

Proposed Membership Code October 5, 2019 Discussion

The Wahta Mohawk membership code was first introduced in 1987. Several changes have taken place throughout the years, most notably in 2014 with the decrease in blood quantum from 50% to 25% eligibility.

With the changing environment regarding Indian Status and issues of inclusivity within our community the question of membership continues to this day.

An initiative was started back in 2016 to look at sustainable alternatives to the membership code. Chief and Council conducted various membership meetings, hired consultants and implemented a full membership survey to determine a realistic approach to sustaining the future of Wahta Mohawks.

In late 2018 the membership survey was completed as well as individual interviews and community meetings were held. Although the results of the 2018 survey along with consultation meetings are mixed, we have gained a great deal of knowledge in understanding what may be a reasonable alternative to blood quantum.

The survey and various community interviews suggest that blood quantum is not an effective tool for preserving culture and the application of assessing blood quantum is flawed.

A more inclusive approach may be to look at lineage. The survey suggests that if only one parent is a member then no blood quantum is required, this would fit in line with a lineage approach to the membership code.

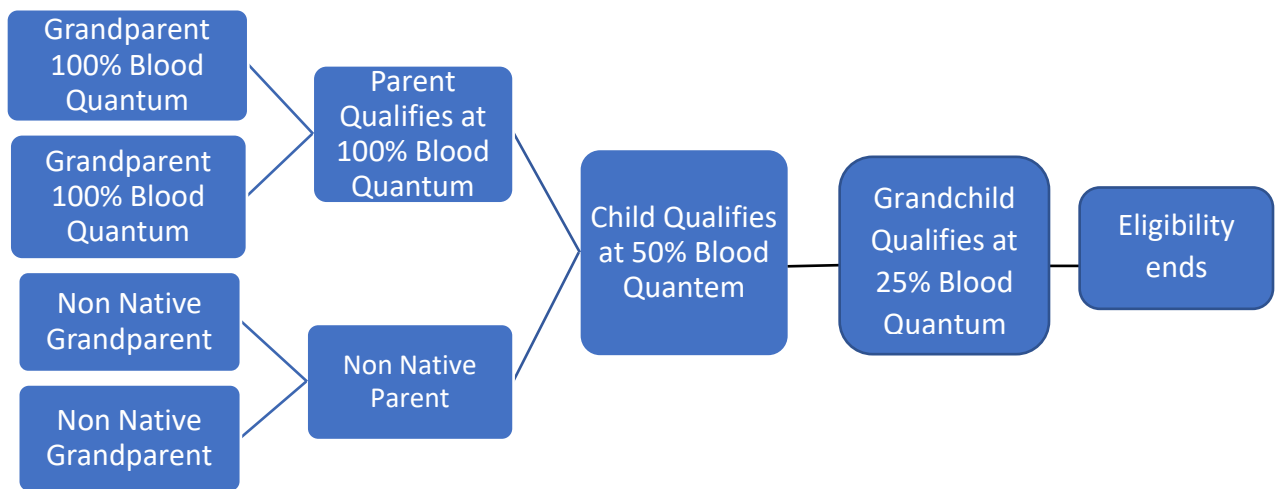
Included in this package is a proposed membership code based on lineage and a plain language version that outlines the changes and how they would be applied. The current membership code requires a referendum vote to approve any changes. This proposed membership code and a possible future referendum will be discussed at the October 5 general meeting.

Sincerely,

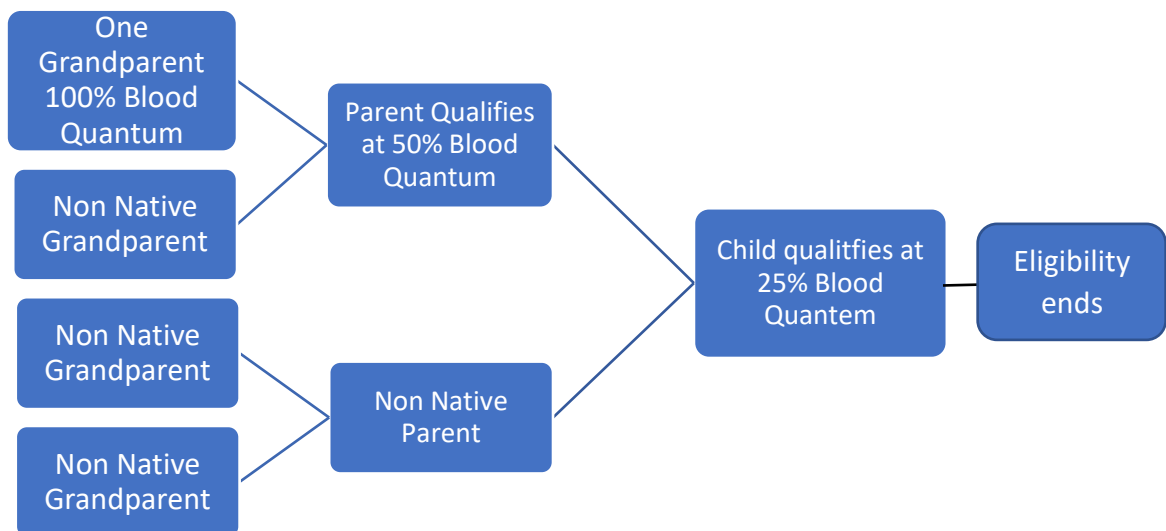
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chief Franks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief Franks

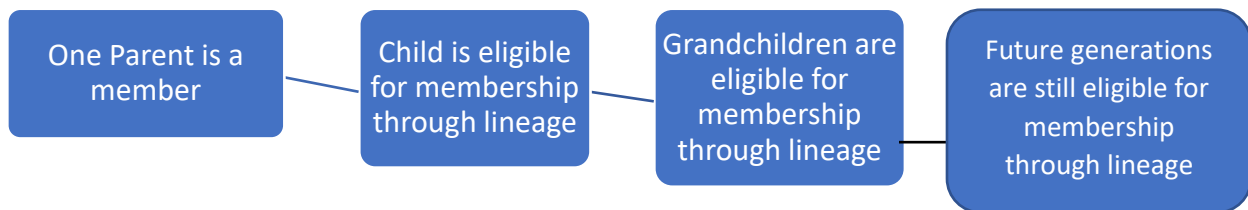
Current 2014 Membership Code Based on Blood Quantum
(Two grandparents with 100% Blood Quantum)



Current 2014 Membership Code Based on Blood Quantum
(One Grandparent with 100% Blood Quantum)

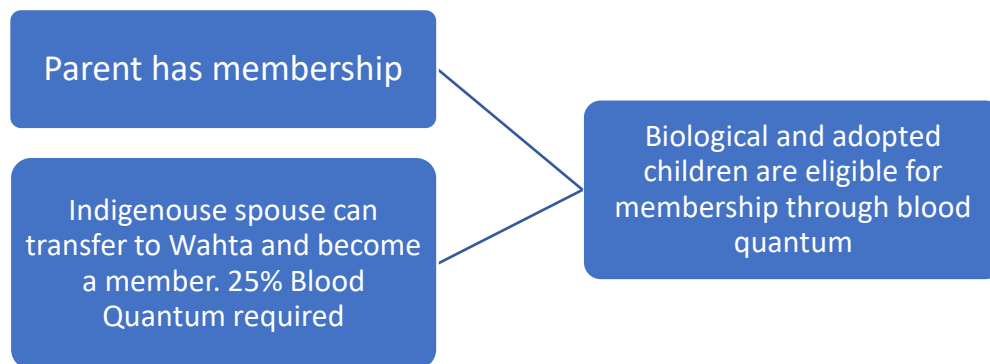


Proposed Membership Code Based on Lineage



Current 2014 Membership Code

Transfer of Membership to Spouses Based on Blood Quantum



Proposed Membership Code

Transfer of Membership to Spouses Based on Lineage

