



# Liard First Nation

P.O. Box 328 Watson Lake, Yukon Y0A 1C0

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## INFORMATION FOR VOTE ON LIARD FIRST NATION CONSTITUTION AND UPCOMING COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

### Dear Liard First Nation Members:

Liard First Nation will be holding a vote on the adoption of the proposed **Liard First Nation Constitution**, as part of our ongoing work as a self-determining Kaska people. This is an 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.

This is the second of three Information Newsletters you will receive before the vote.

**The proposed Constitution will have to be approved by a vote of LFN Members, which we are planning to hold online beginning February 2, 2026 and ending February 22, 2026.** Details of how to vote will be provided in the third Information Newsletter.

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?**

### UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information sessions to review the proposed Constitution are coming up on:

- **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.)



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During these sessions, which will be open to voting members, staff, and consultants, Constitution Committee representatives and legal will explain the process leading up to the proposed Constitution and will be available to answer questions. Voting members are therefore encouraged to attend in order to better understand the process and make an informed voting decision by February 22, 2026.

**The Chief will also be updating the membership on the Yukon-B.C. Grid Connect Project, a proposed high-voltage transmission line connecting the Yukon's isolated electrical grid to the North American grid through B.C.**

## WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION/WHY HAVE ONE?

- In the past few decades, more and more First Nations have been drafting and ratifying their own Constitutions.
- A Constitution is the supreme law of a Nation, a document setting out its core values, structures of government, and rights and duties of its citizens.
- 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.

## LFN PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

- The proposed LFN Constitution is based on the draft 1998 Constitution, which was developed by the Constitution Committee at the time in consultation with the community. This draft was initially presented by LFN Constitutional Committee at a GA in October 1998, where it was ratified on an interim basis but never implemented. This 1998 draft Constitution is a ready-made starting point for the development of a modern LFN Constitution.
- The current LFN Constitution Committee was tasked with reviewing the draft 1998 Constitution to ensure it can meet the modern needs of the community and



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proposing changes as needed. The Constitution Committee is made up of ~15 LFN Members from various families.

- The Constitution Committee held a series of meetings in LFN from April-July, 2025 to review the draft Constitution and propose changes.
- Two meetings were also held in Watson Lake on May 1 and September 12, 2025 to present the draft Constitution and seek input from the membership.
- The proposed Constitution envisions a united LFN Government, and sets out the roles of key bodies for LFN's governance, including the General Assembly, Council, Elders Council, Youth Council, Judicial Council, and Citizens' rights.
- A copy of the proposed Constitution is provided with this information package and will be reviewed at the upcoming Information Sessions.

## **SUMMARY OF LFN PROPOSED CONSTITUTION**

LFN's proposed Constitution includes the following sections:

- **1.0 Preamble/Statement of Objectives**
  - This section sets out who we are as Kaska people, our culture, and why this Constitution is important.
  - It also sets out the specific goals of the Constitution, which include to promote Kaska culture and language, protect our resources, and promote an accountable system of governance.
- **2.0 Definitions/Interpretation**
  - This section sets out definitions of key terms that are used in the Constitution, such as "Citizen", "Eligible Voter", and "Special Meeting."
- **3.0 Citizenship**
  - This section sets out that citizenship of Liard First Nation is defined by the rules for citizenship in force as established by Liard First Nation



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- **4.0 Liard First Nation Government**

- This section sets out that the Liard First Nation 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.
- The General Assembly (GA) is the law-making body of LFN and may make laws in any area within the jurisdiction of LFN, including 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.



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- Chief and Councillors will be elected for a 4-year term. Candidates for Council must be at least 18; reside in LFN 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.
  - Duties and responsibilities of Council are listed, which include implementing the directions of the General Assembly, administering LFN's laws, etc., as well as preparing an annual budget for approval of the GA, representing LFN to third parties, and 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 set 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 Citizens of LFN who are 65+ are members 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. 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.



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- The Judicial Council is the body that has the jurisdiction to oversee LFN's laws and governance, including to hear challenges to LFN laws, decide petitions to remove members of Council, and determine penalties for violation of LFN laws.
- 6 Citizens are nominated by Citizens from 6 areas within the Traditional Territory of LFN to serve on the Judicial Council, with nominations to be approved at a GA.
- **10.0 Citizen's 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
    - Property
    - Mobility and Employment
    - Access to Government Records
    - 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 vote at a GA, with advance notice.

**If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Magun, Executive Assistant, at [dorothy.magun@liardfirstnation.ca](mailto:dorothy.magun@liardfirstnation.ca)**