

February 3, 2022

Chief and Members of Council
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
PO Box 7
Glenevis, Alberta
T0E 0X0

VIA EMAIL

Abawashded,

RE: Draft Customary Election Regulations of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation

On January 29th, 2022 and February 1st, 2022, I wrote an email to all of you regarding my concerns about the proposed draft of the Customary Election Regulations of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. Effective today, I have not received a response by email from any of you. This is disappointing to say the least, given that the regulations are your primary duty and communicating with members is stated in the regulations.

In my email, I requested a copy of the Notice, a copy of the Council Motion approving the draft including the meeting minutes when the draft was finalized, and a copy of the proposed regulations. This information has not been provided as requested.

I did take the liberty of contacting the Council by phone (I didn't have everyone's number and Chief Alexis never responds to my calls or texts). Ishnish to the leaders who took time to respond; Councillor Dwayne Alexis answered my call and stated that he will table my concerns at your next meeting scheduled for February 7th, 2022 and that he would provide the information but I did not receive the information; Councillor Darwin Alexis returned the call and indicated that he will bring my concerns forward to Council but didn't say when and he said he would provide the information but I did not receive the information, Councillor Lonnie Letendre responded by text that he would call but he hasn't called, Councillor Erwin Letendre responded by text that he would call but he hasn't called.

As stated, the notice that was signed by Chief Tony Alexis is in BREACH and VIOLATION of the of the regulations, because he failed to give proper notice for the Special Meeting and information to members. The following are the clauses in reference to amendments within the regulations:

THE CUSTOMARY ELECTION REGULATIONS – PAGE 18 and 19

19. AMENDMENTS TO CUSTOMARY ELECTION REGULATIONS

19.1 The Customary Election Regulations shall be first drafted and approved by motion of the Council.

19.1.1 Approval By Council: Amendments to the Regulations shall be first drafted and approved by motion of the Council.

19.1.2 Notice of Electors of Proposed Amendments:

19.1.2.1 The Council shall post a Notice of a Special Meeting of the Electors of the First Nation at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Special Meeting;

19.1.2.2 The Notice shall state that the purpose of the meeting is to consider and vote upon amendments to the Regulations. It shall also state the time, place, and date of the meeting;

19.1.2.3 A copy of the proposed amendments to the Regulations shall be attached to the Notice.

The regulations are clear regarding the amendment procedures. As a concerned member and elector, I express the following concerns;

1. The Special Meeting notice is dated January 27th delivered to on reserve households on January 28th, 2022, does not meet the requirements on the notice period to have a meeting on February 10th, 2022. Off reserve members received no notice of the meeting.

2. The notice does not include the motion passed by Council to approve the proposed changes.

3. Most importantly, the notice does not include a copy of the proposed changes for which you have called a vote.

4. The notice provides false information indicating that information is available on the website www.ansn.ca - the notice of the meeting including the date of the meeting is not on the web calendar nor a copy of the proposed changes as indicated in the notice provided to households on reserve. For your reference, the following is the link if you require confirmation; <https://www.ansn.ca/images/ANSN-AnnualCalendar-2021-2022.pdf>. This does not provide off reserve members access to review the information.

5. Finally, where are your reports to members as described in Schedule "B" of the regulations.

After completing some research, I obtained a copy of the draft from other sources. In reviewing the document there are significant changes which are not administrative, in particular you are changing or deleting clauses on accountability and transparency specific to the duty of Chief and Council. There are a total of 71 proposed changes, not including the ANSN citations.

This is alarming, as you provide no rationale for the changes. As previously stated, the Special Meeting called for February 10th is not within the process identified in the regulations. This meeting should not proceed as you have VIOLATED and BREACHED the regulations.

I reached out to several members both on and off reserve, many mentioned that they are concerned to express concerns because they are afraid of repercussions. This is unfortunate, our people should not be afraid to speak out on matters that affect our governance and community. In speaking to members (I will keep their names in confidential), but they informed that they were not made aware of the proposed changes. They also had several good suggestions and history about the original text of the regulations. The draft you propose do not include any of the suggestions that I heard, for example that Council should be changed from seven to ten Council members, that the duties should not be deleted as they are intended to keep the Chief and Council accountable and transparent, that Chief and Council are not reporting to the membership (your activity reports on travel to outside meetings, no access to Council and Band meeting

minutes, no Financial reports or presentation of Budgets, how come the Chief and Council didn't disclose that they raised their rate of pay and travel), that the Chief is responsible for the Elders and he is not consulting with them, that the Chief only consults with a select few regularly, that the members are being excluded from being heard at meetings to give input. What are they hiding, and how come they are not reporting and giving us information. The members have said why is this so important when there are so many critical issues affecting the community; housing issues, violence, alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, increase in crime rate, children and families at risk, poverty and community safety. Maybe you should spend your remaining time on your term on these important matters.

In closing, it's my recommendation that Chief and Council STOP proceeding with this draft and calling for a community vote. We are five months away from the election (technically 3 because the election should be called in May 2022). You should leave the review and ratification of the Election Regulations up to the elected leadership in June 2022, so that they fully consult with the members. We remind you that we are dealing with a pandemic and are not gathering to express our concerns.

Finally, I request a written response by 1:00 PM on February 7th, 2022. I can be reached at 587. 594.7321 or by email at gina.potts.a3@gmail.com.

Ishnish,

Gina Potts.

Treaty # 678
Suite 414, 9768 – 170 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5T 5L4

CC Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Members