

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## MEMBERS VOTE IN FAVOUR OF WOLASTOQIYIK WAHSIPEKUK FIRST NATION'S PROPOSED NEW CITIZENSHIP CODE

**Cacouna, December 13, 2022**, the Grand Council of the Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation ("WWFN") wishes to thank all members of the nation for their interest in the adoption process of the new Citizenship Code, a fundamental document for the Nation. The process ended on December 8th with the vote counting, in accordance with the WWFN Voting Code.

77% of the community members voted in favor of the adoption of the new Citizenship Code and a total of 30% of the voting eligible members voted. The new Citizenship Code therefore came into force on December 9, 2022.

Furthermore, the Grand Council wishes to inform all members that on December 7, 2022, it received a petition signed by approximately 100 members of the nation. They were questioning the legitimacy of the current process, requesting the postponement of the counting of the votes and the holding of a special general assembly. Under the nation's General Rules, 20% of the voting members must sign a petition to obtain a special general assembly. This requirement has not been met.

The Grand Council wishes to reiterate that the use of a postal voting for the adoption of the new Code was specifically authorized by the 1987 Citizenship Code. It is legal, legitimate, and allows all voters in the nation to participate in this important process. In conducting this thoughtful process, the Grand Council was very concerned about the need to inform members about the content of the new Code and its purpose. For this reason, the Grand Council devoted considerable resources to the development and distribution of tools to assist members in understanding the new Code and the voting process.

In addition, the Citizenship Code review process was a result of a request from the member at the 2016 general assembly. As a result, an independent Review Committee was established in 2019 to revise the Code with the goal of reflecting the changes seen in the nation over the past 30 years. This Committee represented all families in the nation in addition to representing various backgrounds and generations within the nation. The Grand Council would like to extend a special thank you to all the members of the Review Committee for their impressive work over the past few years.

This process is also in keeping with the vision and strategic directions adopted by the WWFN members at the 2019 special general assembly to ensure that the WWFN becomes a model and leader in aboriginal governance.

In closing, while Grand Council is sensitive to the concerns raised by some members of the nation, we strongly believe in the legitimacy of the process of adopting the new Citizenship Code.

Once again, we thank you for your interest in the process of adopting the new Citizenship Code.

Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation Grand Council