

Anishnaabe Government Agreement

First Nation Ratification Process

December 7, 2004



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**ANISHNAABE GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT
FIRST NATION RATIFICATION PROCESS**

TITLE AND PURPOSE

1. The title of this document is the Anishnaabe Government Agreement First Nation Ratification Process, hereinafter referred to as the “Ratification Process”.
2. The purpose of this document is to set out the procedure by which the First Nation shall decide whether or not to approve the ratification documents.

DEFINITIONS

3. In this document:

“Ballot Question” means the question asked of the voters in the ratification vote;

“eligible voter” means a person:

- (a) who is 18 years of age or over on voting day; and
- (b) whose name is on a Band List maintained by a First Nation or the Registrar as defined by the *Indian Act*;

"initial list of voters" means the initial list of eligible voters, prepared pursuant to clause 7;

“list of registered voters” means the list of eligible voters who register to vote, prepared pursuant to clauses 23 to 27;

“member” means a person whose name appears, or is entitled to appear, on the Band List as defined by the *Indian Act*;

“ratification committee” means the committee composed of representatives of each of the First Nations and Canada, and established to be responsible for this Ratification Process;

“ratification documents” means:

- (a) the Anishnaabe Government Agreement;



- (b) First Nation gchi-naaknigewin;
- (c) United Anishnaabeg Councils gchi-naaknigewin;
- (d) the Anishnaabe Government Intergovernmental Transfer Agreement;
- (e) the Anishnaabe Government Implementation Agreement; and
- (f) any First Nation law required to be ratified by the terms of this Agreement.

"ratification officer" means a person or persons appointed by eniigaanzijig to oversee this Ratification Process;

“Ratification Process” means this Anishnaabe Government Agreement First Nation Ratification Process;

"ratification vote" means a vote by the registered voters on the Ballot Question conducted according to this Ratification Process;

“registered voter” means a person who:

- (a) is an eligible voter; and
- (b) registers pursuant to the Ratification Process set out in this Agreement.

"voting day" means the day set for holding the ratification vote.

INTERPRETATION

- 4. Any words defined in the Anishnaabe Government Agreement have the same meaning in this Ratification Process, unless otherwise indicated.
- 5. When calculating time, a reference to a number of days between two events is calculated by excluding the day on which the first event happens and including the day on which the second event happens.
- 6. Words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular.

INITIAL LIST OF VOTERS

- 7. Each ratification officer, in consultation with eniigaanzijig, shall prepare an initial list of voters containing their full names, addresses, and band or membership numbers.

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FIRST NATION RESOLUTION

- 8. Each eniigaanzijig shall pass a “First Nation Resolution” (Form 2) to:
 - (a) confirm the ratification documents;
 - (b) confirm the initial list of voters;
 - (c) order that the ratification vote be held; and
 - (d) confirm the voting day.

THE RATIFICATION COMMITTEE

- 9. A ratification committee shall be established by the parties as soon as practical but not later than seven months prior to the ratification vote to provide direction to the parties on the conduct and conclusion of the ratification vote.
- 10. During the Ratification Process the ratification committee shall meet monthly, or more often, as required.
- 11. The ratification committee shall ensure that the First Nations take such steps as are reasonable to register at least 50 per cent of the eligible voters of each First Nation. For the purposes of the Ratification Process reasonable means that:
 - (a) the process set out in this schedule has been followed without discrimination;
 - (b) the First Nations have made efforts by the means available to find and to register eligible voters who reside on or off First Nation land;
 - (c) the First Nations have attempted to contact eligible voters through news stories or advertisements in local or aboriginal media; by direct mail, personal representation or word of mouth; through the Internet, and any other manner the ratification committee deems necessary to ensure appropriate and specific communication is directed to the extent possible to eligible voters; and
 - (d) efforts to locate and to register eligible voters shall continue, if required, to the close of voting day.



- 12. One month prior to the date of the ratification vote the ratification committee shall meet to determine and recommend to the parties that:
 - (a) in the case of 50 per cent or more of eligible voters being registered in each First Nation, sufficient numbers of eligible voters have registered and the ratification vote shall take place on the appointed date; or
 - (b) in the case of less than 50 per cent of eligible voters being registered in any of the First Nations, all reasonable efforts have been made so that sufficient numbers of eligible voters have registered and the ratification vote should take place on the appointed date; or
 - (c) in the case of less than 50 per cent of eligible voters being registered in any of the First Nations, all reasonable efforts have not been made and the ratification vote should be moved to a date no later than three months from the original date of the ratification vote at which time the ratification shall take place in the context of either clause 12(a) or 12(b).
- 13. The ratification committee shall deal with any objection filed by an eligible voter.
- 14. The ratification committee shall, within 15 days of the voting day, send a written report to the First Nations and the Minister on the conduct and result of the ratification vote.

DUTY OF THE RATIFICATION OFFICER AND APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT

- 15. The ratification officer is responsible for overseeing the conduct of the ratification vote and shall have all the necessary authority to carry out this function.
- 16. The ratification officer may appoint assistants and may delegate any of his or her duties set out in this Ratification Process to the assistants.
- 17. Upon the appointment of an assistant, the ratification officer and each assistant shall execute an "Appointment of an Assistant Ratification Officer" (Form 3).

NOTICE TO REGISTER AND VOTE

- 18. The ratification officer, shall post a "Notice of Vote" (Form 4) at least 45 days prior to the voting day in visible places where it can be read by the eligible voters.
- 19. The ratification officer shall publish this "Notice of Vote" in one or more newspapers normally available to the First Nations at least 45 days prior to voting day.



- 20. The "Notice of Vote" shall contain the following information:
 - (a) the date, place and time of the ratification vote;
 - (b) the "Ballot Question";
 - (c) the contacts for registering as a voter;
 - (d) instructions for obtaining a copy of the ratification documents and a summary of those; and
 - (e) the name of the ratification officer (and that of the assistant) and his or her office address and telephone number.

INFORMATION TO ELIGIBLE VOTERS

- 21. The ratification officer shall send by mail or provide by hand, the following to each eligible voter at her or his last known address:
 - (a) a copy of the "Notice of Vote";
 - (b) a "Registration Card" (Form 5); and
 - (c) copies of the ratification documents.
- 22. The information package to eligible voters shall be mailed out within seven days of the posting of the "Notice of Vote".

REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS

- 23. In order for his or her vote to count, an eligible voter must register with the ratification officer by:
 - (a) completing a "Registration Card" (Form 5);
 - (b) signing the "Registration Card";
 - (c) having a person witness the signature and having the witness sign the "Registration Card"; and
 - (d) returning the "Registration Card" to the ratification officer.
- 24. To be valid, a "Registration Card" must be received by the ratification officer by the close of the poll on voting day.
- 25. Before registering a person as a registered voter, the ratification officer may require the person to provide adequate proof of identification and age for verifying if a person is an eligible voter.



- 26. The ratification officer shall prepare and maintain a list of registered voters from the “Registration Cards” received.
- 27. If the ratification officer determines that the name of a voter is incorrectly set out or should not be included on the list of registered voters, the ratification officer shall make the revision and such revision shall be final.

PRELIMINARY PROCEDURES

- 28. The ratification officer shall:
 - (a) designate the place of each voting station;
 - (b) ensure there are sufficient copies of the “Ballot Question”;
 - (c) ensure there are sufficient copies of the “Registration Cards”;
 - (d) ensure there are sufficient copies of secrecy envelopes, identification envelopes, and return envelopes;
 - (e) obtain a sufficient number of ballot boxes;
 - (f) provide for voting at each voting station so a registered voter can mark the ballot free from observation;
 - (g) provide a sufficient number of lead pencils, without erasers, for marking the ballot;
 - (h) ensure that larger than normal samples of the “Ballot Question” are posted or available for examination by registered voters at the voting station; and
 - (i) ensure that a Commissioner for Taking Oaths shall be available as required.

MAIL-IN BALLOTS

- 29. A registered voter who resides off-reserve or who resides on-reserve and who is not able to visit a voting station on voting day may cast a ballot by mail.
- 30. The ratification officer shall send a pre-folded and initialed “Ballot Question” for mail-in, an “Identification Envelope” (Form 6), a secrecy envelope, a prepaid return envelope and voting instructions to each registered voter who:
 - (a) is resident off-reserve; or
 - (b) advises the ratification officer that the person is not able to visit a voting station on voting day.



31. An eligible voter who calls the ratification officer and confirms his or her intent to register to the satisfaction of the ratification officer, shall be sent a "Registration Card", a mail-in ballot and the necessary envelopes, the ratification documents and a summary of the ratification documents.
32. To cast a mail-in ballot, a registered voter must:
 - (a) mark the "Ballot Question" by placing a cross ("X") either in the box marked "YES" or in the box marked "NO";
 - (b) enclose and seal the "Ballot Question" inside the secrecy envelope;
 - (c) enclose and seal the secrecy envelope inside the "Identification Envelope";
 - (d) sign the outside of the "Identification Envelope";
 - (e) enclose and seal the "Identification Envelope" inside a prepaid mailing envelope; and
 - (f) send the sealed prepaid mailing envelope to the ratification officer.
33. To be counted, a mail-in ballot must be received by the ratification officer by the close of the polls on voting day.
34. After receiving a mail-in ballot, the ratification officer shall, in the presence of two or more registered voters:
 - (a) verify each "Identification Envelope" and that the sender is a registered voter;
 - (b) check the list of registered voters to ensure that the registered voter has not already voted and place a line through the name of the registered voter on that list of registered voters;
 - (c) record the date and time the mail-in ballot was received on the list of registered voters; and
 - (d) deposit the mail-in ballot in its original unopened secrecy envelope in a separate ballot box kept for this purpose or, if the voter is not a registered voter or has already voted, reject the mail-in ballot.
35. The ratification officer is personally responsible for the safe-keeping of the mail-in ballot box and shall ensure that this ballot box remains sealed when not in use and is not opened until such time as the ballots are deposited in the regular ballot box after the close of the ratification vote on the voting day.
36. The ratification officer shall execute a "Declaration of Ratification Officer" and ensure that it is witnessed (Form 7).

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VOTING PROCEDURES AT POLL ON VOTING DAY

- 37. This section applies to voting at the polls.
- 38. The polls shall be kept open from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on the voting day.
- 39. The ratification officer and his or her assistant shall remain at the voting station during the hours that the polls are open.
- 40. All voting at the polls shall be by secret ballot only.
- 41. At a voting station, the ratification officer shall:
 - (a) open each ballot box and ask a registered voter to witness that each ballot box is empty before any vote is cast;
 - (b) properly seal the ballot box and place his or her signature on the seal in front of the witness, and ask the witness to place his or her signature on the seal;
 - (c) keep the ballot box in view for the reception of the “Ballot Question”; and
 - (d) execute a "Declaration of Ratification Officer" and ensure that it is witnessed (Form 8).
- 42. When a person at a poll requests to vote, the ratification officer shall:
 - (a) ensure that the person is a registered voter;
 - (b) register the person if the person is an eligible voter and has not been able to register prior to voting day;
 - (c) check the list of registered voters to ensure that the person has not already voted, either in person or by mail-in ballot; and
 - (d) provide the registered voter with a “Ballot Question”, on the back of which are affixed the ratification officer’s initials so that the initials can be seen when the ballot is folded.
- 43. The ratification officer shall place, on the list of registered voters, a line through the name of every registered voter receiving a “Ballot Question” at a poll.
- 44. The ratification officer shall explain the method of voting upon request.
- 45. A registered voter may request special assistance from the ratification officer at a poll if the registered voter declares that she or he:
 - (a) is not able to read;



- (b) is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause; or
 - (c) requires assistance for any other reason.
46. The ratification officer shall, on request, provide special assistance to a registered voter at a poll by marking his or her ballot in secret as directed by the registered voter and immediately folding and depositing it into the ballot box.
47. The ratification officer, after providing special assistance to a registered voter, shall make an entry on the list of registered voters opposite the name of the registered voter indicating that the “Ballot Question” was marked by the ratification officer at the request of the registered voter and the reason for the registered voter's request.
48. Except for a registered voter requiring special assistance, every registered voter receiving a “Ballot Question” at a poll shall:
- (a) proceed immediately to a designated voting area;
 - (b) mark the “Ballot Question” by placing a cross ("X") either in the box marked "YES" or in the box marked "NO";
 - (c) fold the “Ballot Question” to conceal the mark and to expose the initials of the ratification officer; and
 - (d) immediately give the folded “Ballot Question” to the ratification officer.
49. Upon receiving a marked “Ballot Question”, the ratification officer, without unfolding it, shall:
- (a) verify his or her initials;
 - (b) tear off the perforated strip, if any; and
 - (c) deposit the “Ballot Question” into the ballot box.
50. A registered voter at a poll who receives a spoiled or improperly printed “Ballot Question, or who accidentally spoils his or her “Ballot Question” when marking it, is entitled to receive another “Ballot Question” from the ratification officer after returning the original “Ballot Question”. The returned “Ballot Question” shall be recorded as spoiled.
51. A registered voter at a poll who receives a “Ballot Question” and does not return it to the ratification officer shall forfeit the right to vote and shall be counted as having spoiled the “Ballot Question”. The ratification officer shall make an entry on the list of registered voters stating that the registered voter left the designated voting area without delivering the “Ballot Question”.



- 52. At the time set for closing the poll, the ratification officer shall declare the poll closed, and entry shall be denied to the voting station.

ORDERLY VOTING

- 53. Eniigaanzijig with the assistance of the ratification officer shall ensure that peace and good order are maintained at the voting station.
- 54. The ratification officer shall allow only one registered voter at a time into a designated voting area, except for a registered voter receiving special assistance.
- 55. A registered voter who is present and available to vote at a poll before the closing time shall be entitled to vote.
- 56. No person shall:
 - (a) interfere or attempt to interfere with a registered voter when the person is voting;
 - (b) obtain or attempt to obtain information as to how a registered voter is about to vote or has voted at a poll;
 - (c) mark a “Ballot Question” in a way that identifies the registered voter; or
 - (d) mark the secrecy envelope for a mail-in ballot in a way that indicates how the ballot was cast.

REJECTED BALLOTS

- 57. A cast “Ballot Question” shall be rejected if it:
 - (a) was not supplied by the ratification officer or the assistant ratification officer;
 - (b) was not marked as either "YES" or "NO";
 - (c) was marked as both "YES" and "NO";
 - (d) was not marked in the box marked "YES" or "NO";
 - (e) has any writing or mark which can identify the registered voter; or
 - (f) is a mail-in ballot received after the close of the poll on the voting day.
- 58. A “Ballot Question” marked with something other than with a cross ("X") in a box, shall not be rejected if:
 - (a) the mark does not identify the registered voter; and
 - (b) the intent of the registered voter is clear in the opinion of the ratification officer.



OPENING MAIL-IN BALLOTS

- 59. After the close of the poll on the voting day, the ratification officer, in the presence of two registered voters, shall:
 - (a) open the ballot box for mail-in ballots;
 - (b) open the secrecy envelope and confirm the authenticity of the “Ballot Question” by checking the affixed initials; and
 - (c) deposit the “Ballot Question”, without opening or showing it, in a ballot box used at a voting station.

COUNTING OF RESULTS

- 60. After the mail-in ballots have been deposited in a ballot box, the ratification officer, in the presence of two registered voters, shall:
 - (a) count the number of spoiled “Ballot Question”;
 - (b) examine all “Ballot Question” contained in the ballot boxes;
 - (c) reject any “Ballot Question” according to clauses 57 and 58 of this Ratification Process; and
 - (d) count the number of “Ballot Question” marked "YES", the number marked “NO” and the number of rejected ballots.
- 61. When the results of the ratification vote have been determined, the ratification officer shall execute the "Declaration by Ratification Officer" (Form 9) and provide it to eniigaanzijig and the ratification committee.
- 62. The ratification officer shall seal in separate envelopes the spoiled “Ballot Question”, the rejected “Ballot Question”, the “Ballot Question” cast in favour and the “Ballot Question” cast against. The ratification officer shall then affix his or her signature to the seals and shall retain the separate envelopes for at least 60 days. Thereafter the “Ballot Question” may be destroyed.

PROCEDURAL AMENDMENTS

- 63. In order to give effect to and carry out the objectives and purpose of the ratification vote, the ratification officer may depart from the procedural requirements of this Ratification Process if he or she deems it necessary and believes it shall not result in any substantive change.

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64. The ratification officer shall state in writing the nature and basis of such departure and make a copy of the statement available to eniigaanzijig and the ratification committee.

OBJECTIONS

65. An eligible voter may file an objection with the ratification committee if she or he has reasonable grounds to believe:

- (a) there was a violation of or an irregularity in the Ratification Process; and
- (b) the final result of the ratification vote might have been different but for the violation or irregularity.

66. An objection must be in writing and must:

- (a) identify the name, address and telephone number of the objector;
- (b) summarize the grounds for the objection; and
- (c) be accompanied by a statutory declaration setting out the grounds for the objection.

67. The objection must be mailed to the ratification committee and must be postmarked within five working days from the voting day to:

United Anishnaabeg Councils
Small Business Centre
CURVE LAKE ON K0L 1R0

68. If an objection is filed under this section, the ratification committee shall, within 15 working days of receiving it, determine whether the objection is valid.

69. The ratification committee may, if the material sent under this section is not sufficient to decide the validity of the grounds of the objection, conduct such further investigations as it deems necessary.

70. Subject to clause 71, the ratification committee may dispose of an objection by allowing it and calling another vote for that First Nation.

71. The ratification committee shall dismiss the objection if it is of the opinion that there was:

- (a) neither a violation of nor an irregularity in the Ratification Process; or
- (b) a violation or an irregularity but the final result of the ratification vote was not affected by it.



COSTS OF RATIFICATION

- 72. Canada shall bear the costs incurred by the First Nations in seeking ratification of the ratification documents in an amount to be agreed to by the parties before the start of the Ratification Process.

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BALLOT QUESTION

Do you approve the ratification documents as follows:

- (a) the Anishnaabe Government Agreement;
- (b) First Nation gchi-naaknigewin;
- (c) United Anishnaabeg Councils gchi-naaknigewin;
- (d) the Anishnaabe Government Intergovernmental Transfer Agreement;
- (e) the Anishnaabe Government Implementation Agreement; and
- (f) any First Nation law required to be ratified by the terms of the Anishnaabe Government Agreement.

YES

NO

Mark this Ballot by placing a Cross ("X") in one of the above boxes.

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Form 2

FIRST NATION RESOLUTION
(Commencement of Vote)

Eniigaanzijig of _____ First Nation, pursuant to clause 8 of the Anishnaabe Government Agreement First Nation Ratification Process, does hereby resolve to:

1. approve the ratification documents dated _____, 2004;
2. confirm _____ (person to be named) as the ratification officer;
3. confirm the initial list of voters dated _____;
4. hold a ratification vote; and
5. set the voting day to be _____, 2005.

Dated at _____ on the _____ day of _____, 2005.

Signed by eniigaanzijig _____

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Form 3

APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT RATIFICATION OFFICER

Date

I, _____, ratification officer, appoint
_____ to act as my assistant in carrying out my duties pursuant to the
Anishnaabe Government Agreement First Nation Ratification Process for the purpose of the
ratification vote.

Ratification Officer

I, _____, agree to act as an assistant to the ratification
officer for the purpose of the ratification vote and promise to carry out all assigned duties to the
best of my abilities and pursuant to the Anishnaabe Government Agreement First Nation
Ratification Process.

Assistant Ratification Officer

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NOTICE OF VOTE

_____, 2005

TO: Members of _____ First Nation

TAKE NOTICE that a ratification vote shall be held pursuant to the Anishnaabe Government Agreement First Nation Ratification Process on _____, 2005, in order to determine if registered voters approve the ratification documents.

The following question shall be asked of the registered voters of the _____ First Nation by ballot:

Do you approve the ratification documents as follows:

- (a) the Anishnaabe Government Agreement;
- (b) First Nation gchi-naaknigewin;
- (c) United Anishnaabeg Councils gchi-naaknigewin;
- (d) the Anishnaabe Government Intergovernmental Transfer Agreement;
- (e) the Anishnaabe Government Implementation Agreement; and
- (f) any First Nation law required to be ratified by the terms of the Anishnaabe Government Agreement.

The ratification vote shall take place on _____, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the _____.

Copies of the ratification documents and the summary of those may be obtained from:

(Name), (Position) at the (Location).

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that members of the _____ First Nation 18 years of age or over (as of _____, 2005) must register in order to vote.

Applications for voter registration should be made to either:

_____, Ratification Officer, Tel: () ____ - _____, or
 _____, Assistant Ratification Officer, Tel: () ____ - _____



At the (Location).

DATED at _____, in the Province of Ontario, this ____ day of _____, 2005.

Ratification Officer

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REGISTRATION CARD

To Vote in the _____ First Nation Ratification Vote

I, _____ (full name), wish to confirm that:

- 1. I *WANT TO* vote in the ratification vote. (Check one)
OR
I *DO NOT WANT TO* vote in the ratification vote.
- 2. I *WILL BE* able to attend the polling station. (Check one)
OR
I *WILL NOT BE* able to attend the polling station.

My Indian status or First Nation membership number is _____ .

I have signed below along with a witness to my signature so that my Ballot Question can be verified on receipt.

I confirm that I am at least 18 years of age and I am a member of the _____ First Nation.

Date

First Nation Member

Witness



For Office Use Only

This is to certify that this member has been registered and his or her full name and band number has been placed on the list of registered voters.

Date

Ratification Officer

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IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE

IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE

THE _____ FIRST NATION RATIFICATION VOTE

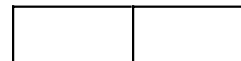
- PLEASE ENCLOSE ONE SECRECY ENVELOPE CONTAINING
ONE BALLOT QUESTION -

Full Name of Registered Voter: _____

Indian Status/First Nation Membership Number: _____
(To be filled in by ratification officer)

I confirm that this envelope contains only my ballot, which is sealed inside a secrecy envelope.

Signature of Member: _____ Date: _____



DECLARATION OF RATIFICATION OFFICER
(Mail-in Ballots)

C A N A D A
Province of Ontario

I, _____ (name), Ratification Officer, of the _____ First Nation, in the Province of Ontario, DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was personally responsible for receiving all mail-in ballots at the _____ First Nation during _____, 2005 when registered voters of the _____ First Nation voted in a ratification vote concerning the ratification documents.
2. In preparation of depositing mail-in ballots, I opened ballot box number #_____.
3. I saw that the ballot box was empty and I asked registered voters who were present to witness that the ballot box was empty.
4. I then properly sealed the ballot box, in front of these persons who were present, and prepared it for the reception of ballot papers.
5. I personally deposited all mail-in ballots received at my office in ballot box #____ without opening the secrecy envelope, and kept the ballot box sealed when not in my custody until the ballots were counted.

Ratification Officer

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

I, _____, was personally present at _____ on _____, 2005, when the ratification officer deposited the secrecy envelopes containing the mail-in ballots in ballot box #____, and

1. I am a registered voter.
2. I witnessed that ballot box #_____ was empty before any secrecy envelopes containing mail-in ballots were deposited.
3. I witnessed the ratification officer seal the ballot box and sign the seal.
4. I signed the seal, as requested by the ratification officer.



Witness

Date

7.12.2004

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DECLARATION OF RATIFICATION OFFICER
(Regular Poll)

C A N A D A
Province of Ontario

I, _____ (name), Ratification Officer, of the _____ First Nation, in the Province of Ontario, DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was personally present at _____ on _____, 2005, when registered voters of the _____ First Nation voted in a ratification vote concerning the ratification documents.
2. Immediately before the ratification vote began, I opened ballot box number # ____.
3. I saw that the ballot box was empty and I asked registered voters who were present to witness that the ballot box was empty.
4. I then properly sealed the ballot box, in front of these persons who were present, and kept it in view for the reception of ballot papers.

Ratification Officer

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

I, _____, was personally present at _____ on _____, 2005, when registered voters of the _____ First Nation voted in a ratification vote concerning the ratification documents, and

1. I am a registered voter.
2. I witnessed that the ballot box # ____ was empty before any votes were cast in the ratification vote.
3. I witnessed the ratification officer seal the ballot box and sign the seal.
4. I signed the seal, as requested by the ratification officer.

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Witness

Date

7.12.2004

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Form 9

DECLARATION OF RATIFICATION OFFICER
(Conclusion of Vote)

CANADA
Province of Ontario

I, _____ (name) , Ratification Officer, of the _____
First Nation in the Province of Ontario, DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. I was present at the _____ First Nation on _____, 2005, when registered voters of the _____ First Nation voted concerning the approval of the ratification documents pursuant to the Anishnaabe Government Agreement First Nation Ratification Process, hereinafter referred to as the “Ratification Process”.
2. A true copy of the “Notice of Vote” is attached as Exhibit "1" to this Declaration.
3. Pursuant to clause 18, the “Notice of Vote” was posted at least 45 days prior to the voting day.
4. Pursuant to clauses 21 and 22, a copy of the "Notice of Vote", a “Registration Card” (Form 5) and copies of the ratification documents were sent to each eligible voter at her or his last known address within seven days of the posting of the “Notice of Vote”.
5. The voting procedure, including the handling of mail-in ballots and the counting of results, was conducted pursuant to the Ratification Process.
6. The names of _____ eligible voters appeared on the initial list of voters.
7. The number of eligible voters who registered was _____ and their names were entered on the list of registered voters.
8. Pursuant to clauses 11 and 12, the parties confirmed the ratification voting day to be _____, 2005.

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- 9. The results of the ratification vote are as follows:
 - (a) ____ mail-in ballots were cast in the ratification vote pursuant to clauses 29 to 36;
 - (b) ____ regular ballots were cast in the ratification vote pursuant to clauses 37 to 56;
 - (c) ____ ballots were spoiled;
 - (d) ____ ballots were rejected pursuant to clauses 57 and 58;
 - (e) ____ ballots were marked "YES" for the question; and
 - (f) ____ ballots were marked "NO" for the question.
- 10. Pursuant to the requirements of the Anishnaabe Government Agreement, the ratification documents were *approved* or *not approved* by the registered voters.
- 11. This completed Declaration was provided to the ratification committee for the purpose of clause 14.
- 12. All references to clauses in this Declaration refer to the Ratification Process set out in Schedule A of the Anishnaabe Government Agreement.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

DECLARED BEFORE me at the _____)
 _____ of _____ in the)
 Province of Ontario, this _____ day of)
 _____, 2005.)
 _____)
 A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the Province of) _____
 Ontario.) Ratification Officer

7.12.2004

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