election appeals and any complaints; and an oath of office that must be completed to be able to take office. For a full comparison, please see the Election Comparative Chart on the Members-Only website.

## MOVING FORWARD

### Membership Engagement

Members will continue to be engaged throughout the entire process, which will continue to be open, visible, and transparent. Members will continue to be asked to provide feedback and encouraged to ask questions. Once Council believes that the Election Law is in final form, the Governance Department will have a Ratification Vote, which will ask Members to approve the Election Law, as drafted. This Ratification Vote will take place in early-2022. If approved, MCFN will begin using its Election Law in fall-2023.