



2020 ELECTION NOTICE

DATE CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC JUNE 6, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m

**We strongly encourage you to consider voting by
Mail-In ballot to avoid having to attend the polls on
June 6, 2020.**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the safety of all Wahta Mohawk Electors, and to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we have postponed the election of the Wahta Mohawks.

June 6, 2020 is still not a date where we will be able to guarantee that there will not be a risk for the spread of the virus, however, we are hopeful. We are encouraging all electors to request a Mail-In ballot package and vote through this process to avoid attending the polls where possible. **This is the safest way for you to exercise your right to vote.**

Should you choose to still attend the polls on June 6, 2020 we will be following the local Health Unit's recommendations on COVID-19 protocols, which may include a limited number of people in the premise at any one time, sanitizing areas regularly, COVID-19 screening to enter premises, safe distancing, etc. This may slow down the process, and we ask that you be patient and bear with us as we do our best to decrease the spread.

**ELECTION DAY – JUNE 6, 2020 from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
2664 Muskoka Road, Wahta Mohawk Territory**

For a mail in ballot package, please mail or email your enclosed Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application Form to Kelly or Matthew using contact information shown below:

Kelly Maracle
831 Lower Slash Road,
Deseronto, ON K0K 1X0
kelly@m-powerconsulting.ca
613-920-1676

Matthew Commandant
2664 Muskoka Rd. 38 Wahta
Box 260, Bala, ON POC 1A0
matthew.commandant@wahtamohawks.ca
705-644-4227

Please stay home, practice physical distancing, and most of all stay safe!



Wahta Mohawks Election Mail-In Ballots Frequently Asked Questions

Although this is the first election where Wahta electors have been able to vote through a mail in process, First Nations have been using this process since 2001. I personally have been an Electoral Officer since 1997 and have conducted many elections that use this safe mail in process. Here are some FAQ's to assist you with any questions you might have. Should you wish to discuss this process with me, please contact me by telephone 613-920-1676 or by email kelly@m-powerconsulting.ca

How do I get my mail in ballot?

Enclosed in this package is a *2020 Election – Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application Form*. Please fill out this form, including your name, date of birth, address and phone number. Please sign this form and have a witness fill out the bottom portion and also sign the form. Send this back to Kelly Maracle or Matthew Commandant as soon as possible and a Mail out Package will be sent.

Where do I send my 2020 Election – Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application Form?

This form can be sent by mail to either:

Kelly Maracle

831 Lower Slash Road, Deseronto, ON K0K 1X0

Or

Matthew Commandant

2664 Muskoka Rd. 38 Wahta, Box 260, Bala, ON P0C 1A0

Or by email to:

kelly@m-powerconsulting.ca Or Matthew.commandant@wahtamohawks.ca

How long will it take to get my Ballot Package once I send in my form?

According to Canada Post, standard regular mail takes 2 business days for local delivery, 3 business days for delivery within the province and 4 business days anywhere else within Canada. It can take up to 6 business days outside of Canada. Please ensure you mail your packages back as soon as possible once received, to ensure they get back to us before the election day.

What does the ballot package consist of?

Once you send us in your application form, we will send out your Ballot package. This package includes instructions, a declaration form, a ballot, a ballot only envelope and an outer self-addressed stamped envelope to return your ballot and declaration to Wahta Mohawks Election.

What will I have to do once I receive the package?

You will need to follow the instructions, which include filling out the declaration, which includes name, address, date of birth, band number and signature. You will then need this to be witnessed. You will then fill out your ballot by marking an X beside the name of up to 4 candidates that you would like to vote for. You will then seal your ballot into the smaller

envelope marked ballot only. You will then place the signed and completed declaration form and the ballot only envelope (with the ballot inside) into the outer stamped envelope, which is already addressed. You will then take this to your local post office and place it into the mail.

Why do I have to provide my band number or date of birth?

This is the information we use to verify that it is the correct person on the voters list. If we cannot verify that you are an elector, we will not be able to accept your ballot and your package will be rejected.

What happens if I do not return the fully completed Declaration Accompanying the Mail-In Ballot form?

If this form is not completed and enclosed as part of your package, your ballot will not be accepted and will not be placed in the ballot box.

Do I have to vote for 4 candidates?

No, you do not have to vote for 4 candidates. You can vote for 1, 2, 3 or 4 candidates using an X beside their name. You cannot vote for more than 4. If you vote for more than 4, your ballot will be rejected, and your vote will not count.

What happens once I mail in my ballot?

All ballots are mailed to the secured post office box located at the Bala post office. These mail ins will be retrieved by the Election staff after the last mail sort of the day prior to the election. (There is no access to the post office on election day). These will be counted and verified by the Election Staff and documented. They will then be kept in a secured location in a locked box and brought to the polls by the election staff. At the close of the polls, the mail in ballots will then be processed. Each envelope will be carefully opened, the declaration will be verified against the voters list and the name, date of birth and/or band number will be compared to ensure that the person filling out the information is a qualified elector. Once this is done the ballot only envelope will be opened, keeping the ballot closed and confidential and will be placed in the ballot box with all of the ballots received during the polls. If a declaration cannot be verified, it will not be accepted, and the ballot will remain in the sealed ballot only envelope. Once all mail has been opened the ballots will then be counted.

What happens if my ballot isn't mailed back in time?

Any ballot not received by the close of the polls, will not be counted.

If I have already voted, do I need to vote again?

No, if you have already requested a ballot package, you cannot request another one. The same ballots are sitting securely at the Post Office until June 6th, 2020. You are not required to request another package or mail in a second ballot.

If you have any further questions, please contact Kelly Maracle at 613-920-1676 or kelly@m-powerconsulting.ca