

# *Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory*

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

Monday August 3, 2026

## **KWIINWIN KENDI-MOOKIIWIN Re: Meet the Candidate Night Event Cancellation**

In the spirit of full transparency, and after careful consideration, WUT Administration has made the decision to cancel the Meet the Candidate Night event that was scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. This notice is to provide an explanation for this event, and the reasons we have decided to cancel it.

### **Background:**

The organization received many requests to host a "Meet the Candidates Event". This would provide an opportunity for all candidates to introduce themselves to Band Members. The event's intention was for Band Members to meet the candidates and then have a question-and-answer period for the Chief candidates. In full disclosure, the only administrative staff involved in planning this event were myself and Communications Manager, Mandy Richard. For this event, we planned the following:

- The logistical elements for the event- location, date, time
- Secured the space to host the event
- Communicated the event to the community
- Provide IT support- support to provide a virtual option, provide technical support for the event (i.e. Microphones, speakers, etc.)
- Provide security for the event to ensure safety
- Provide food and beverages for those in attendance
- Secured a non-Band member to host the event (facilitate and moderate) who would be non-biased, fair, and experienced.

It was decided that WUT Administration would sign a contract with the host, Mariette Sutherland, as we believed that she was the best choice to facilitate a fair and respectful event due to her experience in this and other areas.

In efforts to ensure fairness to all candidates, the event was structured to have questions submitted in advance, and not allow questions to be asked in-person, or through the Zoom Chat for the following reasons:

1. It would require a lot more time to allow in-person questions and zoom questions, and the event is already 5 hours in length.
  - a. best course of action was to provide Band Members the opportunity to submit questions in advance (2-week time period July 14-July 29, 2026)
2. We want to minimize any administrative involvement; therefore, would not provide staff to monitor the zoom chat
3. This process allows structure and organization for the host

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The review of the questions remained the duty of the host, and not with the organization. The host would be responsible for receiving the questions and merging similar questions for the panel discussion, and all Chief Candidates would be provided with an opportunity to answer. The questions were not to be shared with anyone until the event; not with myself or the Communications Manager, nor any of the candidates or the current Chief and Council or anyone working in the political office. Again, this was to ensure a fair, and non-biased approach.

In full disclosure, the funds for this event (Meet the Candidate Night) are derived from an internal source of revenue. For context, Administration charges each project and program an administration fee on all incoming revenue. These funds are used for various administrative and governance expenses, and we have allocated funds for this event (Meet the Candidate Night) from these funds.

Furthermore, the only involvement of Administration was to provide space, food/beverages, technical support, and to secure a non-biased third-party host. This event or its process did not involve the current Chief, or Councillors, or any political staff. Again, it was only the Communications Manager and I.

Over the last few days, we have received complaints from Band Members about this process. The Communications Manager and I have provided clarification to some Band Members who have reached out to ask questions about the process. Unfortunately, there continues to be public statements and accusations about the event and its process. These inaccurate assumptions imply dishonesty of those involved in the planning of this event, and are damaging to the integrity of the organization, its employees, and the election process. For these reasons, WUT Administration will be cancelling the event.

We value the integrity of the organization and its employees, and we will not subject the organization to false assumptions that question those values. This event's intention was to provide an opportunity for Band Members to meet the candidates before Election Day; it was all in good faith.

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Shelley Trudeau  
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