



VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT
Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

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VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION

COUNCIL RESOLUTION 05-30-2023 – #30

RE: VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION COUNCIL BY-ELECTION 2023

WHEREAS:

- A. The Council of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (“VGFN”) shall consist of one (1) Chief and four (4) Councillors pursuant to Article VIII, s. 2 of the VGFN Constitution;
- B. A general election for VGFN Council was called for November 21, 2022 pursuant to the VGFN Constitution and Interim Elections Act (the “**2022 General Election**”);
- C. Only two (2) candidates, Debra-Leigh Reti and Jeneen Frei Njootli, were nominated for the four (4) positions of Councillor during the nomination period of the 2022 General Election resulting in their election as Councillors by acclamation and two (2) remaining vacancies for Councillor on the Council (the “**Councillor Vacancies**”);
- D. On November 21, 2022, Pauline Frost was duly elected as Chief in the 2022 General Election (as confirmed upon automatic recount of voting ballots by the returning officer);
- E. On January 11, 2023, Chief and Councillors Pauline Frost, Debra-Leigh Reti and Jeneen Frei Njootli, respectively, commenced their four (4) year term of Council ending January 13, 2027 pursuant to Article VIII, s. 5 of the VGFN Constitution;
- F. On March 7, 2023, the Council enacted the Act to Amend the Governance Act (2023) to amend the Governance Act to allow Council members (other than Chief and Deputy Chief) to fulfill their responsibilities on a part-time basis with the objective of encouraging greater participation of VGFN citizens on Council, including the existing Councillor Vacancies;
- G. On May 4, 2023, the Council, in consultation and cooperation with VGFN’s executive committee of elders, initiated the process under Article VIII, s. 3 of the VGFN Constitution for the purpose of addressing the Councillor Vacancies arising from the insufficient number of candidates nominated for Councillor in the 2022 General Election;

- H. The process under Article VIII, s. 3 of the VGFN Constitution did not result in the recommendation and affirmation of suitable candidates for the Councillor Vacancies;
- I. The quorum of the Council is three (3) members pursuant to Article VIII, s. 4 of the VGFN Constitution;
- J. Either the Chief, Deputy Chief or an interim Deputy Chief from the Council must be present on the VGFN traditional territory at all times pursuant to Article X, s. 7 of the VGFN Constitution;
- K. The prolonged duration of the Councillor Vacancies is adversely affecting the functioning of the Council and their ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of Council together; and
- L. The Council, in consultation and cooperation with VGFN's executive committee of elders, has determined that it in the current circumstances it is in the best interest of VGFN and necessary for the peace, order and governance of VGFN to hold a by-election for the Councillor Vacancies as soon as practicable and in accordance with the Interim Elections Act;

THEREFORE COUNCIL OF THE VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION RESOLVES THAT:

1. VGFN shall hold a by-election for the two (2) vacant positions of Councillor on Council in accordance with the VGFN Interim Elections Act.
2. The returning officer appointed to conduct the by-election and voting procedure pursuant to s. 9 of the VGFN Interim Elections Act shall be Renee Charlie with assistance as required.
3. The date of the by-election shall be prescribed by the returning officer pursuant to s. 6 of the VGFN Interim Elections Act subject to the requirements of at least two (2) weeks advance notice of the voting date under s. 8 of the VGFN Interim Elections Act.

THIS RESOLUTION being duly approved by a quorum of the Council at a meeting duly convened on May 30, 2023 at Old Crow, Yukon.

Chief Pauline Frost

Deputy Chief Debra-Leigh Reti

Councillor Jeneen Frei Njootli