

Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

19 A Complex Drive, P.O. Box 112
Wikwemikong, Ontario P0P 2J0

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

COMMUNITY UPDATE

First Nations Elections Act (FNEA) & Wiikwemkoong Custom Election Code

Questions and Answers

Why did we start talking about the First Nations Elections Act (FNEA)?

The Governance Committee directed the Governance Unit to engage the community and provide information about the First Nations Elections Act. This direction was given at a Special Governance Committee Meeting on April 17, 2025, followed by a Governance Committee motion (25-2025) to hold community consultation sessions. In previous years, the Governance Unit had researched FNEA.

When did community consultations happen?

Community FNEA Information Sessions were held on the following dates and locations:

- May 13, 2025 – Wikwemikong (Pontiac School)
- June 3, 2025 – Rabbit Island
- June 10, 2025 – South Bay
- June 17, 2025 – Wikwemikong High School (Grades 9–12)

These sessions included presentations, comparison charts, Q&A period, and feedback.

Did these sessions mean Wiikwemkoong was moving into FNEA right away?

No. The purpose of these sessions was to provide community information about the FNEA, and to hear community questions and concerns.

What is the process to enter the First Nations Elections Act (FNEA)?

1. If a First Nation chooses to move into FNEA, the process is:
2. Community engagement and information sharing
3. Leadership discussion and consideration
4. Band Council Resolution (BCR) requesting entry into FNEA
5. Submission to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) (formerly INAC)
6. Mandatory waiting and approval period by ISC
7. Once approved, FNEA can only be used for a future election

This process cannot be rushed and cannot be applied in the middle of an election cycle.

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Was a BCR passed for Wiikwemkoong to enter FNEA?

Yes. The BCR was presented, passed, and signed by Wiikwemkoong Council in a 5-2 vote with one abstention. This BCR is known as BCR 4539.

Note: Indian Act Regulations on quorum is: 1 Chief and 4 councillors, or 0 Chief and 5 councillors

Will WUT be using FNEA for this election 2026?

The required steps could not be completed in time for the upcoming election 2026. As a result, Wiikwemkoong will not be entering FNEA for the upcoming election.

So what election rules are we using instead?

Wiikwemkoong will continue to use Indian Act Election Regulations.

How far along are we with the WUT Custom Election Code?

A Workplan on Wiikwemkoong's Gimaa Naaknigewin will be developed at the Governance Committee monthly meeting on Feb 10, 2026.

WUT Governance Unit plans for the Custom Election Code engagement sessions will start this spring 2026 for additional recommendations for our Custom Election Code. Our current focus is with Wiikwemkoong youth. We would like to hear what our youth recommend and their questions raised. In addition to this, we will have Community consultations for more input on the Draft WUT Election code.

The sessions will be held in Central Wiikwemkoong and our Satellite communities; Rabbit Island, Buzwah, Kaboni, South Bay. We will also have two online teams or zoom sessions for our off-reserve band members. Our completion target will be after the 2026 term ends. These details will be clearer when the workplan is complete.

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WUT Governance Unit