

# ELECTION CODE REVIEW 2018



## COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Nipissing First Nation has undertaken an election code review as part of its regular periodic review of its policies and codes. A call for interested band members was made and a membership-based committee was appointed.

This survey was developed to assist the committee with their work.

**The committee continues to review the community's recommendations, and work on proposed amendments. Please note that no changes to the Election Code will take effect until after the 2018 NFN Election in July.**

## SUMMARY

In January 2018, Fred Bellefeuille initiated a community survey on behalf of the Nipissing First Nation Election Code Review committee to request feedback from NFN's Debendaagziwaad (citizens) about proposed changes to NFN's Custom Election Regulations.

Debendaagziwaad were invited to complete the survey through the following methods:

- Mail: all on-reserve member households received a copy of the survey via the mid-month mail-out that was sent on January 23, 2018.
- Website: copy of survey (fillable PDF version) as well as link to electronic survey were posted on the homepage of [www.nfn.ca](http://www.nfn.ca) on January 23, 2018.
- Email: all staff members were invited to complete the survey (using the PDF copy or the electronic version) via email on January 23, 2018.
- Social Media: links to the survey were posted on social media on January 23, 2018, along with event notifications about the consultation meetings that were held on February 7 & 8. Additional reminders about the meetings and survey were posted on February 7, 8 & 14.
- The consultation meetings and survey were also advertised on the front page of the February 2018 issue of our community newsletter *Enkamgak*.

**A total of 72 surveys were completed and form the basis of this report:**

- **8** surveys were received by email to Fred Bellefeuille
- **14** surveys were received by mail, fax, or drop off at the Administration building
- **50** surveys were completed via the online survey tool

## NOTES ON DATA COMPILATION

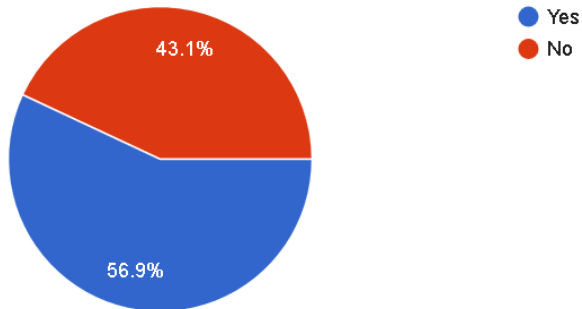
Since the electronic survey platform automatically generates graphs to illustrate responses to each question, all surveys that were mailed, emailed, faxed or dropped off to the Administration building were inputted into the electronic platform for ease of data compilation and reporting.

The following pages detail the responses that were provided to each of the 10 questions. Please note that respondents were not required to answer all questions, so some questions have more responses than others as a result.

## SURVEY RESULTS

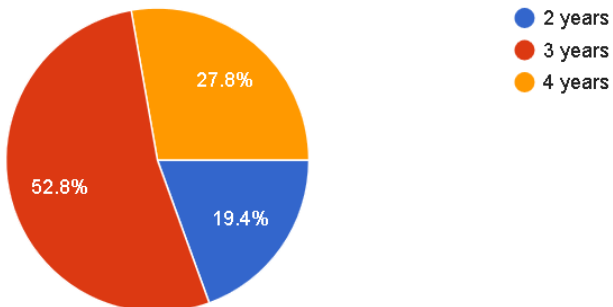
1. **INTERNET VOTING:** Currently, there is no internet voting allowed under our election code. Should the election code be amended to allow for voting in the First Nation's elections through the internet?

Number of responses: 72 responses



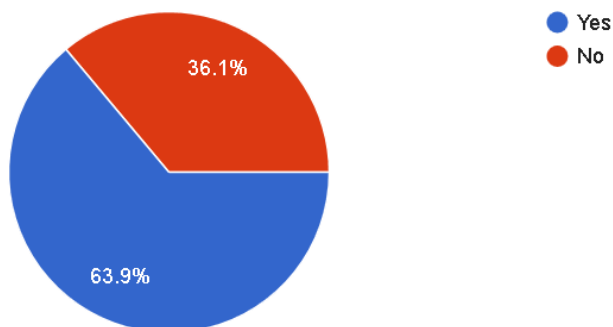
2. **LENGTH OF COUNCIL TERM:** Currently, the term of office of Chief and Council is 3 years. How long should the Chief and Council's term of office be?

Number of responses: 72 responses



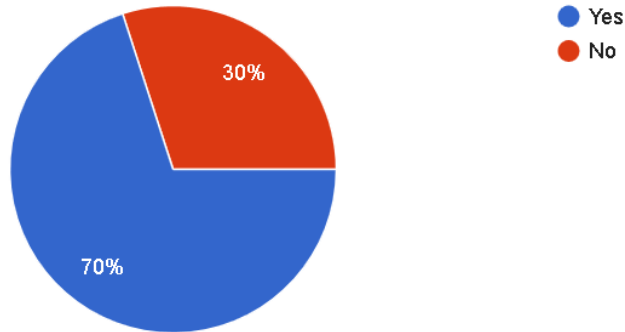
3. **RESIDENCY:** Currently, a candidate running for Chief or Council has to reside on reserve-based lands. Should there be a requirement for Chief and Council CANDIDATES to reside on reserve-based lands?

Number of responses: 72 responses



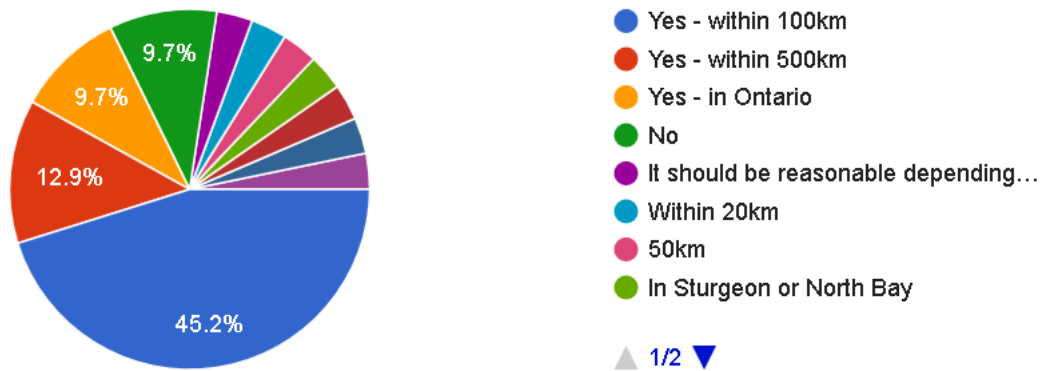
**4. RESIDENCY: Currently, members of Chief and Council who hold office have to reside on reserve-based lands. Should there be a requirement for Chief and Council members WHO HOLD OFFICE to reside on reserve-based lands?**

Number of responses: 70 responses



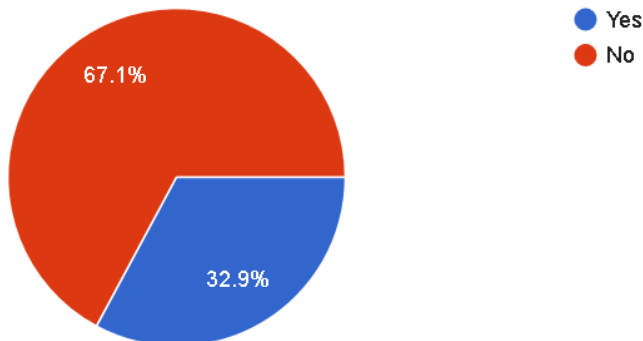
**5. If you said No to either of the above questions, should there be a requirement for Chief and Council candidates and members to reside within a specific distance from the Band Office?**

Number of responses: 31 responses



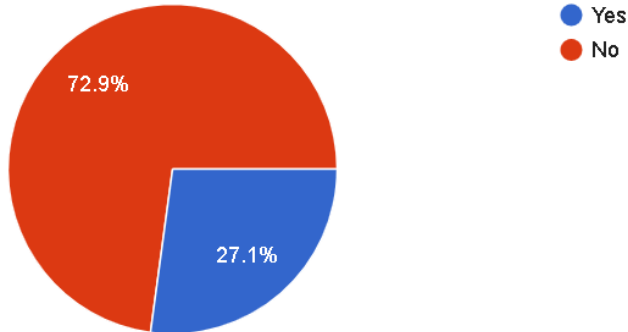
**6. ELECTION CODE AMENDMENT PROCESS: Currently, our election code can be amended by membership vote. Should the election code be amended to remove the requirement to vote on amendments and replace it with 3 readings, public posting and a decision to approve by Chief and Council?**

Number of responses: 70 responses



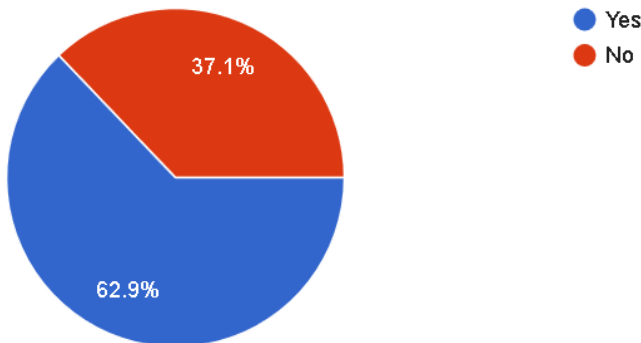
7. **ADVANCE POLLS:** Currently, our election code includes an advance poll to vote seven days before the main election date. Should the election code be amended to remove advance polls since we now have mail-in ballots available by request?

Number of responses: 70 responses



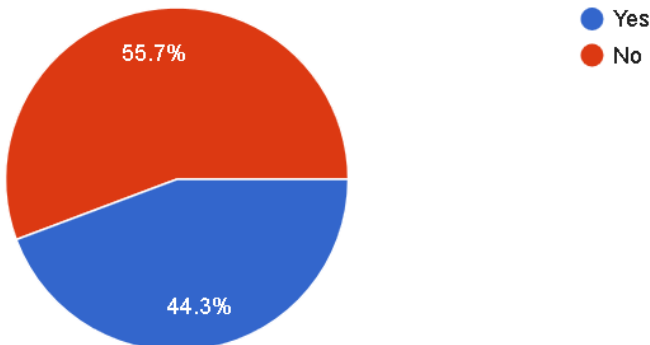
8. **BY-ELECTION:** Currently, if there is at least 8 months remaining in a term of office and there is a vacancy in a Chief or Council seat, a by-election is required. Should the election code be amended to remove the by-election required in the case of a vacancy in Chief or Councillor and replace it with going to the next candidate with the highest vote count in the last election?

Number of responses: 70 responses



9. **EMPLOYMENT WITH THE BAND WHILE A CANDIDATE:** Currently, a person must take a leave of absence from employment with the Band to run for office. Should the election code be amended to remove the requirement to take a leave of absence from Band employment WHILE A CANDIDATE for the election?

Number of responses: 70 responses



10. APPEAL PROCESS: Currently, an appeal of the election results goes to an "Appeal Board". Should the election code be amended to remove the appeal board process and replace it with a court process?

Number of responses: 71 responses

