

APPEAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION
CONSTITUTED PURSUANT TO THE *ELECTION PROCEDURES ACT*

IN THE MATTER OF: The Appeal by Larson Anderson dated March 11, 2026 respecting
the Norway House Cree Nation *Election Procedures Act*

NOTICE OF DECISION AND REASONS OF APPEAL COMMITTEE

Panel of the Appeal Committee:

Keith Olson (Moderator)
Myra Saunders
Ronald Robertson
Gayle Sinclair
Freda Albert

Legal Counsel for This Panel of the Appeal Committee:
Ari Hanson & Dominique Gibson

Legal Counsel for the Respondent, Season Roulette:
Harold Cochrane & Alyssa Cloutier

Legal Counsel for the Respondent, Stephanie Connors (Electoral Officer):
John Harvie & Aidan Geary

Hearing Date: March 26, 2026

Introduction

1. The within decision and reasons arise from a notice of appeal to the Norway House Cree Nation (“NHCN”) Elections Appeal Committee (the “Committee”) filed by Larson Anderson¹ on March 11, 2026, pursuant to the *Norway House Cree Nation Election Procedures Act* (the “EPA”).

2. The notice of appeal sets out two grounds of appeal related to the election for NHCN’s Chief and Council that took place on March 10, 2026:
 - (a) first, an appeal under Articles 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) of the *EPA* alleging that the Electoral Officer, Stephanie Connors (“Ms. Connors”), improperly rejected a ballot

¹ Larson Anderson is referred to as the “Appellant” or “Mr. Anderson” interchangeably throughout the decision.

which, if accepted, would have resulted in a tie between Mr. Anderson and the successful candidate for Chief, Season Roulette (“Ms. Roulette”); and

- (b) second, an additional appeal under Article 7(1)(a) of the *EPA* alleging that several members of NHCN who were in line waiting to vote before the polling station closed at 6:00 p.m. were not permitted to vote due to a purported closure of the polling station, as well as allegations that several NHCN members were unable to vote using the online platform provided by the Electoral Officer.

- 3. As a remedy, the Appellant seeks a run-off election between himself and Ms. Roulette, pursuant to Article 5.14 of the *EPA*, which states:

5.14 If there is a tie between two (2) **candidates** for **Chief** [...], there shall be a run-off election between these two (2) **candidates** held in accordance with these procedures thirty (30) days or sooner after the date of the election that gave rise to the tie.

- 4. In the paragraphs that follow, the Committee provides its decision along with the background facts relevant to the appeal, a summary of the arguments made by the participants respecting each ground of appeal, and the reasons why the Committee came to its decision (including the reasons of a dissenting Committee member on the first of the two grounds of appeal). These Reasons also address a number of issues related to procedural fairness that various participants raised throughout the appeal process.

Decision

5. For the reasons set out below, the majority of the Committee:
 - (a) grants Mr. Anderson's appeal respecting the rejected ballot in question and finds that the ballot should be allowed; and
 - (b) dismisses Mr. Anderson's appeal grounded on allegations that voters were turned away at the polling station and/or had difficulty voting online, based on a lack of evidence presented to support these allegations.

6. Since the Committee has accepted Mr. Anderson's first ground of appeal regarding the rejected ballot, there is now a tie between Ms. Roulette and Mr. Anderson in the election for Chief. Therefore, it is the Committee's view that a run-off election for Chief between Ms. Roulette and Mr. Anderson needs to take place pursuant to Article 5.14 of the *EPA*.

Background Facts

Election

7. According to Article 3.2 of the *EPA*, "[a]n election for Chief and Councillors shall be held every four (4) years, within thirty (30) days of the second Tuesday in March."

8. NHCN's last election was held in 2022. Therefore, an election was scheduled to take place four years later on March 10, 2026 (the "2026 Election").

9. Pursuant to Article 3.3 of the *EPA*, Chief and Council appointed Ms. Connors as the Electoral Officer for the 2026 Election.

10. Eligible voters were permitted to vote in the 2026 Election in three ways: in-person voting at NHCN's multiplex/auditorium building on March 10, 2026, online voting through a platform offered by a third party company called OneFeather on March 10, 2026, and mail-in voting.

Although mail-in ballots could be sent to a post office box prior to the election date, these votes were not counted until March 10, 2026.

11. The in-person polling station was open on March 10, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Throughout this period, voters were permitted to attend at the polling station to cast their vote for Chief and Council. Voters were directed to complete their ballots by marking an “x” or a “√” (*i.e.*, a “checkmark”) on their ballot immediately to the right of the name of the candidates of their choice. Voters were required to choose only one candidate for Chief, and permitted to choose up to six candidates for Councillor.

12. On March 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., the polling station was closed and no further voting was permitted. Together with a team of assistants and scrutineers, Ms. Connors proceeded to count the ballots from late in the evening on March 10, 2026, until the morning of March 11, 2026. The counting of the ballots was livestreamed on NHCN’s YouTube channel, although the video ended after approximately 12 hours while the counting was still underway.

13. While she was counting the ballots, Ms. Connors decided to reject a ballot on the basis that it did not conform to the instructions that were issued to all voters (the “Rejected Ballot”). In particular, the Rejected Ballot contained three checkmarks beside Larson Anderson’s name, as well as the words “Best Chief” written beside those checkmarks. It did not contain any checkmarks or other markings beside any of the other candidates for Chief. A copy of the Rejected Ballot is attached at **Schedule A**.

14. The election results were announced on March 11, 2026. Along with six Councillors, Ms. Roulette was declared to be NHCN’s newly-elected Chief.

15. Mr. Anderson’s notice of appeal was received by Ms. Connors on March 11, 2026. The next day, Ms. Connors forwarded the notice of appeal to the Committee, as required pursuant to Article 7.2 of the *EPA*.

The Appeal

16. The Committee is a body created by statute (the *EPA*), and its jurisdiction is limited to the issues which Article 7.1 of the *EPA* specifically empowers the Committee to consider:

7.1 Within thirty (30) days after the posting of the written statement by the **Electoral Officer**, pursuant to Article 5.15, any **candidate** or **elector** who has reasonable grounds to believe:

- a) that there was a corrupt practice in connection with the election, or
- b) that these procedures were not complied with, or
- c) a person did not qualify to be a candidate or elector as defined herein, may appeal the election of a **candidate** or **candidates** by filing a written notice of appeal with the **Electoral Officer** setting out the grounds of the appeal.

17. Article 7.3 of the *EPA* requires the Committee to hear an appeal within thirty days after the filing of the notice of appeal.

18. Upon receiving Mr. Anderson's notice of appeal, the Committee proceeded to organize a hearing for Thursday, March 26, 2026, providing a series of notices to counsel for the invited participants that are described in greater detail later in these reasons. The hearing took place in a hybrid format with many in-person attendees at NHCN's Chief and Council Chambers, several more attendees in person at NHCN's band office in Winnipeg, and additional participants attending from other locations via videoconference.

19. The following persons attended the hearing:

- (a) Mr. Anderson, self-represented;
- (b) Ms. Roulette, represented by counsel (Harold Cochrane and Alyssa Cloutier);
- (c) Ms. Connors, represented by counsel (John Harvie and Aidan Geary);
- (d) several members of NHCN's current and former Council;

- (e) several witnesses that had been invited by various participants;
- (f) the five Committee members, represented by counsel (Ari Hanson and Dominique Gibson); and
- (g) counsel for NHCN (Neil Duboff and Nick Sanders), who attended on a watching brief and did not participate.

20. During the hearing, which lasted approximately three hours and forty-five minutes, evidence and submissions were presented by Mr. Anderson, Ms. Roulette, and Ms. Connors, followed by two former Council members (Anthony Apetagon and David Swanson). The hearing concluded with a reply submission from Mr. Anderson.

Reasons

21. After considering the evidence and submissions of the participants, the Committee has decided to allow Mr. Anderson's appeal on its first ground (the Rejected Ballot), but dismiss his appeal on the second ground (voters being turned away and/or unable to vote). The Committee's reasons follow.

22. As a preliminary matter, the Committee notes that in the notice of appeal, the Appellant predicates his asserted grounds on two of the provisions in the *EPA* granting the Committee jurisdiction to hear appeals:

- (a) Article 7.1(a), allegations of a corrupt practice in conjunction with the election; and
- (b) Article 7.1(b), that "these procedures were not complied with".

23. However, in his oral submissions at the hearing, the Appellant advised that he was no longer alleging any corrupt practices associated with Ms. Connors respecting his appeal. For that

reason, the Committee has considered only the allegation that the actions of Ms. Connors that are the subject of the appeal did not comply with the procedures set out in the *EPA*.

Issue 1: The Rejected Ballot

The Appellant's Position

24. At its core, the Appellant's position is that the Rejected Ballot was clearly marked as a vote for him, with no markings beside any of the alternate candidates for Chief, and no markings that could identify the voter. The Appellant submits that the voter's intention is a factor which must be taken into account in determining whether the ballot represents a valid vote, and that if on an objective examination of a ballot there is a probable reason or rational explanation for the mark or writing, this can be taken into account in deciding the likelihood of the elector being identified by the mark or writing (see a further discussion of the potential for markings to identify the elector in the sections that follow).

25. In his notice of appeal, the Appellant relies on *Alexander First Nation v. Burnstick*,² a decision of the Federal Court on an application for judicial review of a decision by an appeal board appointed pursuant to the Alexander First Nation's election regulations. The Court in *Burnstick* found that these regulations should be interpreted purposively, in a manner consistent with the object of allowing eligible voters to exercise their right to vote.³ The Appellant submits that failing to count the Rejected Ballot would have the effect of disenfranchising the voter, particularly because of an inconsistency respecting Ms. Connors' approach in that she accepted four other ballots bearing markings that were not marked with an "x" or a "✓".

² 2021 FC 618 (CanLII) [*Burnstick*].

³ *Burnstick*, para. 103, and the additional authorities cited therein.

26. Further, the Appellant relies on *Sinclair-Desgagné v. Canada (Chief Electoral Officer)* (“*Sinclair-Desgagné*”), a 2026 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (“SCC”),⁴ for the proposition that where an eligible voter is prevented from voting due to an error made by the voting body, the ballot of that voter should be counted.

27. In *Sinclair-Desgagné*, a voter’s mail-in ballot was returned to the voter due to an error on the postal code printed on the label supplied by Elections Canada. It was argued before the SCC that, because the irregularity affected the outcome of the election (which was also decided by one vote), the SCC should order a by-election to protect the integrity of the electoral process. The SCC found that this was a routine, clerical error – not a breach of procedure – and because responsibility for the error lay with Elections Canada, not the voter, the election should be annulled and a by-election held to remedy the error.

The Respondents’ Positions

28. Ms. Roulette and Ms. Connors each submit that the Rejected Ballot should have been rejected, as the markings contained on the Rejected Ballot were not in compliance with requirements set out in the *EPA* or the written instructions provided to mail-in voters. Further, they submit that the markings on the Rejected Ballot, particularly the words written thereon, identify⁵ or have the potential to identify⁶ the voter, and thereby violate the principle of a secret ballot.

29. With respect to their positions on statutory compliance, Ms. Connors and Ms. Roulette refer specifically to the following provisions of the *EPA*:

5.1 The **Electoral Officer** shall, within forty-eight (48) hours following the nomination meeting, post in the Norway House Cree Nation Government Administration and Council Offices, and such other places on the Norway

⁴ Although the decision of the SCC has been released (see 2026 CanLII 10549 (SCC)), at the time of writing, the reasons for the decision are still outstanding. Further comments respecting the facts of *Sinclair-Desgagné* have been gleaned from media reporting on the decision.

⁵ This is Ms. Connors’ position.

⁶ This is Ms. Roulette’s position.

House Reserve as he/she deems necessary, including radio and television and in aboriginal newspapers and shall cause to be published in a Winnipeg daily newspaper, in a Brandon daily newspaper, and a Thompson daily newspaper and shall publish on the Norway House Cree Nation website, a notice setting out:

- a) the times, dates and location where voting will take place, all of which voting will take place on the Norway House Cree Nation Reserve, and

...

5.4 The **Electoral Officer** shall not be bound by any rules of evidence and the decision of the **Electoral Officer** shall be final and binding. Any appeal to a court of law shall be founded in law and not in fact.

...

5.10 Each ballot must be marked with an "x" being placed beside the name of the **candidate** or **candidates** for whom the **elector** intends to vote and such instruction shall be clearly posted at the place of voting by the **Electoral Officer**.

...

5.12 The **Candidate** shall have the right to be present when the **Electoral Officer** opens the ballot box. If the **candidate** so chooses, one (1) **scrutineer** on behalf of the **candidate**, (in place of the **candidate**), may be present when the **Electoral Officer** opens the ballot box. The **candidate** shall appoint such scrutineer by filing a notice in writing with the **Electoral Officer**. Immediately following the close of the poll, the **Electoral Officer** shall open the ballot box and:

- a) Examine the ballots and reject any that are not:
 - i) initialed by the **Electoral Officer** or his/her assistant, or
 - ii) properly marked in accordance with these procedures,

...

SCHEDULE "C"

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF BALLOT PAPERS

1. Upon receiving your ballot paper, fill out same accordingly marking with either an "X" or "✓" one choice for Chief and a maximum of six choices for Councillor.

30. Ms. Connors and Ms. Roulette also rely on the mail-in ballot instructions which were provided as part of the mail-in voting packages, which included the following language:

NOTE: DO NOT PUT ANY OTHER MARKS OTHER THAN YOUR CHOICES ON THE BALLOT OF ANY KIND.

31. In effect, Ms. Connors and Ms. Roulette submit that, notwithstanding that the clear intention of the voter who marked the Rejected Ballot was to cast a vote for the Appellant, considering the additional markings on the Rejected Ballot in the context of the above provisions leads to the conclusion that these markings are expressly prohibited as they are not an “x” or a “√”.

32. Ms. Connors relies on a number of authorities to support her arguments. Citing paragraphs 12 and 13 of *Anderson v. Tait-Reaume*⁷ 2022 FC 1382 (“*Anderson*”), a decision of the Federal Court interpreting the *EPA* in the context of an application for judicial review of a decision by the 2022 Appeal Committee, Ms. Connors submits that under the *EPA*, the Electoral Officer retains broad authority and discretion to set the voting times, dates, and locations. Further, citing paragraph 80 of *Anderson*, Ms. Connors emphasizes that the *EPA* does not precisely define what constitutes election “procedures”, providing the Electoral Officer with considerable “latitude” in setting procedures.

33. In further support of her decision to reject the Rejected Ballot, Ms. Connors relies on *Oppermann v. Brown et al.*,⁸ at paragraph 14 for the principle that ballots must be rejected if they are marked in a way that could identify the voter, because secret ballots are intended to protect voters from intimidation and bribery, and to prevent electoral misconduct.

⁷ 2022 FC 1382 (“*Anderson*”).

⁸ 2010 MBQB 280 (“*Oppermann*”).

34. Ms. Connors submits that she rejected the Rejected Ballot on the basis of the broad authority granted to her as Electoral Officer, as a result of the presence of markings that could potentially identify the voter.

35. On the point of electoral misconduct, Ms. Connors relies on paragraph 20 of *Oppermann*, which stands for the proposition that preventing electoral misconduct can be achieved by rejecting ballots containing identifying marks in restricted circumstances where there is a realistic possibility of using the identifying mark to identify the voter.

36. Relying on *Oppermann* at paragraph 21, Ms. Connors submits that if there is a likely explanation for the way a ballot is marked based upon an objective examination, this explanation should be taken into account when determining whether the mark could identify the voter. However, Ms. Connors emphasizes the finding in *Oppermann* that intention is just one factor to consider, and that the ballot should be objectively considered as a whole in determining whether there is a realistic possibility of identifying the voter.

37. Ms. Roulette also relies on *Anderson* and *Oppermann*. Like Ms. Connors, Ms. Roulette submits that the question to be determined by the Committee is whether the markings on the Rejected Ballot, when viewed objectively, can create a realistic possibility of identifying the voter. Ms. Roulette also takes the position that Ms. Connors was exercising her discretion under the *EPA* in rejecting the ballot.

38. In addition, Ms. Roulette relies on *Opitz v. Wrzesnewskyj*,⁹ at paragraph 169, where the SCC found that the court is to presume that the necessary steps regarding election conduct and results have been taken without requiring proof of those steps, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

⁹ 2012 SCC 55 (“*Opitz*”).

39. In *Opitz* at paragraph 58, the SCC held that determining whether there is an irregularity which affects the result of an election requires two steps: (i) the applicant must prove that there was an irregularity, and (ii) the applicant must show that the irregularity affected the outcome of the election.

40. The SCC in *Opitz* defined “irregularities” as “serious administrative errors that are capable of undermining the electoral process – the type of mistakes that are tied to and have a direct bearing on a person’s right to vote” (para. 24). The SCC further indicated that “affected the result” may include a scenario where someone who was not entitled to vote voted, or a scenario in which a person who was entitled to vote was prevented from doing so on improper grounds or for improper reasons (para. 25).

41. Where the two considerations set out at paragraph 58 of *Opitz* (see above) can be established, a vote is considered invalid and should be rejected. The burden then shifts to the respondents to present any evidence from which the Committee can infer that no irregularity occurred, or that despite the occurrence of an irregularity, the ballot in question should still be valid (*Opitz*, paras. 59 and 61).

42. Ms. Roulette also relies on *Thomas v. One Arrow First Nation*,¹⁰ in which the Federal Court found that, where an electoral officer breaches regulations in a way that effects the results of an election, the typical remedy would be an annulment of the election and the ordering of a new one (para. 38).

43. Finally, Ms. Roulette distinguishes the Rejected Ballot that is before the Committee from the scenario in the *Sinclair-Desgagné* case cited by Mr. Anderson, noting that in *Sinclair-Desgagné*, the SCC was dealing with a clerical error made by Elections Canada, while the

¹⁰ 2019 FC 1663 (“*Thomas*”).

present case involves an irregularity caused by markings on the Rejected Ballot put there by a voter.

Reasons of Majority

44. The majority of the Committee (Mr. Olson, Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Robertson and Ms. Saunders) find that the appeal respecting the Rejected Ballot should be allowed.

45. Notwithstanding that the markings on the Rejected Ballot were not in technical compliance with the *EPA* or the instructions issued to mail-in voters, the Committee finds that the clear intention of the voter who marked the Rejected Ballot was to vote for the Appellant. This was not disputed by any of the participants in the hearing. To that end, the majority is of the view that the Appellant has established the existence of an irregularity (the Rejected Ballot, which represents an instance of someone who was entitled to vote having been denied the opportunity to have their vote counted), and that the irregularity affected the outcome of the election (it was decided by a single vote). Therefore, the Appellant has met his onus pursuant to *Opitz*.

46. In these circumstances, and given that this appeal also deals with a First Nation's own election legislation, the majority of the Committee adopts the finding of the Federal Court in *Burnstick* that First Nations election legislation must be interpreted purposively, in a manner consistent with the object of allowing eligible voters to exercise their right to vote. In the Committee's view, this is particularly important in light of the fact that many NHCN community members have limited ability to read and write in English, and may not have understood the provisions in the *EPA* or the mail-in ballot instructions.

47. As to the submission that the Rejected Ballot should not be accepted because it identifies or has the potential to identify the voter, the majority is of the view that this concern is unfounded in light of the fact that the three checkmarks ("✓✓✓") and the words "Best Chief" are generic in nature, and do not themselves constitute identifying marks. Further, Ms. Connors accepted other

ballots containing marks which were not an “x” or a “√”, which she should not have done had she believed that any other marking aside from an “x” or a “√” created the potential to identify the voter.

Dissenting Reasons

48. One member of the Committee, Ms. Albert (the “Dissenting Member”), accepts the submissions of the Respondents and finds that the Rejected Ballot was properly rejected by Ms. Connors. In particular, the Dissenting Member relies on the broad discretion provided to Ms. Connors pursuant to sections 5.1 and 5.4 of the *EPA*, and the fact that the *EPA* contemplates that decisions of the Electoral Officer are to be final and binding.

49. In the Dissenting Member’s view, the Rejected Ballot’s technical non-compliance with the marking requirements in the *EPA* provided sufficient cause to justify Ms. Connors’ decision to reject the Rejected Ballot.

Issue 2: Allegations of Voters Prevented from Voting

50. The Committee now comes to the Appellant’s second ground of appeal alleging that several members of NHCN were unable to vote in the election due to either: (i) being turned away on account of a purported closure of the in-person polling station at NHCN, or (ii) having difficulty with the online voting system (OneFeather) used in the election.

The Appellant’s Position

51. In his notice of appeal, the Appellant indicates that he was advised by approximately four members of NHCN that they were in line to vote in person at the polling station, and were turned away “due to a purported closure of the polling station.” The Appellant submits that, under Canadian law, if a voter is in line to vote at a polling station before it closes, and they remain in

line (at the closing time), the voter must be permitted to vote before the ballot counting process can begin.

52. The notice of appeal also includes an allegation that an unidentified number of additional members of NHCN attempted to vote using the online voting system (OneFeather), and that they were unable to do so.

53. In his notice of appeal, the Appellant requests that all of the above individuals be permitted to vote, as they are eligible voters of NHCN.

54. In advance of the hearing, the Appellant submitted to the Committee 13 typed written statements provided by individual members of NHCN. In each of these statements, the member states that they attempted to vote “online / in person” (with the direction to circle one of those two options) but was “unable to do so”. Each individual’s statement also states that the member “intended to vote for Larson Anderson”, and contains: (i) the individual’s name and treaty number, (ii) the date of signing, and (iii) physical or digital signatures of the individual and a witness.

55. Along with the written statements, the Appellant also provided the Committee with three video clips, which purport to show video surveillance footage of the auditorium around the time the polling station closed.

56. In his oral submissions at the hearing, the Appellant argued that there were voters who were turned away before the polling station closed at 6:00 p.m. However, the Appellant did not produce as witnesses at the hearing any of the individuals who submitted written statements, or provide any further particulars respecting the issues that he alleges an unidentified number of voters encountered when they attempted to vote online. He simply repeated the submission in his notice of appeal that, in his view, Canadian law is clear – if someone is in line at the time of a polling station’s closing, they must be permitted to vote, despite noting that the *EPA* is silent on this issue.

57. Finally, the Appellant advised at the hearing that he was not seeking to have the votes of the voters alleged to have been in line to vote in person at 6:00 p.m. or unable to vote online counted – rather, he argued that the remedy granted should be based on his first ground of appeal (the Rejected Ballot), and that this matter should be turned over to a run-off election between himself and Ms. Roulette, in order to allow all voting members of NHCN (including the above individuals) the opportunity to vote and have a part in deciding the outcome of the election.

The Respondents' Positions

58. At the hearing, Ms. Roulette submitted that the evidence of the Appellant is speculative. She indicated that the notice of appeal does not identify specific individuals who allege that they were turned away, nor does it provide first-hand evidence or documentation to support the Appellant's position. Ms. Roulette also raised the notion of the "presumption of regularity", as referenced above. In support of this position, Ms. Roulette referenced the finding in *Opitz* that the Appellant bears the burden of proving that there were "irregularities ... that affected the result of the election", failing which the election's process is presumed to have taken place in a regular fashion. During the hearing, Ms. Roulette's counsel argued that the written witness statements submitted by the Appellant are uncomplete and unclear, and do not displace the presumption of regularity.

59. Like Ms. Roulette, Ms. Connors took issue with the written witness statements provided by the Appellant, on the basis that they do not contain sufficient information to support the appeal and no opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses was provided. Ms. Connors also submitted that the video evidence provided by the Appellant does not show any voters being turned away from the polling station. Ms. Connors gave evidence that the polling station closed on time at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to the *EPA*. She stated that nobody was waiting in line when the polling station closed, and no one was refused access to place their vote. In addition to her own testimony, Ms. Connors presented several witnesses (Freda MacGillivray, Bernard Apetagon,

and Janice Chartrand) who were present when the polling station closed and affirmed that they did not see anyone turned away from voting. Ms. Connors also submitted a screenshot of a Facebook post by Bernard Apetagon, stating that he did not see anyone waiting in the parking lot at 6:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

60. On the online voting issue, Ms. Connors submitted that online voters were provided with all of the necessary instructions to enter their votes, and that voters were welcome to contact her if they had any issues with online voting. As evidence, Ms. Connors provided the Committee with various documents and screenshots of instructions and resources related to online voting that were provided to voters. In addition, Ms. Connors provided screenshots of the user history for two individuals who provided written statements to the Appellant, Lyle Balfour and Drake Colon, which showed that: (i) Mr. Balfour was successfully able to access the platform on day of the election and on the day before the election, and (ii) Mr. Colon did not have an e-mail address associated with his OneFeather account, which was required in order to vote.

Reasons of the Committee

61. The Committee's view is that the Appellant has not presented sufficient evidence to support his allegations that: (i) voters were turned away from the polling station during its closure, or (ii) voters had difficulty voting using the OneFeather system.

62. Although the Appellant presented signed written statements from 13 community members, the meaning of these statements is unclear. Each statement simply indicates that the signor was unable to vote in the election, without indicating the reasons for their inability to do so. In addition, these individuals were not produced as witnesses during the hearing, so both the Committee and the other participants were unable to ask questions of them in an effort to clarify and/or test their evidence. Therefore, the reasons why each individual alleges that they were unable to vote in the election remains unclear to the Committee.

63. Further, the video surveillance footage submitted by the Appellant is unclear. Each video contains footage of various entrances to the building where the election took place (among other events also taking place the same evening, including a hockey game). However, the videos do not appear to include evidence that voters were lined up and being turned away from the polling station at any of the entrances. Rather, the videos primarily show individuals standing near the building at various points. Further, the Appellant did not testify respecting the content or relevance of these video clips during the hearing.

64. Therefore, the Committee dismisses the Appellant's appeal with respect to voters alleged to have been prevented from voting. The Committee's decision in this regard is unanimous.

Procedural Matters

65. In written correspondence received by the Committee from counsel for Ms. Roulette and Ms. Connors prior to the hearing, and in counsel's oral submissions during the hearing, objections were raised respecting the process and timeline selected by the Committee for the conduct of the hearing. Specifically, the Committee was faced with arguments from at least one (and in some cases both) counsel that: (i) the hearing should have been adjourned to a later date with more time provided for the filing of evidence in advance, (ii) the hearing should have been open all voting members of NHCN, (iii) the hearing should have taken place in person at Norway House, (iv) the Committee should not have allowed the Council members who made oral submissions to do so as they did not file written evidence in advance, and (v) Mr. Anderson's appeal should not be decided until the appeal period expires on April 10, 2026, and it is known whether any other appeals will be filed.

66. On the other hand, in his Notice of Appeal filed on March 11, 2026, the Appellant sought to have the appeal be heard no later than March 13, 2026, and to have the appeal heard virtually.

67. The Committee acknowledges the seriousness of the matters at issue in this appeal, and in particular the impact that the outcome of the appeal could have on the Appellant, Ms. Roulette, Ms. Connors, Council members, and the NHCN community at large. All of the Committee's decisions respecting procedural matters were made within that lens. The Committee makes the following comments with respect to the objections raised by counsel for Ms. Roulette and Ms. Connors set out above.

(a) Timing Issues

68. The Committee received Mr. Anderson's Notice of Appeal in the afternoon on March 12, 2026. The Committee met internally and planned the hearing promptly, issuing a Notice of Hearing on March 16, 2026 (it is enclosed at **Schedule B**) and scheduling the hearing to take place on March 26, 2026. The Committee thought this the latest date that the hearing could reasonably held so as to allow for a decision to be issued soon enough that a run-off election could take place within the 30-day timeline for same set out in Article 5.14 of the *EPA*, should the Committee's decision result in a tie between two candidates for Chief.

69. Initially, the Committee directed the participants to submit their evidence and witness lists in advance of the hearing by March 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. On March 18, 2026, the Committee received written requests from counsel for Ms. Connors and Ms. Roulette for extensions of time to submit evidence and adjournments of the hearing date.

70. The Committee decided not to adjourn the hearing date for the reasons set out above, but it did extend the deadline for the submission of evidence and witness lists to March 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The Committee also provided all participants with copies of the evidence submitted to the Committee by the other participants in advance of the hearing.¹¹ All of this was done in an

¹¹ See Notice of Extension of Time dated March 19, 2026, enclosed at **Schedule C**, along with two further Notices sent by the Committee to the participants respecting procedural matters for the hearing on March 23, 2026 and March 24, 2026 enclosed at **Schedules D and E**, respectively

attempt to provide the participants with as much procedural fairness as possible in the circumstances

(b) Hearing Participants

71. In the absence of any time constraints, the Committee acknowledges that allowing members of the NHCN community to attend the hearing of the appeal may have been beneficial. In practical terms, it was not possible to do so in light of the compressed timelines in which the Committee was required to conduct the hearing. The Committee's view is that inviting not only the Appellant, Ms. Roulette and Ms. Connors, but also the incoming and outgoing members of Council, afforded a reasonable degree of procedural fairness and transparency to the process in the circumstances.

72. The Committee has also directed NHCN to publish these reasons for public viewing by NHCN's membership at large in an effort to foster transparency and inform the community respecting the Committee's reasons for decision and decision-making process.

(c) Mode of Hearing

73. Regarding the oral submissions of counsel for Ms. Connors respecting the place of hearing, the Committee acknowledges that it is preferable to conduct important NHCN-related matters such as these on-reserve, and notes that all five of the Committee's members attended the hearing in person at Norway House, with four of them traveling from Winnipeg to Norway House in order to do so.

74. As a result of the short timeline and the Committee's expectation that this would result in some participants and/or counsel being unable to travel to Norway House, and in an effort to promote inclusivity and respect the Appellant's request for a virtual hearing, the Committee provided participants with the option to attend the hearing by any of three different means: in person at Norway House, in person at the NHCN offices in Winnipeg, or online via

videoconference (see Notice of Hearing at **Schedule A**). All participants and their counsel were provided with the opportunity to attend the hearing in person at Norway House.

(d) Issues with Submissions by Council Members

75. The Committee has considered the objections raised by counsel for Ms. Connors and Ms. Roulette respecting the oral submissions made by two outgoing Councillors, Anthony Apetagon and David Swanson. In effect, counsel object to their admissibility on the basis that Mr. Apetagon and Mr. Swanson provided evidence in the course of making their submissions, but did not file any written evidence in advance as required pursuant to the Notice of Hearing (see **Schedule A**).

76. The Committee agrees with the submissions of counsel, and has not afforded any weight to the evidence provided by Mr. Apetagon and Mr. Swanson in coming to its decision respecting Mr. Anderson's appeal.

(e) Potential Duplicity re: Additional Appeals

77. Counsel for Ms. Roulette submitted that Mr. Anderson's appeal should not be decided until it is known whether any other appeals falling within the jurisdiction of the Appeal Committee are filed before the close of the appeal period on April 10, 2026. In Ms. Roulette's view, deciding Mr. Anderson's appeal before the appeal period closes could produce inconsistent outcomes across different appeals and/or a duplication of proceedings.

78. The Appeal Committee considers these risks to be minimal in light of the specific nature of the ground of appeal on which Mr. Anderson has succeeded. Further, the Committee is of the view that the interests of the community in proceeding expeditiously and within the timeline for a run-off election in the event of a tie set out in Article 5.14 of the *EPA* outweigh any potential inconvenience associated with the need to deal with any subsequent appeal(s) separately at a later date.

Conclusion

79. For the reasons set out above, the Committee grants Mr. Anderson's appeal respecting the Rejected Ballot, and dismisses his appeal regarding voters allegedly being turned away at the polling station and/or having difficulty voting online.

80. The Committee therefore orders that the Rejected Ballot be counted as a vote in favour of Mr. Anderson. Thus, the election for Chief is now tied as between Mr. Anderson and Mr. Roulette, and a run-off election between Mr. Anderson and Ms. Roulette needs to be held pursuant to Article 5.14 of the *EPA*.

81. The Committee's view is that the *EPA* does not provide it with jurisdiction to make any specific rulings respecting the process to be employed in run-off elections under Article 5.14. As the election for Chief is now tied, Article 7.3 of the *EPA* operates to require Ms. Roulette (the successful candidate for Chief prior to this appeal) to vacate her office. As the position of Chief will be vacant until the run-off election, the Committee recommends that the Councillors work with the Electoral Officer to manage the run-off election and decide any procedural issues that may arise.

Postscript

The above decision of the NHCN Appeal Committee has been made on the basis of the submissions and evidence raised in the appeal of Larson Anderson filed March 11, 2026, and heard on March 26, 2026. As noted in the decision, the majority of the Appeal Committee would accept the rejected ballot. While the Appeal Committee was preparing its written decision, the Appeal Committee was notified about an additional appeal respecting the election for Chief which was filed on March 31, 2026. The additional appeal may have an impact on the need for a run-off election. The Appeal Committee acknowledges that the *Election Procedures Act* does not provide it with jurisdiction to make any specific rulings respecting the process to be employed in

run-off elections under Article 5.14 in the result of a tie. However, the Appeal Committee suggests to Council at this time that it would not be practicable to recommend a run-off election be held until the additional appeal has been heard and decided.

Dated: April 2, 2026

The Norway House Cree Nation Election Appeal Committee
C/O Ari Hanson, Counsel to the Committee
Fillmore Riley LLP
1700 – 360 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3

A



BALLOT
NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION ELECTION
MARCH 10TH, 2026



CHIEF

Vote for One (1) person only. Mark an "X" or "√" opposite the name of the person for whom you vote.

ANDERSON, LARSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CLARKE, DEON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EVANS, RONALD G.	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOLSTER, SAMANTHA	<input type="checkbox"/>
FREDETTE, GILBERT	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROSS, ALAN (JEFF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROULETTE, SEASON	<input type="checkbox"/>
THROOP, ROBERT	<input type="checkbox"/>

Best Chief



COUNCILLOR

Vote for Six (6) people only. Mark an "X" or "√" opposite the name of the person for whom you vote

ALBERT, EDDIE	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANDERSON, ADAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
APETAGON, ANTHONY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
APETAGON, ORVILLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAYER, LORETTA L.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARKE, ELIZA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CLARKE, LISA (BUGOOSE)	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARKE, SANDRA	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIXON, DONALD	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUNCAN, TYLER	<input type="checkbox"/>
ETTAWACAPPO, KATHLEEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
ETTAWACAPPO, WARREN	<input type="checkbox"/>
EVANS, RONALD G.	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOLSTER, SAMANTHA	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOLSTER, TIM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FREDETTE, GILBERT	<input type="checkbox"/>
HART, TRUDY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HENRY, JOHN L.	<input type="checkbox"/>
LAUGHER, ALFRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
MITCHELL, CHRISTINA (POKER)	<input type="checkbox"/>
MOORE, HENRY	<input type="checkbox"/>

MUSKEGO, FRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
MUSKEGO, P. OLIVER	<input type="checkbox"/>
MUSWAGON, JOAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
MUSWAGON, LISA (LOUIS GRANDAUGHTER)	<input type="checkbox"/>
MUSWAGON, LUCY	<input type="checkbox"/>
MUSWAGON, MIKE	<input type="checkbox"/>
OSBORNE, DARLENE	<input type="checkbox"/>
QUESKEKAPOW, JAMES	<input type="checkbox"/>
QUESKEKAPOW, JOHN	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROBERTSON, DEAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ROBINSON, (YORK) GEM	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROWDEN, DENICE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAUNDERS, ALLISON	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAUNDERS, LANGFORD	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIMPSON, ANDREW	<input type="checkbox"/>
SWANSON, DAVID	<input type="checkbox"/>
SWANSON, DENNIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
TAIT-REAUME, PAMELA	<input type="checkbox"/>
WILSON, ALLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WILSON, DIANE	<input type="checkbox"/>



[Handwritten signature]

B

Newman, Sydney

From: Hanson, Ari
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 11:28 PM
To: Election 2026; stephconnorselections@gmail.com; Neil Duboff; Nick Saunders
Cc: Gibson, Dominique; jk@tdslaw.com; Debbie Burka
Subject: Notice of Hearing - Norway House Cree Nation ("NHCN") Appeal Committee - March 26, 2026 [FR-DOCS.FID1357942]
Attachments: Notice of Hearing (attaching appeal).pdf

Hello Ms. Connors, Neil and Nick,

Attached please find a Notice of Hearing respecting the Notice of Appeal of Larson Anderson to the Appeal Committee constituted pursuant to the Norway House Cree Nation's Election Procedures Act. A copy of Mr. Anderson's Notice of Appeal is appended to the Notice of Hearing.

As we discussed last week, I would ask that Ms. Connors provide the attached Notice of Hearing to the appellant (Mr. Anderson), and that Neil or Nick provide it to all of the incoming and outgoing members of Chief and Council, whom the Appeal Committee is inviting to the hearing. They, along with the appellant and Ms. Connors, will be provided with the opportunity to make submissions and introduce evidence as set out in the Notice of Hearing.

Ms. Connors and Neil/Nick, please copy me on your correspondence forwarding the Notice of Hearing on to the requested parties.

I have copied Jamie Kagan, as he advised me today that he is also acting for NHCN respecting this matter.

Regards,

Ari M. Hanson (he/him)

Fillmore Riley LLP 1700-360 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3 Canada
T: (204) 957 8323 | F: (204) 954 0323 | ahanson@fillmoreriley.com

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NOTICE OF HEARING

Please be advised that the Norway House Cree Nation Elections Appeal Committee (the "Committee") has received a formal appeal from Larson Anderson in accordance with Article 7 of the Norway House Cree Nation Election Procedures Act.

Mr. Anderson's appeal is attached to this Notice of Hearing.

The Committee has determined that it will schedule a hearing in order to receive evidence from Mr. Anderson, as well as from any parties who may be affected by this appeal. The Committee will make a decision on Mr. Anderson's appeal based on the evidence presented during this hearing.

You are receiving this notice because we believe that you may be affected by the outcome of the appeal. You will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, if you choose. If you do not attend the hearing, the Committee may proceed in your absence and, without further notice, take such actions as it deems appropriate.

Appeal Details

The hearing for this appeal will be held on **Thursday, March 26 at 6:00PM.**

The hearing will be held both in-person and virtually. For those who are located at Norway House Cree Nation, the hearing will be held at Chief and Council Chambers. For those who are located in Winnipeg, online attendance will be available at 585 Century Street in Winnipeg.

If you would like the Committee to consider any evidence during the hearing, you must submit an electronic copy to the Committee via e-mail by Thursday, March 19 at 6:00PM. In addition, if you intend on calling any witnesses, please advise the Committee via e-mail by Thursday, March 19 at 6:00PM. Your evidence and a list of your witnesses may be sent to Ari Hanson, legal counsel for the Committee, at ahanson@fillmoreriley.com.

March 11, 2026

DELIVERED & VIA EMAIL

Norway House Cree Nation Election Appeal Committee
c/o Stephanie Connors, Electoral Officer
election2026@nhcn.ca

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Re: 2026 Norway House Cree Nation Election

I, Larson Anderson, write to you to file a formal appeal with respect to the results of the 2026 Norway House Cree Nation Election, which took place on March 10, 2026.

I file my appeal in accordance with the Norway House Cree Nation Election Procedures Act, as ratified on October 18, 2005 (the "Act"), and more specifically, Articles 7 and 5.14.

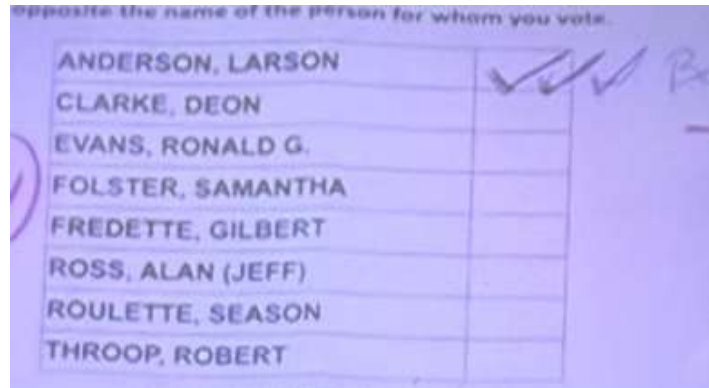
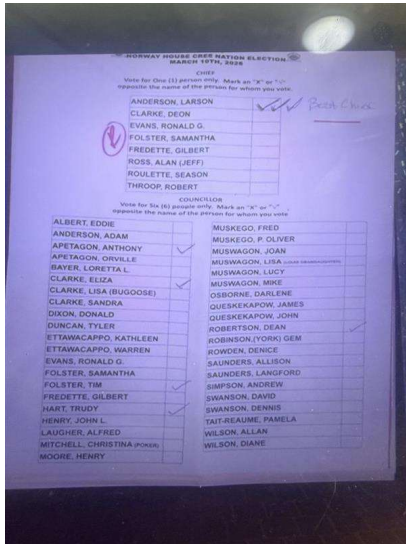
I file my appeal on the grounds contained herein and due to the serious nature of the issues that are the subject of my appeal, hereby request that my appeal be heard on or before Friday, March 13, 2026.

Rejected Ballot

I make my first ground of appeal under Article 7(1)(a) and (b) of the Act which permit an appeal if:

- (a) there was a corrupt practice in connection with the election; and
- (b) that the procedures of the Act were not complied with.

At the conclusion of the ballot count by the electoral officer and her team on March 11, 2026, in the review of rejected ballots for Chief, the following ballot was rejected:



(larger copies of the images are attached hereto)

This ballot should not have been rejected. Its rejection constitutes a corrupt practice and a violation of the procedures contained within the Act as Article 5.9 deems that a person presenting themselves to vote and who is confirmed by the electoral officer shall be given a ballot and the opportunity to vote. Article 5.12(b) requires the electoral officer to count the votes for each candidate arising from the ballots. The Act is silent on what is not allowed to be placed on the ballot, nor any reason for rejection other than the lack of initials of the Electoral Officer. Accordingly, to determine the validity of the ballot, the law must be followed.

This ballot does not display any information which would in any way identify the person who cast it and shows the clear and stated intention of the voter. It is clearly marked as a vote for Larson Anderson.

There are no checks, marks or writing next to any other candidate.

There is nothing on this ballot that renders the electoral officer unable to discern the voter's intention.

This ballot is marked with a check mark which *clearly* indicates the elector's choice. There are zero identifying marks which would render anyone able to identify who cast the ballot. Under all circumstances, this ballot should not have been rejected.

In determining whether a ballot has been validly cast where a voter's intention can be determined by inspecting a ballot, that intention is a factor which must be taken into account in determining whether the ballot represents a valid vote.

Courts in Canada apply an objective test: if on an objective examination of a ballot there is a probable reason or rational explanation for the mark or writing, this can be taken into account in deciding the *likelihood of the elector being identified by the mark or writing*. A voter's intention in making the mark or writing, as manifested on the face of the ballot, is relevant to the resolution of whether the ballot should be counted. The policy of Canadian courts has always been to fulfill the voter's intention, and where the voter has done everything in the voter's power to register their vote in proper form, every reasonable construction should be placed on the statute to give effect to the voter's will.

The writing on the ballot, in no interpretation, identifies who cast it. Clear intention is expressed with no identifying information.

In specific respect of First Nations elections, in *Alexander First Nation v Burnstick*, the Federal Court noted that the voter must communicate their vote through a written mark, and that election regulations should be interpreted in an enfranchising matter. To not allow this vote to be considered valid is a disenfranchisement of this voter.

The electoral officer and her team accepted four ballots for Councillor in which similar markings were on the ballot. Those were deemed to not spoil the ballot and the ballots were counted. A lack of a consistent approach is greatly concerning and in contravention with the law as identified herein.

Supreme Court of Canada

On February 13, 2026, the Supreme Court of Canada nullified the 2025 Election result on the riding of Terrebonne, Quebec on this same set of facts. This riding was decided by one (1) vote, as is the case here. A voter came forward and identified that she had in fact validly attempted to cast her vote, however, it was not recorded by Elections Canada.

Issuing an oral decision, the Supreme Court held that due to the serious impact that this one vote could have on the outcome of the election, the election must be nullified and a new election must be held. Chief Justice Richard Wagner stated “the purpose of the law is to promote public participation at a time in history when institutions are under strain”.

New Chief Election

If this vote is deemed valid and counted, this would create a tie between myself and Season Roulette. The remedy for a tie is contained in Article 5.14 of the Act, which states:

5.14 If there is a tie **between two (2) candidates for Chief** and two (2) candidates receiving the sixth highest number of votes for Councillor, **there shall be a run-off election between these two (2) candidates held in accordance with these procedures thirty (30) days or sooner after the date of the election that gave rise to the tie.**

The remedy I am therefore requesting is that following the counting of the ballot, creating a tie, a new election for Chief be held as practicable in order to minimize disruption to the community. This is the only appropriate remedy, and is the remedy prescribed under the law.

Voters Turned Away & Early Halting of Online Voting

My second ground of appeal is in accordance with Article 7(1)(a), that a corrupt practice has occurred in the 2026 Norway House Cree Nation Election.

I have been advised by approximately four members of Norway House Cree Nation, who were in line and in attendance to vote in the 2026 Norway House Cree Nation Election, that they were turned away from voting due to a purported closure of the polling station.

Under Canadian law, if a voter is in line at the time of close of a polling station, and remain in line, they must be permitted to vote in said election, despite the fact that the poles have closed. According to Elections Canada guidelines, any elector in line at the scheduled closing time must be allowed to vote before the ballot counting process can begin. The Act is silent on this issue, and thus, Canadian law prevails.

The decision of the electoral officer to contravene the law and close voting early has also impacted online voters. I have further been advised by additional members of Norway House Cree Nation that they attempted to use the online voting platform required to cast their vote and the platform would not allow them to do so.

Count the Votes

The remedy I am requesting under this ground of appeal to permit these people the opportunity to vote and have their votes counted. They have identified themselves to me and are prepared to come forward. I do not know who they intend to cast their votes for, however, they are eligible votes of Norway House Cree Nation, and they have a right to cast their ballots.

Appeal

Based on the foregoing, I hereby request that the Appeal Committee review each issue individually and make a determination by Friday, March 13, 2026. Norway House Cree Nation has the capability to have this matter heard virtually so all can participate.

Sincerely,



Larson Anderson

NORWAY HOUSE CRES NATION ELECTION
MARCH 10TH, 2026

CHIEF

Vote for One (1) person only. Mark an "X" or "✓" opposite the name of the person for whom you vote.

ANDERSON, LARSON	✓✓✓
CLARKE, DEON	
EVANS, RONALD G.	
FOLSTER, SAMANTHA	
FREDETTE, GILBERT	
ROSS, ALAN (JEFF)	
ROULETTE, SEASON	
THROOP, ROBERT	

Best Choice



COUNCILLOR

Vote for Six (6) people only. Mark an "X" or "✓" opposite the name of the person for whom you vote.

ALBERT, EDDIE		MUSKEGO, FRED	
ANDERSON, ADAM		MUSKEGO, P. OLIVER	
APETAGON, ANTHONY	✓	MUSWAGON, JOAN	
APETAGON, ORVILLE		MUSWAGON, LISA <small>(OLGA DRAMALAGYTER)</small>	
BAYER, LORETTA L.		MUSWAGON, LUCY	
CLARKE, ELIZA	✓	MUSWAGON, MIKE	
CLARKE, LISA (BUGOOSE)		OSBORNE, DARLENE	
CLARKE, SANDRA		QUESKEKAPOW, JAMES	
DIXON, DONALD		QUESKEKAPOW, JOHN	
DUNCAN, TYLER		ROBERTSON, DEAN	✓
ETTAWACAPPO, KATHLEEN		ROBINSON, (YORK) GEM	
ETTAWACAPPO, WARREN		ROWDEN, DENICE	
EVANS, RONALD G.		SAUNDERS, ALLISON	
FOLSTER, SAMANTHA		SAUNDERS, LANGFORD	
FOLSTER, TIM	✓	SIMPSON, ANDREW	
FREDETTE, GILBERT		SWANSON, DAVID	
HART, TRUDY	✓	SWANSON, DENNIS	
HENRY, JOHN L.		TAIT-REAUME, PAMELA	
LAUGHER, ALFRED		WILSON, ALLAN	
MITCHELL, CHRISTINA (POKER)		WILSON, DIANE	
MOORE, HENRY			

Opposite the name of the person for whom you vote.

ANDERSON, LARSON	
CLARKE, DEON	
EVANS, RONALD G.	
FOLSTER, SAMANTHA	
FREDETTE, GILBERT	
ROSS, ALAN (JEFF)	
ROULETTE, SEASON	
THROOP, ROBERT	

✓✓✓ B

C

Newman, Sydney

From: Hanson, Ari
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 11:57 AM
To: Neil Duboff; Nick Saunders; Alyssa Cloutier; Harold Cochrane; Aidan Geary; jharvie@myersfirm.com; Lars Anderson; jk@tdslaw.com
Cc: Gibson, Dominique
Subject: Notice of Extension of Time for Evidence and Witnesses - Norway House Cree Nation ("NHCN") Appeal Committee - March 26, 2026 [FR-DOCS.FID1357942]
Attachments: Notice of Extension of Time(18360315.1).pdf

Good morning,

Attached please find a Notice of Extension of Time for Evidence and Witnesses respecting the Notice of Appeal of Larson Anderson to the Appeal Committee constituted pursuant to the Norway House Cree Nation's Election Procedures Act.

The recipients of this email message include:

- The appellant (Mr. Anderson, if you are represented by counsel, please advise and we will send further correspondence to your counsel)
- Harold (Sonny) Cochrane and Alyssa Cloutier, Counsel to the Electoral Officer (Ms. Connors)
- John Harvie and Aidan Geary, Counsel to Ms. Roulette
- Neil Duboff, Nick Saunders and Jamie Kagan, whom I understand to be acting for NHCN and its Chief and Council. Neil/Nick, please provide the attached Notice to all of the incoming and outgoing members of Chief and Council (aside from Mr. Anderson and Ms. Roulette), and provide us with copies of your correspondence confirming same.

Regards,

Ari M. Hanson (he/him)

Fillmore Riley LLP 1700-360 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3 Canada
T: (204) 957 8323 | F: (204) 954 0323 | ahanson@fillmoreriley.com

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NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF TIME FOR EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES

In the matter of the Larson Anderson appeal, please be advised that the Norway House Cree Nation Elections Appeal Committee (the "Committee") has received requests from counsel for two participants in the hearing requesting an extension of time to file evidence and provide a list of witnesses, as well as an adjournment of the hearing date until early April 2026.

The Committee has determined that it will extend the amount of time provided for all participants to file evidence and provide a list of witnesses, which will ensure that all participants are provided with additional time to prepare for this matter. It is important to the Committee that all participants are able to sufficiently prepare, so that it can hear and consider all relevant evidence.

If you would like the Committee to consider any evidence during the hearing, you must submit an electronic copy to the Committee via e-mail by **Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:00PM**. In addition, if you intend on calling any witnesses, please advise the Committee via e-mail by **Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:00PM**. Your evidence and a list of your witnesses may be sent to Ari Hanson, legal counsel for the Committee, at ahanson@fillmoreriley.com.

The Committee has determined that it will not adjourn the hearing set on March 26, 2026. As this is a very important matter that affects the future of Norway House Cree Nation, the Committee has decided that it is necessary to hear and decide the appeal as soon as possible, while still affording procedural fairness to all parties involved.

Pursuant the Notice of Hearing previously sent out, the hearing of this appeal will be held on **Thursday, March 26 at 6:00PM**.

As previously announced, the hearing will be held both in-person and virtually. For those who are located at Norway House Cree Nation, the hearing will be held at Chief and Council Chambers. For those who are located in Winnipeg, virtual attendance will be available at 585 Century Street in Winnipeg or from your own device via videoconference. If you wish to attend via videoconference, please send an email message to Mr. Hanson at ahanson@fillmoreriley.com requesting same, and an invitation to the videoconference will be provided to you in advance of the hearing.

D

Newman, Sydney

From: Hanson, Ari
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 10:54 AM
To: Neil Duboff; Nick Saunders; Alyssa Cloutier; Harold Cochrane; Aidan Geary; jharvie@myersfirm.com; Lars Anderson; jk@tdslaw.com
Cc: Gibson, Dominique
Subject: Notice re: Election Documents & Hearing Procedure - Norway House Cree Nation ("NHCN") Appeal Committee - March 26, 2026 [FR-DOCS.FID1357942]
Attachments: Notice re Election Documents and Hearing Procedure(18368155.1).pdf

Good morning,

Attached please find a Notice regarding Election Documents and Procedure respecting the Notice of Appeal of Larson Anderson to the Appeal Committee constituted pursuant to the Norway House Cree Nation's Election Procedures Act.

The recipients of this email message include:

- The appellant, Mr. Anderson;
- Harold (Sonny) Cochrane and Alyssa Cloutier, Counsel to Ms. Roulette;
- John Harvie and Aidan Geary, Counsel to the Electoral Officer (Ms. Connors); and
- Neil Duboff, Nick Saunders and Jamie Kagan, whom I understand to be acting for NHCN and/or its Chief and Council. Neil/Nick, please provide the attached Notice to all of the incoming and outgoing members of Chief and Council (aside from Mr. Anderson and Ms. Roulette), and provide us with copies of your correspondence confirming same.

I am in court examinations today and tomorrow. If you send us requests for the election documents in compliance with the instructions on Page 1 of the attached Notice today or tomorrow, please copy my associate, Dominique Gibson (dgibson@fillmoreriley.com), and he will send the documents to you promptly.

Regards,

Ari M. Hanson (he/him)

Fillmore Riley LLP 1700-360 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3 Canada
T: (204) 957 8323 | F: (204) 954 0323 | ahanson@fillmoreriley.com

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NOTICE – ELECTION DOCUMENTS & HEARING PROCEDURE

In the matter of the Larson Anderson appeal being heard on March 26, 2026, please be advised of the following announcements from the Norway House Cree Nation's Elections Appeal Committee (the "Committee").

Section 5.16 Documents

Pursuant to Section 5.16 of the *Norway House Cree Nation Election Procedures Act*, the Committee has now received the relevant election documentation from the Electoral Officer, including the ballots, voters list, and other documentation.

The Committee has received several requests for various of these election documents from multiple hearing participants. In the interest of fairness to all hearing participants, the Committee is prepared to provide these documents to the hearing participants ahead of the hearing subject to the conditions set out below.

The Committee is mindful of the personal information that is contained in these documents, including voter names, birth dates, treaty numbers, and addresses.

Therefore, the Committee requires that all participants who wish to receive a copy of the election documents send an e-mail message to Ari Hanson, legal counsel for the Committee, at ahanson@fillmoreriley.com, containing the following:

- i. A request for the election documents, as well as directions on where to send an electronic copy of the documents;
- ii. A written statement confirming that:
 - o The recipient (and their legal counsel, if represented by counsel) will only use the election documents for the purpose of the hearing of Mr. Anderson's appeal, and for no other purpose;
 - o The election documents and the information therein will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party, with the exception of legal counsel; and
 - o The documents and the information therein will be deleted and/or destroyed within 3 days of the Committee's hearing of Mr. Anderson's appeal.

Hearing Procedure

The hearing on March 26, 2026 will be moderated by Keith Olson, who is a member of the Committee.

Please see the attached agenda, which sets out the order of appearances for the hearing.

The Committee has determined that the primary parties to this appeal – Larson Anderson (appellant), Stephanie Connors (Electoral Officer), and Season Roulette, will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make submissions and call evidence with no allotted limit on same, as they are the parties most directly impacted by the outcome of this appeal. In the interest of ensuring an orderly hearing in a timely manner, the Committee has decided that any other participants (namely, incoming and outgoing Council members) who wish to make submissions will allotted up to ten minutes each for the making of submissions.

During their submissions, participants are invited to present their evidence and witnesses to the Committee in any order they choose. The Committee members may ask clarifying questions throughout the hearing. At the end of each participant's submission, other participants will be invited to cross-examine the presenting participant or their witnesses, if desired. The Committee intends to create a video and audio recording of the hearing, which will be kept for internal purposes only and will not be distributed.

As a reminder, the hearing will be held both in-person and virtually. For those who are located at Norway House Cree Nation, the hearing will be held at Chief and Council Chambers. For those who are located in Winnipeg, virtual attendance will be available at 585 Century Street in Winnipeg or from your own device via videoconference. If you wish to attend via videoconference, please send an e-mail message to Ari Hanson at ahanson@fillmoreriley.com requesting same, and an invitation to the videoconference will be provided to you in advance of the hearing.

As a further reminder, if you would like the Committee to consider any evidence during the hearing, you must submit an electronic copy to the Committee via e-mail by Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:00PM. In addition, if you intend on calling any witnesses, please advise the Committee of your intention to do so and the names of your intended witnesses via e-mail by Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:00PM. Your evidence and witness lists may be sent to Ari Hanson at ahanson@fillmoreriley.com.

AGENDA – HEARING (MARCH 26, 2026)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Introduction and Appearances – Keith Olson
3. Submissions
 - a. Larson Anderson
 - b. Stephanie Connors
 - c. Season Roulette
 - d. Incoming/Outgoing Council Members (limited to ten minutes each)
 - e. Reply by Larson Anderson, if desired

E

Newman, Sydney

From: Gibson, Dominique
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 10:25 AM
To: Neil Duboff; Nick Saunders; Alyssa Cloutier; Harold Cochrane; Aidan Geary; jharvie@myersfirm.com; Lars Anderson; jk@tdslaw.com
Cc: Hanson, Ari
Subject: RE: Notice re: Election Documents & Hearing Procedure - Norway House Cree Nation ("NHCN") Appeal Committee - March 26, 2026 [FR-DOCS.FID1357942]
Attachments: Notice re Requests from Participants.pdf; Letter from J. Harvie - March 23, 2026.pdf; Letter from L. Anderson - March 23, 2026.pdf

Good morning,

Attached please find a Notice regarding various requests from participants respecting the Notice of Appeal of Larson Anderson to the Appeal Committee constituted pursuant to the Norway House Cree Nation's Election Procedures Act.

The recipients of this email message include:

- The appellant, Mr. Anderson;
- Harold (Sonny) Cochrane and Alyssa Cloutier, Counsel to Ms. Roulette;
- John Harvie and Aidan Geary, Counsel to the Electoral Officer (Ms. Connors); and
- Neil Duboff, Nick Saunders and Jamie Kagan, whom I understand to be acting for NHCN and/or its Chief and Council. Neil/Nick, please provide the attached Notice to all of the incoming and outgoing members of Chief and Council (aside from Mr. Anderson and Ms. Roulette), and provide us with copies of your correspondence confirming same.

Thank you,

Dominique R. Gibson

Fillmore Riley LLP 1700-360 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3 Canada
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From: Hanson, Ari <ahanson@FillmoreRiley.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 10:54 AM
To: Neil Duboff <duboff@deslaw.ca>; Nick Saunders <nsaunders@foxllp.ca>; Alyssa Cloutier <acloutier@cochranesinclair.ca>; Harold Cochrane <hcochrane@cochranesinclair.ca>; Aidan Geary <ageary@myersfirm.com>; jharvie@myersfirm.com; Lars Anderson <ranson68.la@gmail.com>; jk@tdslaw.com
Cc: Gibson, Dominique <dgibson@fillmoreriley.com>

Subject: Notice re: Election Documents & Hearing Procedure - Norway House Cree Nation ("NHCN") Appeal Committee - March 26, 2026 [FR-DOCS.FID1357942]

Good morning,

Attached please find a Notice regarding Election Documents and Procedure respecting the Notice of Appeal of Larson Anderson to the Appeal Committee constituted pursuant to the Norway House Cree Nation's Election Procedures Act.

The recipients of this email message include:

- The appellant, Mr. Anderson;
- Harold (Sonny) Cochrane and Alyssa Cloutier, Counsel to Ms. Roulette;
- John Harvie and Aidan Geary, Counsel to the Electoral Officer (Ms. Connors); and
- Neil Duboff, Nick Saunders and Jamie Kagan, whom I understand to be acting for NHCN and/or its Chief and Council. Neil/Nick, please provide the attached Notice to all of the incoming and outgoing members of Chief and Council (aside from Mr. Anderson and Ms. Roulette), and provide us with copies of your correspondence confirming same.

I am in court examinations today and tomorrow. If you send us requests for the election documents in compliance with the instructions on Page 1 of the attached Notice today or tomorrow, please copy my associate, Dominique Gibson (dgibson@fillmoreriley.com), and he will send the documents to you promptly.

Regards,

Ari M. Hanson (he/him)

Fillmore Riley LLP 1700-360 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3 Canada
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NOTICE – REQUESTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

In the matter of the Larson Anderson appeal being heard on March 26, 2026, please be advised of the following announcements from the Norway House Cree Nation's Elections Appeal Committee (the "Committee").

The Committee has received and reviewed the attached letters from the Appellant, Larson Anderson, and the Electoral Officer, Stephanie Connors, through her counsel.

In response to these letters, and the requests therein, the Committee has determined that:

- The Committee is of the view that there is a real prospect that Season Roulette could be directly and meaningfully impacted by the outcome of this hearing. Therefore, in the interest of procedural fairness and ensuring that the Committee has all relevant evidence at its disposal when it makes a decision, Ms. Roulette should be allowed to present evidence, make submissions via her counsel, and be given a reasonable amount of time to do so as a matter of procedural fairness. The Committee will be following the previously set schedule, which allows for Ms. Roulette and her lawyers to present evidence and submissions at the hearing (along with the incoming and outgoing Council members, although they will be limited to 10 minutes each, as previously announced).
- The Committee agrees with Mr. Anderson's submissions respecting the importance to the Nation as a whole of holding the hearing as soon as possible, particularly in light of the potential for a tie and the need for a runoff election. To that end, the hearing will remain scheduled for March 26, 2026 at 6:00PM.
- In response to Ms. Connors' submissions regarding evidence, the Appeal Committee will circulate all primary evidence and submissions (including witness lists) received from the participants by the submission deadline (March 24, 2026 at 6:00PM) to the rest of the parties promptly. If any of the participants wish to call additional evidence not in their primary evidence package in reply to the evidence received from the other parties, the Appeal Committee will allow them to do so at the hearing on March 26, 2026.