



# SPUZZUM FIRST NATION

*Our Land. Our Future. Our Success. Forward Focused Nation Building.*

## PETITION

### CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM VOTE ON AMENDMENTS TO THE SPUZZUM FIRST NATION MEMBERSHIP RULES

The purpose of the Petition is to initiate a referendum as per the:

#### **1987 Spuzzum Indian Band Membership Rules,**

#### **Part VII**

#### ***AMENDMENT PROCEDURE:***

***23. These rules may be amended if one third (1/3) of the electors sign a petition to Council which outlines the reasons for the proposed amendment.***

***24. Upon receipt of the petition, the Council shall:***

- 1) give 30 days notice to each home on the reserve of a special meeting to vote on the proposed amendment;***
- 2) post a copy of the notice described in subsection (1) in the Band Office for 30 days prior to the said meeting; and,***
- 3) attach the text of the proposed amendment to the notices.***

***25. If the proposed amendment receives the consent of the majority of the electors of the Band present at the meeting, these Rules shall be amended accordingly.***

Please note that this Petition only initiates a referendum vote on proposed amendments to the *Spuzzum Indian Band Membership Rules*. By signing this Petition, Spuzzum electors still have the right to vote for or against the revised Membership Code in the referendum.

If this Petition is successful, Chief and Council will call a referendum vote using procedures similar to the voting process set out in the *Spuzzum First Nation Custom Election Code*. The result of the referendum vote will be **binding**.

Several sessions have been held to consult on the proposed amendments, including surveys to seek membership input into the changes.

For more information or to get copies of the proposed Membership Code, please contact Shelley Bobb at the office, 604-863-2395.



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I am an elector of Spuzzum First Nation (“Spuzzum”) and, for the reasons listed below, I support the Chief and Council of Spuzzum calling a referendum for Spuzzum electors to vote on amendments to the *Spuzzum Indian Band Membership Rules*:

- to address issues of discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of gender, residence (on- or off-reserve), sexual orientation and adoption;
- to remove ambiguities in the current rules related to both the process for applying for membership and eligibility for membership;
- to update the 1987 *Spuzzum Indian Band Membership Rules* to a modern document, titled the *Spuzzum First Nation Custom Membership Code*, that uses plain language whenever possible;
- to clarify that the children of Spuzzum members are entitled to register for membership, rather than apply;
- to add application categories for individuals who wish to transfer to Spuzzum from another Band or who marry a Spuzzum member;
- to respond to changes to the *Indian Act* and to make the Code more responsive to the future needs of Spuzzum by adopting a more flexible, yet rigorous, amendment process;
- to make the Membership Code more independent of the *Indian Act* and easier to understand without knowledge of the *Indian Act*’s convoluted history;
- to adopt template forms to streamline and simplify the process for applications and registrations;
- to update and revise the administrative structure of the Membership Code, including: the roles of the Membership Clerk and Membership Committee; the rules for eligibility and appointment of the Membership Committee; the position of Appeals Officer; and, the process for Appeals; and
- to establish guidelines for Membership Committee decision-making.



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