



**Williams Lake**  
FIRST NATION

## FACT SHEET ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WLFN MEMBERSHIP RULES

Dated: March 26, 2024

**Question:** What are the Membership Rules?

**Answer:** The Membership Rules set out the process for becoming a Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) Member. The WLFN Membership Rules were adopted under Section 10 of the Indian Act in 1991 and gave WLFN the ability to make its own determination about who can become a WLFN Member.

**Question:** Why is WLFN considering amendments to the existing Membership Rules?

**Answer:** We've had the opportunity to work with these rules for some time and have found that there are a number of areas that could be expanded or improved in the rules.

**Question:** What amendments are being proposed to the Membership Rules?

**Answer:** There is an entirely new draft of the Membership Rules being proposed. This new draft is intended to be easier to understand, manage, and administer. The updated Membership Rules will provide additional details regarding the application and approval process for WLFN Membership, alongside distinct and improved guidelines for appealing decisions made under these rules.

A summary of some of the key content in the new Membership Rules is as follows:

- There is a person called the "Membership Administrator" responsible for administering the process under the Membership Rules. The Membership Administrator is the keeper of the official Membership List.
- To be eligible to apply for WLFN membership, a person must be a status Indian under the Indian Act and they must not be a member of another First Nation (or they must confirm they will be removed from the Membership of the other First Nation prior to their addition to the WLFN Membership List).
- There are two categories of applicants:
  - Applicants who have at least one parent who is a WLFN Member (Category 1 Applicants); and
  - Applicants whose parents are not WLFN Members (Category 2 Applicants).
- Category 1 Applicants can be automatically added to the Membership List (provided they comply with all other requirements of the Membership Rules).
- In order to be added to the Membership List, applicants in Category 2 must be approved by a vote of WLFN Electors at a Special Membership Meeting. The process for this vote is set out in detail in Part V of the new Membership Rules.
- A person whose application has been rejected in a vote of the Membership may make reapply to a maximum of five (5) times, under the new rules.

- If a person has a dispute over the decision of the Membership Administrator or the outcome of a vote there is a process for appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent party called an “arbitrator”.
- The new Membership Rules can be amended by a referendum conducted in accordance with the WLFN Land Code.

**Question:** What is required for Council to adopt the new Membership Rules?

**Answer:** In order to adopt the new Membership Rules, we must follow the process for amendment set out in the **existing** Rules. This requires a vote of the membership. If 51% of all electors are not present for the vote, then the amendments must be approved by a petition signed by 51% of all electors.

**Question:** When will the vote to approve the new Membership Rules take place?

**Answer:** You will receive a notice regarding the date of the vote to approve the new Membership Rules. The vote will take place in May-June 2024.

**Question:** Is there someone who I can talk to, or ask questions, about the proposed changes to the Membership Rules?

**Answer:** Yes. Please contact Lisa Camille at:

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