

Ti'azt'en Nation
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DATE: January 12, 2024
TO: Ti'azt'en Nation Membership
RE: Petition of Non-Confidence

The office of Chief and Council (“Council”) recently became aware of the petition circulated to Nation membership calling for the removal of the Chief and specific Council members from elected office (the “Petition”). Council respects this democratic process, and we appreciate the efforts of membership to engage in important community matters.

Council assures membership that we take our responsibilities of our elected positions seriously, and we remain committed to serving the community to the best of our ability. Council understands that not everyone may agree with every decision we make or action we take, and differing opinions are a natural part of the democratic process. As your elected representatives, Council is always open to respectful dialogue aimed at furthering the best interests of our membership and the Nation as a whole. We further remain open and willing to address any specific concerns that our membership may have. It is important to Council for our Nation to feel heard and represented, and we are open to constructive feedback.

Although Council does not agree with the specific criticisms raised in the Petition, Council does agree that improvements can always be made. We ask membership to please understand that we do not receive questions or concerns in isolation, and issues of importance at the Council level are fluid, ever-changing and evolve in terms of urgency. Therefore, communication may sometimes be delayed or restricted for various reasons, including privacy and confidentiality, but we do our best to inform membership in a timely manner whenever possible. We recognize that delayed communication can be frustrating, and we are working hard to improve in this area.

In response to the Petition, Council believes in a fair democratic process that allows membership to participate in a valid community-based initiatives, including those that seek to remove Council from elected office. In furtherance of this belief, we are pleased to share that Council has approved a draft Custom Election Code (draft 2023) that specifically contains a “**Removal of a Council Member from Office**” process, subject to ratification by membership.

Council does not accept the current Petition as valid. The Petition fails to follow past customs in respect to removing a member of Council, the Petition references processes that do not exist or have no application to the Nation and cites legislation that has no jurisdiction over the Nation. If ratified, the Custom Election Code will establish a valid, legal and transparent step by step process for removal.

In late 2022, membership requested Council to undertake the creation of a Custom Election Code. Council heard the voices of membership and established a community-based committee comprised of Nation

members to assist in that process. The committee was provided with a mandate, including directions to advise Council of specific community input to ensure the Custom Election Code adequately represented the customs and desires of our Nation. The committee was provided with the tools and resources necessary to ensure the Custom Election Code was complete, including access to consultants. After considering the valued input gathered by the committee, Council completed and approved the Custom Election Code (draft 2023) in the final quarter of last year, with the intention to circulate the draft to membership early in the new year for ratification. Council intends to initiate the ratification process shortly, and, once circulated, we encourage strong membership participation in this important endeavour.

If the Custom Election Code is ratified, there will be a full Council election in June 2024. In keeping with this planned election, Council is of the view that the Petition, even if it was valid, as premature, and unnecessary given this planned election. Because of this planned election, the continuation of the Petition only serves as a significant waste of Nation time, resources, and finances. Because the Petition is invalid and so close to a planned election, the Petition represents an unnecessary distraction from Council to attend to important matters aimed to better our Nation. Furthermore, a valid and successful Petition would then require a By-election, which makes no sense given the planned election in June.

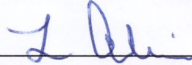
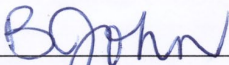
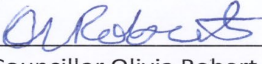
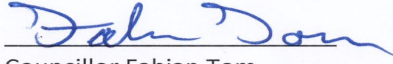
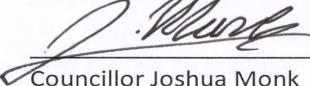
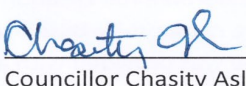
With the best interest of the Nation in mind, Council respectfully suggests that the Petition not be signed or further pursued by membership. With the ratification of the Custom Election Code, an election is imminently upon us, and the same result of the Petition can be achieved by membership participating in a valid election process, by voting for your Council of choice.

Council strongly encourages all members to turn your time and attention to a more productive and impactful exercise, the ratification of the Custom Election Code. If achieved, this would represent a momentous achievement for our Nation. We ask all members to assist in this ratification process so we can all proudly say we all actively participated in a milestone accomplishment in our Nation's history.

Council thanks you for your engagement and commitment to our community's well-being. Council remains confident that through open communication and collaboration, we can work together to address any challenges and move forward in the best interest of our Nation.

Approved at a duly convened meeting of Council this day 12th day of January 12, 2024.

Tl'azt'en Nation:

 _____ Chief Leslie Aslin	 _____ Councillor Beverly John	_____ Councillor Vincent Joseph
 _____ Councillor Olivia Robert	 _____ Councillor Fabian Tom	_____ Councillor Vincent John
 _____ Councillor Joshua Monk	 _____ Councillor Chasity Aslin	