

## Summary of Amendments to the Electoral Code and Its Annexes

### ELECTORAL CODE

Theme	Articles Concerned	Before	After / Key Changes	Explanation
<b>Number of Terms</b>	Art. 3.1	Unlimited.	Limited to three (3) consecutive terms for Elected Officials.	Discussions weighed democratic freedom (letting the population decide) against the need to foster new leadership. The compromise reached recognizes the value of experience while avoiding the professionalization of elected positions. Three (3) consecutive terms provide a sufficient cycle to complete projects while ensuring the renewal of ideas and faces.
<b>Term Duration</b>	Art. 3	Four (4) years.	Maintained at four (4) years.	Elections every four (4) years would offer stability but reduce citizen participation. Elections too frequent lead to high costs and voter fatigue. The compromise ensures both continuity, renewal, and accountability.
<b>Vacancy and By-election</b>	Art. 4	If a position became vacant six (6) months before a general election, a by-election had to be held.	If a position becomes vacant twelve (12) months before a general election, a by-election must be held. Addition of the possibility for the Council to postpone the by-election to the General Election.	
<b>Grounds for Vacancy and Ineligibility to Run as Candidate</b>	Art. 5 and 14.1	—	Addition of a new ground for vacancy: a violation of policies on the confidentiality of personal information (art. 70.1 to 70.3 of	

			the Electoral Code). Addition of an exception for a guilty verdict in case of a defense or reasonable assertion of rights.	
<b>Election Methods</b>	Art. 6 and 15	Preferential majority election (indicate 1, 2, 3 in order of preference) following an election by Family Circles.	The candidates with the most votes are elected, with a return to X, +, √ or filled-in marks on ballots.	The preferential method, introduced to increase representativeness, proved complex and sometimes misunderstood. The working group chose to return to simplicity and clarity, so that each vote counts in a direct and understandable manner.
<b>Decolonization of Vocabulary</b>	Example art. 7	"Band" list.	"Member" list.	Replace words such as "band," "reserve," and other similar terms with terminology reflecting modern administration, as much as possible in the Wendat language
<b>Abolition of Family Circles</b>	Art. 9 et seq.	—	Abolition of family circles.	Family circles are no longer proportional to the number of members they represent. The working group concluded that it was necessary to return to a simple and open system, where any Wendat with voter status can run as a candidate.
<b>Incompatibility of Functions</b>	Art. 14.2	—	Addition of an incompatibility of function between the position of Elected Official of the CNW and membership on a Municipal Council or as a Provincial or Federal Elected Official.	

<b>Appointment of the Election President</b>	Art. 19	By the Council.	By the Guardians Committee, ratified by the Council.	
<b>Duration of the Electoral Period</b>	Art. 46	Fifty-one (51) days.	Forty (40) days.	The fifty-one (51) day campaign period was considered too long and costly. The shortening allows: (a) reducing fatigue for voters and candidates; (b) better focusing the debate on real issues; (c) simplifying the work of the Election President
<b>Tie or Insufficient Positions</b>	Art. 17.1 and 61.1	—	Addition: by-elections must be held within two (2) months in the first case and within six (6) months in the second case.	
<b>Provisions on Protection/Confidentiality of Personal Information</b>	Art. 70.1 to 70.3	—	Addition: provisions ensuring confidentiality of information notably contained in the electoral list and the accountability of the Candidate who obtained the list.	The coming into force of "Bill 25" in Quebec and the increased importance given to personal information protection in our society also influenced the amendment of the Code, to ensure the protection of data collected for an election.
<b>Electronic Voting</b>	Art. 99.1	—	Addition: provision allowing electronic voting.	Electronic voting will be permitted in case of a postal strike, if the technology allows.

ANNEX 1 – ELECTORAL REGULATION

Theme	Articles Concerned	Before	After / Key Changes
<b>Candidacy Supported by Twenty (20) Wendat Voter Signatures</b>	Art. 53 of the Electoral Code and Form 2 c) and d) of the Regulation	Candidacy supported by a proposer and a seconder only + 5% of the Family Circle and selection at the Family Circle assembly.	Candidacy supported by twenty (20) Wendat voter signatures.

ANNEX 2 – ADDITION OF THE REGULATION CONCERNING HENNENNONHNHA' AND ABOLITION OF THE REGULATION CONCERNING THE CIRCLE OF ELDERS

Theme	Articles Concerned	Before: Circle of Elders	After / Key Changes	Explanation
<b>Body Overseeing Electoral Code Compliance and Group Composition</b>	Art. 1 and definitions	Circle of Elders (eight (8) Elders).	Hennennonhnha' (five (5) members).	Wendat respondents to the 2023 survey expressed an attachment to the Circle of Elders (82% wish to maintain it), but also a desire to better define its role (52% of Wendat wish to review its role). The Circle of Elders would be maintained for a ceremonial and symbolic role within the Nation, but would remain apolitical and, as such, would no longer be involved in the Electoral Code or the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected Officials.
<b>Selection Body for Hennennonhnha'</b>	Art. 2 and 2.1	By the Family Circles.	Working group concerning the revision of the Electoral Code, then Selection Committee composed of the Clerk of the Council and two (2)	

			Hennennonhnha' members.	
<b>Composition</b>	Art. 3	Elders.	At the absolute discretion of the Selection Committee from among: young Wendat men and women aged eighteen (18) to thirty-five (35), Wendat residing in Wendake, Wendat not residing in Wendake, and Wendat elders aged sixty-five (65) or older.	
<b>Term Duration</b>	Art. 4	Uniform four (4) year term.	Staggered terms (three (3) members for one (1) year, one (1) member for three (3) years, and one (1) member for two (2) years) + one (1) possible renewal.	
<b>Obligation to Adopt a Code of Ethics and Compensation Guidelines</b>	Art. 14	—	Obligation to adopt a Code of Ethics.	
<b>Functions</b>	Art. 16 to 19	- Right to review	- Power in	

		regulations and resolutions; - Right to a consultative referendum; - Power of recommendation to the Council; - Research power on any matter; - Advisory role to the Council; - Mediator role; - Declaration of vacancy (art. 5); - Declaration of ineligibility (art. 14.1).	matters of election and amendment to the Electoral Code: annul an election, declaration of vacancy (art. 5 of the Code), declaration of candidate ineligibility (art. 14.1 of the Code). - Advisory role to the Council on any matter as needed.	
<b>Budget</b>	Art. 33	—	Addition of an annual budget for Hennennonhnhha' in the event they must mandate external resources and for member compensation.	

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**ANNEX 3 – REGULATION ON THE PROCEDURE AND FUNCTIONING OF ASSEMBLIES**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Articles Concerned</b>	<b>Before</b>	<b>After / Key Changes</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Procedure on Petitions</b>	Art. 16.1 to 16.3	—	Addition: - Any letter, request, petition, report, or other	Petitions have risen in popularity over the past year, and the working group wished to include provisions to frame this mechanism. These new provisions will frame not only

			<p>document must be transmitted to the Clerk of the Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Clerk of the Council tables this document at the meeting following its receipt and informs the Council of the nature and origin of the document;</li> <li>- The Assembly President may also receive, during the first part of the question period or during the meeting, the physical tabling of such a document, unless its content is vexatious;</li> <li>- A document tabled before the Council is not subject to debate. The Assembly President may, however, authorize a question to clarify its scope.</li> </ul>	<p>petitions but also any letter, request, petition, report, or other document intended to be submitted to the Council.</p>
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ANNEX 4 – CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE WENDAT NATION COUNCIL

Theme	Articles Concerned	Before	After / Key Changes	Explanation
<b>Addition of an Ethics and Conduct Commissioner to Assume the Role of the Circle of</b>	Definitions and art. 12.1, 12.2, and 15.1	Circle of Elders (eight (8) Elders).	Ethics and Conduct Commissioner, who is a member of the Nation with relevant experience (e.g., in law), appointed for four (4) years. They must	This commissioner will be supported by an external lawyer and will be compensated on a per diem basis for each request.

<b>Elders Regarding Ethics and Conduct</b>			mandate a lawyer to assist them.	
<b>Attendance and Absence of Elected Officials</b>	Art. 9 para. 2 and 3	—	<p>Addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Absence for more than three (3) consecutive months for serious reason: end of term at the Council's discretion, and if remaining in office = half of emoluments;</li> <li>- Absence for more than six (6) consecutive months = vacancy of position.</li> </ul>	To address absences of Elected Officials for an indefinite period.
<b>Conduct Detrimental to the Honor and Dignity of the Elected Official Position</b>	Art. 10.1	—	Addition: provision prohibiting an Elected Official from behaving disrespectfully and engaging in conduct detrimental to the honor and dignity of the elected position.	
<b>Defense Costs</b>	Art. 24 and 25	—	Addition: provisions on defense costs and the Council's obligation to assume the defense of Elected Officials subject to a process under the Code of Ethics.	

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 2021-02 CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION OF PERSONS ON THE TERRITORY OF WENDAKE

Theme	Articles Concerned	Before	After / Key Changes	Explanation
<p><b>Presence of the Ethics and Conduct Commissioner at the Hearing of the Person Found Guilty</b></p>	<p>Art. 5</p>	<p>Circle of Elders</p>	<p>Ethics and Conduct Commissioner present at the hearing.</p>	