



Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation

6247 Indian Lane,
Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Ontario, Canada N0N 1J1

Election to be postponed, current council term extended during pandemic

In effort to protect health and safety of community members during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 general election will be postponed for up to six months, **however**, the length of extension could be affected by a recession of the Covid-19 virus spread.

After careful deliberation, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation (KSPFN) Chief and Council approved this motion through a Band Council Resolution.

This move aligns with the community strategy to prevent spread of COVID-19 by:

- ensuring available resources are dedicated to safety measures, and
- limiting unnecessary interactions between people in the community.

Please note general elections require additional staffing and resources from the nomination process through to election day. During this unprecedented time, the First Nation does not have capacity to implement an election safely while following health guidelines to prevent spread of COVID-19. The election was originally scheduled for the end of July, with the next council term set to begin August 3, 2020. Instead the election may be postponed until January.

To ensure continuance of governance, Chief and Council will continue in their roles at this time. That means the current council term could be extended to Feb. 3, 2021. The extension is allowed under temporary **First Nations Election Cancellation and Postponement**

Regulations introduced by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in April to ensure sitting leadership could continue their focus on keeping communities safe during the pandemic.

ISC has recommended First Nations postpone upcoming elections to prevent spread of COVID-19. It is expected that other communities will follow those recommendations.

Health and safety of community members is the **number one priority** for this First Nation. It is the reason leadership declared a **community emergency**, implemented a **border closure order** and banned gatherings of **more than five people**. For weeks, leadership has been encouraging best health practices, such as physical distancing.

The decision to postpone the election aims to protect health and safety of all First Nation members.

However, Kettle and Stony Point Council will closely monitor the spread of Covid-19. When provincial health officials determine the virus is in recession and it's safe to end stay-home guidelines, and on the advice of local health authorities and the CCG, an election will be called, starting the nomination process. This could be before the end of the six-month extension.