

WHITEHORSE, YK - JANUARY 19, 2026

2026 LIARD FIRST NATION CONSTITUTION

Review of proposed Constitution and process



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Agenda

- 1. Overview**
- 2. Constitution background**
- 3. Summary of 2026 Constitution**
- 4. Voting process and next steps**

1. Overview



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Introduction

- **Liard First Nation will be holding a vote on the adoption of the proposed 2026 Liard First Nation Constitution**
- **The proposed Constitution is an important step in the exercise of LFN's self-determination and will establish a framework that will guide all laws enacted in the future**



Introduction

- **Opportunity for LFN to implement governance that represents the will and custom of the Nation and to establish a unified government to speak for all LFN members**

The proposed Constitution will have to be approved by a vote of LFN Members, which will be held online from February 6 to February 22, 2026



Community Information Sessions

- **Whitehorse:** January 19, 2026 – 6-7:30 PM
(Sternwheeler Conference Centre – 201 Wood St.)
- • **Watson Lake:** January 21, 2026 – 6-7:30 PM
(Watson Lake Recreation Centre – Lakeview Ave.)
- • **Vancouver:** January 26, 2026 – 3:30-5 PM (Hyatt Regency Vancouver, Grouse Rm – 655 Burrard St.)
- • **Prince George:** January 28, 2026 – 6-7:30 PM
(Coast Prince George Hotel – 770 Brunswick St.)



Community Information Sessions

The Community Information Sessions are an opportunity for members to ask questions of the Constitution Committee representatives and legal

Purpose to understand the 2026 Proposed Constitution and the process leading to the vote, in order to make an informed decision



2. Constitution Background



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What is a Constitution?

In the past few decades, more and more First Nations have been drafting and ratifying their own Constitutions.

A Constitution is a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a Nation is governed. It is the “supreme” law of a Nation, and therefore all other laws passed following its enactment, must abide by it.

Enacting a Constitution is an opportunity for a Nation to reclaim its self-governance, move beyond the Indian Act, establish a governance system and framework for laws, assert its inherent rights, and protect its culture and values.

1998 Constitution

Draft Liard First Nation Constitution

as presented to Liard First Nation General Assembly

by the Liard First Nation Constitutional Committee

October 27 - 30, 1998

- FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY -

The 2026 Proposed Constitution is based on the 1998 Draft that was developed at the time, in consultation with the community

This draft was initially presented by the LFN Constitutional Committee at a GA in October 1998, where it was ratified on an interim basis but never implemented

This draft served a ready-made starting point for the development of the 2026 Proposed Constitution, which is an updated version of 1998

LFN Constitution Committee

A call was put out to join the LFN Constitution Committee. Everyone who applied was accepted

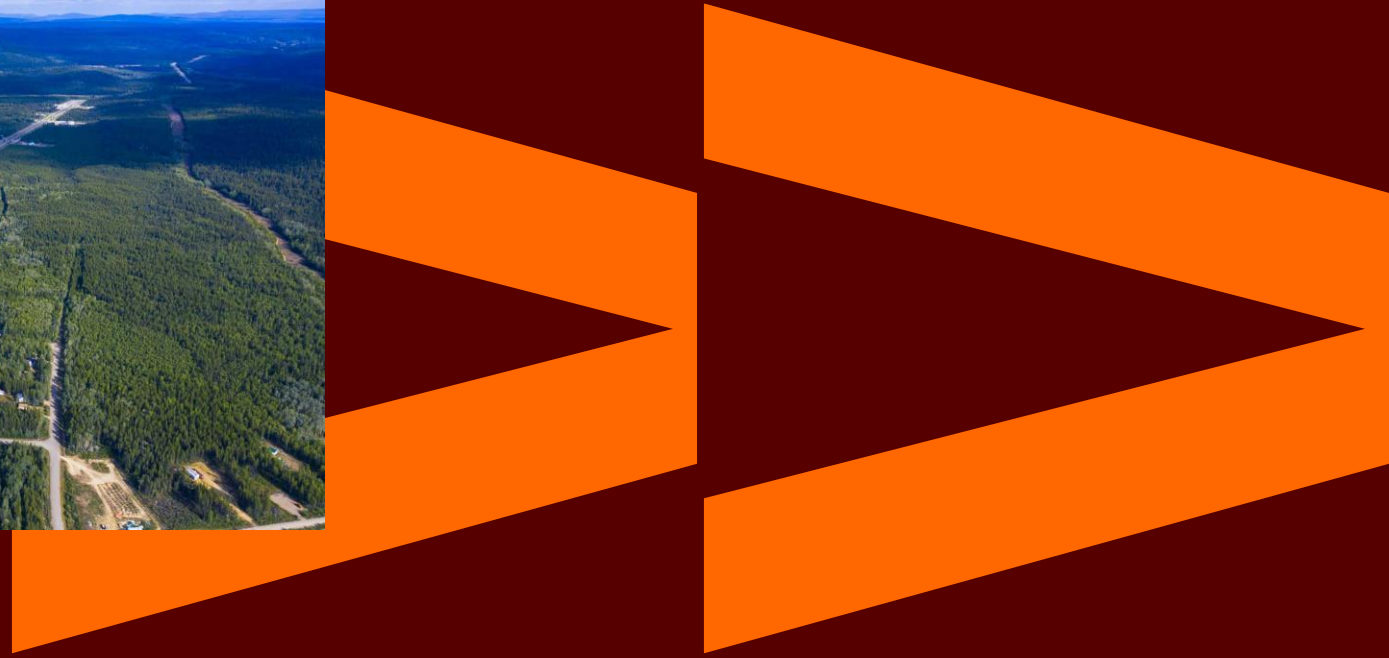
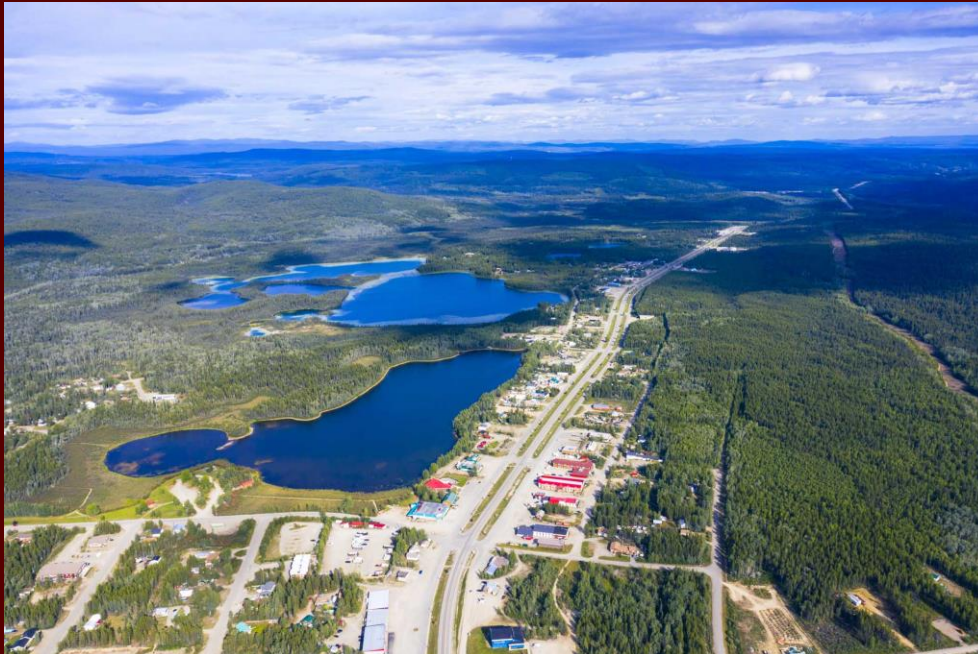
The current LFN Constitution Committee is composed of 15 LFN Members from various families

The Committee was tasked with reviewing the draft 1998 Constitution and proposing a few changes to ensure it could meet the modern needs of the community

LFN Constitution Committee

The Committee held a series of meetings in LFN from April to July 2025.

Two community meetings were also held in Watson Lake on May 1 and September 2025 to present their proposed draft and seek input from the membership.



3. Summary of 2026 Constitution



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The Proposed Constitution sets out the roles of key bodies of LFN's Government including:



**The General Assembly
The Council
The Elders Council
The Youth Council
The Judicial Council and
Citizens' rights**

1.0 Preamble/Statement of Objectives

- This section sets out who we are as a Kaska people, our culture, and why this Constitution is important.
- This section also sets out the specific goals of the Constitution, which include:
 - promoting Kaska culture and language;
 - protecting Kaska resources;
 - Respecting elders and the people,
 - Respecting the land and animals;
 - promoting an accountable system of governance; and
 - Enabling the ongoing evolution and development of the Kaska Nation.



2.0 Definitions/Interpretation

This section sets out the definitions of key terms that are used in the 2026 Proposed Constitution, such as:

- “Citizens”;
- “Eligible Voter”;
- “LFN Territory” and
- “Special meeting”.



3.0 Citizenship

- This section sets out that citizenship of LFN is defined by the rules for citizenship in force as established by LFN.
- Review of citizenship and establishment of new LFN Citizenship Code will be next phase in constitutional work



4.0 Liard First Nation Government

This section sets out that the LFN Government consists of the:

- General Assembly;
- Council;
- Elders Council;
- Youth Council;
- And Judicial Council.

5.0 General Assembly

This section sets out the composition, process and jurisdiction of the General Assembly (GA)

- The GA is the law-making body of LFN and may make laws in any area within the jurisdiction of LFN, including the administration of LFN, matters relating to Citizens including programs and services, and the use and management of LFN territory.
- GA meetings will take place annually, and as called by Council or requested by a petition of members.
- Every Citizen of LFN may attend and participate in a GA, and Citizens who are 18+ may vote.
- Regular business, such as passing and amending laws, approving budgets and approving reports of Chief and Council may be approved by Ordinary Resolution. Amendments to the Constitution and delegation of law-making authority require a Special Resolution with a higher threshold at a Special Meeting.

6.0 Chief and Council

- This section sets out the composition, selection and removal processes for members of Council, as well as operating procedures and conflict of interest guidelines
- Council is made up of 1 Chief, and 6 Councillors (7 voting members), plus 3 Elders from the Elders' Council and 1 Youth from the Youth Council (all of whom are non-voting members). Council shall also select the Councillor with the most votes to act as Deputy Chief.
- Chief and Councillors will be elected for a 4-year term.
- Candidates for Council must:
 - be at least 18;
 - reside in LFN territory for at least 3 years; and
 - not have been convicted of an indictable offence prior.
- Elections will be conducted in accordance with LFN's election rules.

6.0. Chief and Council

- Duties and responsibilities of Council are listed, which include:
 - implementing the directions of the GA;
 - Administering LFN's laws,
 - Preparing an annual budget for approval of the GA
 - Representing LFN to third parties
 - Safeguarding LFN territory
- A process is provided for the removal of Chief and Council by a petition signed by at least 50% of Eligible Voters.
- Chief and Council operating procedures are set out, including quorum, consensus decision-making, and regular meetings to be held.
- Conflict of Interest provisions sets out when and how declarations are to be made of financial or personal interest.

7.0 Elders Council



- This section sets out the composition and role of the Elders' Council. All LFN Citizens who are 65+ are members of the Elders' Council and are entitled to attend all meetings of the Elders' Council.
- The Elders' Council may provide advice to the LFN Government and shall be consulted on laws proposed to the GA. In addition, three members of the Elders' Council are to be appointed at a GA to sit with LFN Council.

8.0 Youth Council

- This section sets out the composition and role of the Youth Council.
- All LFN Citizens 16-29 are members and shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Youth Council.
- The Youth Council appoints one member at a GA to sit with LFN Council.



9.0 Judicial Council

This section sets out the composition and role of the Judicial Council.

The Judicial Council will be the body that will have jurisdiction to oversee LFN's laws and governance, including:

- To hear challenges to LFN laws;
- To decide petitions to remove members of Council; and
- To determine penalties for violation of LFN laws.

The Judicial Council will be composed of 6 Citizens, nominated by Citizens from the 6 areas within the Territory of LFN. They will be nominated to serve on the Judicial Council, with nominations to be approved at a GA.



10.0 Citizens' Rights

This section enshrines rights of LFN Citizens by limiting LFN's law-making powers. It provides that LFN will not pass laws or act in a manner contrary to its Citizens' :

- Religious and Cultural rights;
- Expression and Assembly rights;
- Property rights;
- Mobility and Employment rights;
- Access to Government Records rights;
- Right of Participation;
- Legal Rights;



11.0 Transition and Amendments

- This section sets out how the Constitution may be amended and what happens once the Constitution is approved.
- The Constitution may be amended by a Special Resolution at a GA with advance notice.
 - Upon ratification of this Constitution, the existing Chief and Council of LFN shall continue to be the Chief and Council of LFN for the balance of their terms.



Key Changes from 1998 Constitution

- In the 2.0 Definitions/Interpretation section:
 - Removal of all definitions relating to the “Liard First Nation Final Agreement” which was never concluded
 - Amendment to references to Settlement Land and Liard First Nation Traditional Territory and to “LFN Territory”
- In the 3.0 Citizenship section
 - Amendment to refer to citizenship as being in accordance with the rules that will eventually be in force
- In section 5.0.
 - Voting threshold amended at s. 5.4 to pass a special resolution

Key Changes from 1998 Constitution

- In section 6.0 Chief and Council:
 - Added a specification that the Deputy Chief shall be the Councillor with the most votes
- In section 7.0 Elders Council
 - Amended the age of Elders to be part of the Elders Council to 65 years of age instead of 60 years of age
- In section 8.0 Youth Council
 - Amend age of Youth to be on the Youth Council to the ages of 16-29 instead of 12-17
- In section 9.0 Judicial Council
 - Addition of the area of Lower Post at s. 9.2
- In Section 14 Transition and amendments
 - Section 11.0 Transition and amendments becomes section 14.0
 - s. 11.5 amended to remove transitional by-election within 2 months given the upcoming election date

4. Voting process and next steps



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Voting Process

The proposed Constitution will have to be approved by a vote of LFN Members, which will be held online from:

February 6 to February 22, 2026

At the vote, LFN Members will be asked to answer “yes” or “no” to the following question:

- Do you approve the 2026 Liard First Nation Constitution?

Full voting details will be provided in the third Information Newsletter following these information sessions

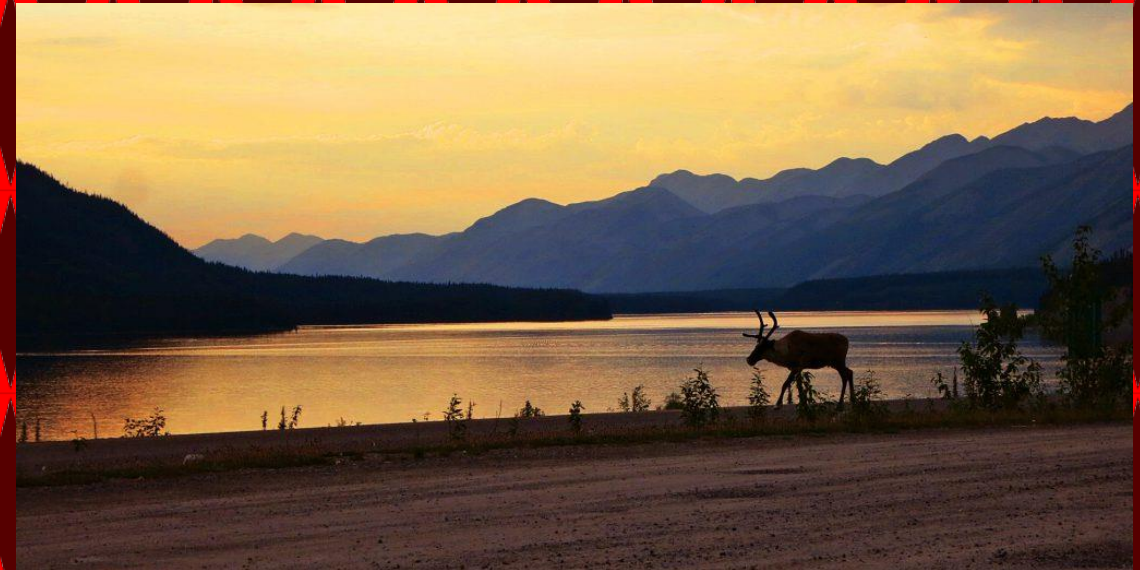
Next Steps

If the 2026 Constitution is approved, laws will be updated/established to align with the Constitution:

- **Citizenship Code**
- **Election Code**
- **Judicial Council**

Constitution is the first and most important step

Ultimately, choice is up to members

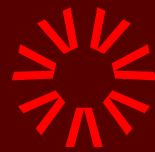


Sógā Sinlā!

Thank you!



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