



Cowessess First Nation #73

Office of the Chief

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December 19th, 2018

TO: Citizens, Cowessess First Nation

Re: Cowessess First Nation Constitution Draft, Readings, and Vote

It is with great honour and excitement I bring a update on the Cowessess First Nation Constituion draft, upcoming readings and upcoming vote. Council have empowered the people to bring a professional, quality, authentic, and more importantly, Cowessess First Nation created, Constitution draft. As we strive for excellence and self-determination as a Nation, constitution reform is the very first step along the path.

In *'Rebuilding Native Nations: Strategies for Governance and Development'*, the following best describes a constitution;

A constitution is a fundamental framework that empower the people to state who they are, define how they will make community decisions, choose their direction, solve their disputes, and stay a people.

The Cowessess First Nation will continue to focus on three pillars: economic self-sustainability, political sovereignty, and cultural rejuvenation. With these pillars, a constitution will give more stability. This draft constitution is the overall framework for how citizens will rule ourselves. It sets out roles and responsibilities such as who will make laws, an authoritative order, rules of protecting the interests of the Nation, who will decide if the Nations laws are valid, who will decide if the Nations laws have been broken, who will be responsible for protecting the Nations interests when other governments and parties threaten our interests, and how the citizens can change the rules if need be.

Cowessess First Nation have had two draft constitutions ongoing for over two decades. Taking both of them, the ad hoc committee built upon them. I would like to thank Tracy Lavallee, Stephanie Delorme, Nola Mahingen, Amanda Louison, and Terrence Pelletier for the hours of drafting the constitution. Denise Pelletier has been administration lead in helping the ad hoc committee and bringing updates to Council.

The first reading is Wednesday, December 19th in Regina and Thursday, December 20th at home. The second reading is scheduled for January and third reading and vote will be scheduled in February. Posters have been circulated for the past 30 days and will be for the next two as well. If anyone requires a copy, you can attain one at the Band Administration Office, Urban Office, or on the Cowessess First Nation web site.

This Constituion will set the strategic direction we learned from our ancestors, moulded by the generation now with the ability it to be strengthened by our children yet unborn.

Cadmus Delorme
Chief, Cowessess First Nation