

Government Services Building
22 Winookeedaa Road
Curve Lake, Ontario K0L1R0



Phone: 705.657.8045
Fax: 705.657.8708
www.curvelakefirstnation.ca

March 24, 2021

Dear Curve Lake Membership,

We are happy to write this letter to provide information regarding Curve Lake's Gchi-Naaknigewin (Constitution). In December 2019, Chief and Council motioned to move forward with the process of approving our Gchi-Naaknigewin. However, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to delay. We now feel that we have figured out how to implement the Community Approval Process with the use of technology and physical distancing allowing the community the chance to ratify our Gchi-Naaknigewin.

Chief and Council are very excited to begin to take the next steps on this important piece of Nation Building. COVID-19 presents unique difficulties in holding a vote, but we are confident in the risk mitigation techniques, and social distancing that our CAV Officer is implementing will keep our community safe.

In order to pass the Gchi-Naaknigewin, we must go through the Community Approval Vote process (CAV). The CAV process will result in the holding of a vote for the Gchi-Naaknigewin. The vote will be on May 15th, 2021 and an Information Meeting will be on April 17th, 2021 from 10:00am-12:00pm. Information about the meeting is at the end of this letter.

The Gchi-Naaknigewin has been in development since 2013. Many members of the community have spent countless hours drafting, redrafting, and redrafting again. The community itself has seen the document in many forms and offered a large amount of very constructive feedback. That feedback has been integrated in to the Gchi-Naaknigewin in a variety of ways. We specifically want to say miigwetch to the different members of the Governance and Nation Building Committee who have contributed so much over the years and various Elders who provided input.

Chief and Council support the passing of a Gchi-Naaknigewin for a variety of reasons. We have always governed ourselves according to our own rules, systems, and traditions. This Gchi-Naaknigewin states that our community has the authority to govern in a way that is guided by our traditions and values. It was written by the Curve Lake membership for Curve Lake. With this Gchi-Naaknigewin we would be passing laws and codes that support and implement our inherent rights, traditions and values.

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Chief and Council also support the implementation of a Gchi-Naaknigewin so that we are opening the door for participation in Anishinabek Nation initiatives. It is important for Curve Lake to have the option of joining future initiatives if we chose to – and without a Gchi-Naaknigewin we can't do that.

For all of these reasons Chief and Council support the passing of our Gchi-Naaknigewin and hope that the community agrees.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emily Whetung", is written over a horizontal line.

Chief Emily Whetung

The Information Meeting will be hosted on zoom due to the pandemic. The meeting is from 10:00am-12:00pm on April 17th, 2021. The link for the meeting is provided here:

<https://zoom.us/j/93086394656?pwd=ZXUxWmsvUzNjOFF5cUxwS203aUV0UT09>

Meeting ID: 930 8639 4656

Passcode: 115414

Dial in via phone (other numbers are available upon request):

Canada 1 647 558 0588

USA 1 929 436 2866 (NY)

The above information will also be distributed via one feather or can be requested from Nicholas McDonald at nicholasm@curvelake.ca. Please do not share this information.