



NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION

CHIEF & COUNCIL

• BOX 250 • NORWAY HOUSE, MANITOBA • R0B 1B0 •
• TEL: (204) 359-6786 • FAX: (204) 359-4186 •

May 22, 2022

Notice to All Norway House Cree Nation Members:

We, as Chief and Council, take our roles as leaders very seriously and the tremendous weight that comes with it. It is a true honor to be elected to lead our Nation.

There are numerous projects and initiatives that we have been involved with since the recent election and for some since elected in 2018. We are thankful that the people of the Norway House Cree Nation supported our platforms presented and gave us the mandate to work on their behalf. The people also gave Chief Anderson a record number of votes for a Chief in the history of our Nation, he was humbled by the amazing show of support.

Election results are to be taken seriously as they are the voices of our Nation and if there are concerns about the activities of candidates or their supporters the Election Appeal Committee needs to do their part and conduct a fair, transparent, open and honest process and must not be bias and cannot prejudge the outcome.

In order for the people to trust the Appeal process, all appeals must be conducted in a fair, transparent, open and honest process and without any bias or prejudgment.

When the election of winning candidates is appealed, the candidates have the right to be treated respectfully and that due process be afforded to him/her and that the appeal process be conducted as stated above. At its minimum, this means that the elected officials be given notice of all allegations, and that they be given an opportunity to present their side of the story; - before a decision is made. Disturbingly, this did not happen.

It is only where proper procedures are followed and the decision is one that is in accordance with the law, that it is reasonable for the Nation to accept the outcome of the appeal process.

In the days since the election appeal was handed down, legal counsel has been consulted, and they have identified numerous legal errors that make clear that the election appeal was flawed and that the purported removal from office is wrong in law.

It was incumbent on the Appeal Committee to follow all proper procedures and arrive at a decision that is in accordance with the law. This, say the lawyers we consulted, they did not do.

We must not allow our election results to be disregarded simply because a handful of members do not like the results.

If the proper process is not followed, and if the result is contrary to the law, then the appeal process itself and any decision rendered should not be permitted to stand.



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An appeal should not be used to remove elected candidates who were clearly chosen by the majority of voters unless the appeal process was conducted in accordance with the law. Anything less than a proper process will make any appeals a great miscarriage of justice that can tear a Nation apart. The results of a fair and democratic election, as decided upon by our Nation should be upheld.

That said, the Chief and Council whom you, the electorate, have chosen, are mindful of the importance of the rule of law, and feel that whether they have the right to simply ignore the flawed appeal decision or not, the appropriate step to now take is to seek the court's guidance on the matter, unless the Election Appeal Committee immediately takes it upon themselves to rescind the decision.

In light of the legal errors made by the Election Appeal Committee, we invite them to forthwith rescind their decision instead of requiring the Nation and the candidates in the election to expend significant monies in a court process that would not be necessary, had the Election Appeal Committee conducted itself in accordance with the law.

Finally, the Chief and Council elected by you, appreciate that there are important day to day governance issues facing the Nation that may affect you personally. We intend on taking steps to ensure that the Nation is not left without a decision-making body (a Chief and Council) during the time it will take to sort out all issues in a court of law.

Sincerely,

Chief Larson Anderson

Councillor Edward Albert

Councillor Orville Apetagon

Councillor Anthony Apetagon

Councillor Deon Clarke

Councillor John Henry Jr.

Councillor David Swanson