

The top priority of the Chief and Council in hosting the 2020 Samson Cree Nation Leadership Nominations and Elections in July 2020 in place of May 2020 was to allow time to prepare and adopt safety measures for the nominations and elections for the Chief and the Councillors to take place in a manner that is fair and also protects the safety, health, welfare and well-being of the members of Samson Cree Nation, the staff and the election workers.

We also believe that health and safety is our shared responsibility and we thank our Nation members for doing their part.

Preliminary Considerations

Due to COVID-19, all Samson Cree Nation public buildings are closed with the intent that the offices will begin re-opening in mid-June for employees who are expected to work on site. Public access will continue to be restricted and you will be updated on the status of public access to the buildings as restrictions are lifted.

Should access for political rallies and / or campaigns be granted, the use of social media is strongly encouraged. In person and door to door campaigning is discouraged to ensure Nation members stay safe and to prevent and / or limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Indoor gatherings are limited to 15 persons subject to physical distancing (2 metres apart).

Outdoor gatherings are limited to 50 persons subject to physical distancing (2 metres apart).

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and you have not obtained medical clearance for COVID-19, please adhere to Alberta Health Service's (AHS) public health orders and stay home. In such cases, you are prohibited from attending at any of the nomination meetings and / or polling stations.

Self-Assessment Tool

All Election Personnel and all Nation members are required to use the self-assessment tool before attending election-related gatherings, including the nomination meetings and the elections. A copy of the self-assessment tool is available online at: <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/Assessment.aspx>.

In Preparation for the Upcoming Nomination Meetings

Candidates: Instructions will be provided upon registration. If possible, limit attendance at the nomination meeting to yourself and your mover and seconder. Bring all required information to process your nomination, including your criminal record check, notarized (current) photo, as well as your completed Identification Form, Residency Form, and Affidavit of Nominated Candidate, as outlined on the attached **Election Tip Sheet**, as well as your fees. If possible, keep your election documents together in a folder and, if possible, pay your fees by certified cheque or money order rather than cash.

If, as a result of a COVID-19 positive result, or alternatively, as a result of your self-assessment, you determine that it is not possible for you to attend at a nomination meeting in Maskwacis and you plan to accept a nomination for a position as Chief and / or Councillor, you must call the Electoral Officer at 306- 227-3373 or, Election Technician at 780-352-1144 **one day prior to the scheduled nomination meeting date** to confirm whether you plan to accept a nomination and, if so, to make arrangement to accept the nomination by virtual means, such as FaceTime, Zoom, Skype or Webex. You will also need to make arrangements with someone to submit your written acceptance of nomination, criminal record check, notarized (current) photo, as well as your completed Identification Form, Residency Form, and Affidavit of Nominated Candidate, to the Electoral Officer before the close of the nomination meeting.

In Preparation for the Upcoming Elections:

Voters: Bring your identification with you, black Bic pens for marking your ballot, if possible, and, if you have one, a mask, which we encourage you to wear while you are at the polling station. In preparation for voting, consider coming to the polling station at non-peak times to vote. Also, if possible, arrange for child care away from the polling station to help us limit the number of people in the venue.

If, on the election date, you are legally required to self-isolate or to quarantine due to COVID-19, you may be able to vote by virtual means. Please contact the Electoral Officer (at 306- 227-3373) or Election Technician at (780-352-1144) **one day prior to the scheduled election date, to make arrangements for voting by a virtual means such as FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, and / or Webex, which allows election staff to see you and to verify your identity before taking your instructions on how to fill out your ballot.**

Virtual Voting

If you are in quarantine due to COVID-19, and **one day prior to the scheduled election date, you made arrangements with the Electoral Officer and / or the Election Technician to vote by a virtual means such as FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, or Webex, you must follow the voting instructions provided to you.**

At the scheduled time for voting, election staff will verify your identity and you will be asked to confirm that the correct name has been checked off on the voter's list. Election staff will then take your instructions on how to fill out your ballot. Before the ballot is deposited into the ballot box designated for virtual voters, you will be shown the marked ballot so that you can confirm that your ballot has been marked correctly.

Safety Measures for In-Person Nominations and / or In-Person Voting

1. Temperature Taking

All nomination meetings and polling stations will administer temperature checks for persons coming to the venue(s). If the person's temperature is above normal, an assessment will be carried out by the Safety Compliance Officer and / or the Nurse who will make a determination whether the person is symptomatic. Persons who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, difficulty breathing, coughing, sneezing, will be directed to the curbside/drive thru line up to conduct a nomination or to vote.

Subject to the availability of PPE supplies, election workers will provide masks to persons exhibiting symptoms before directing them to the drive-thru / curbside line-up.

Emergency management personnel will also refer all Nation members displaying COVID-19-like symptoms for testing.

2. Drive-thru / Curbside Nominations and / or Voting

A drive thru / curbside line-up will be available for the elderly and those requiring assistance on a priority basis.

Persons who are symptomatic and who are directed to the drive thru / curbside line-up, are asked to give priority to the elderly and those requiring assistance, unless the Compliance Officer and / or Nurse recommends that the symptomatic individual's nomination and / or vote be processed on an urgent basis..

A separate nominations and / or voting table will be designated for persons with disabilities and vulnerable `at risk` persons requiring assistance to facilitate ease of access, and / or seating, and to expedite wait times. Access to this line-up will be restricted to one caregiver, from the same household, to accompany each of these individuals. This designated nominations and / or voting table will be set up near the entrance, exit, and indoor washroom where elders and those requiring assistance will have priority access. Depending upon the availability of PPE supplies, such as gloves and face masks, PPE may be provided to the Elders, upon request. Room dividers or curtains may be used to shield this designated area from other line-up(s) in the venue.

If there is space available in the separate line-up, persons who are on foot may be directed to this line-up.

4. **Social Distancing**

Social distancing procedures (2 metres apart) will be implemented and strictly monitored.

Clear markers (i.e. tape and signage) will be used showing a **DESIGNATED** one-way flow for line-ups with markers located two metres apart.

Separated entrances and exits will be designated to help ensure physical distancing.

Persons who are not from the same household must maintain a minimum of 2 metres distance from one another at all times.

To prevent large crowds, members are encouraged to conduct nominations and / or vote during off-peak hours. In addition, non-essential visitors at the polling stations or nomination meetings, especially children, are discouraged.

5. **Gathering Restrictions**

Currently the maximum number of persons allowed in an **outdoor** venue at any given time is restricted to **50 persons** dependent on the spacing requirements and the size of the venue.

Currently the maximum number of persons allowed in the **indoor** venue at any given time is restricted to **15 persons** dependent on the spacing requirements and the size of the venue.

Given these restrictions, if necessary, Nation members on foot who cannot be accommodated in another line-up, may be given a number and asked to return at a specific time while Nation members in vehicles may be asked to wait in line in their vehicle until more people can be accommodated in the venue. To ensure fairness, anyone who is 'lined up' at the close of nominations and / or at the close of polls, including those waiting in their vehicles, will be given an opportunity to submit their nomination and / or to vote.

6. **Security**

SCN Peacekeepers will be on site to keep the peace and to ensure social distancing requirements and gathering restrictions are followed.

7. **Election Personnel; PPE and Shields**

All election personnel, including the Electoral Officer, the Electoral Officer`s Assistant, a Safety Compliance Officer, Security, Sanitation, and Nation Employees assigned to each location and / or polling station, will wear PPE, gloves, masks and face shield.

assigned to each location and / or polling station will be working at a table / in a booth with a protective shield.

Election personnel who develop symptoms during the nomination meetings and / or during the elections will be replaced immediately.

8. **Voters; PPE and Voting Pens**

Nation members are encouraged to utilize face masks (and gloves); however, unless large quantities of PPE are obtained before the nomination and election dates, Samson Cree Nation will only be providing PPE for election personnel, Elders, upon request, and to persons exhibiting symptoms upon arrival.

As a precaution, voters are encouraged to bring a black Bic pen to mark the voter ballot. However, pens will be available at the polling stations and will be cleaned with wipes if they are used by voters.

9. **Stay Safe; Practice Hand Hygiene; Hand Sanitizing**

Proper hand sanitizing or hand washing stations including hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be available at each polling booth / registration table and the designated entrance(s) and designated exit(s) for use by all Nation members and election personnel.

Tissue will be made available at hand sanitizing stations.

If possible, sneeze or cough into your bent elbow.

Avoid touching your face.

Follow the advice on posted notices.

10. **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

Cleaning and sanitizing will occur at regular intervals throughout the day or immediately after someone sneezes or coughs in the venue. Particular attention will be paid to high touch surfaces which will be cleaned and sanitized frequently. Routine cleaning of nomination and / or voting tables, screens and other surfaces will occur after every 5-10 uses.

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of the washrooms and outdoor toilets, including the light switches, door knobs, faucets and taps, toilet handles, will occur during the nomination meetings and the elections.

11. **Trash**

Extra garbage bins with removable linings will be available to help people appropriately dispose of used or damaged masks.

Trash will be removed frequently,

12. **Toilet Facilities**

Outdoor toilets which will be set up to accommodate persons waiting in line for nominations and / or to vote.

Indoor public washroom facilities will be limited to three people in the washroom at a time with priority being given to elders and those requiring assistance.

Food and Beverages
With the exception of pre-packaged food bars and bottled water on hand for extenuating circumstances, there will be no food or beverages served to the public in the venue during the nomination meetings and elections.

14. Post-election Practice (Counting of Votes)

The number of scrutineers for each candidate will be limited to one. Scrutineers are signed in by their candidates. Scrutineers must be prepared to stay all day with lunch and if they leave, must complete an assessment again prior to entering the poll.

Samson Cree Nation will use online streaming of the vote count to reduce the need for public attendance at the main polling station.

Election Appeal Board

The Election Appeal Board will meet in person to address appeals unless extenuating circumstances exist.

Updates

Stay tuned to Hawk Radio and Social Media for Announcements and Updates on the safety measures adopted for the 2020 Samson Cree Nation Leadership nominations and elections, including information on campaigns, nomination meeting procedures, voting procedures, including drive thru / curbside and virtual voting, wait times for voting, changes in the availability of PPE, and related updates on the status of public health restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and any implications it may pose for the safety measures outlined above.

Enclosures: Election Tip Sheet and Checklist for Individuals Seeking Candidacy

Samson Election Law Schedules E, F, & G

Dates: Chief:	Chief Nomination Day	July 7, 2020
	Chief Election (Voting) Day	July 14, 2020
Councillor:	Councillor Nomination Day	July 21, 2020
	Councillor Election (Voting) Day	July 28, 2020

CHECKLIST

To be eligible, you must:

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Obtain a criminal record check (see below and refer to Schedule "E" of the Election Law)
- Complete Schedule "E" – Affidavit of Nominated Candidate.
- to be attached to Schedule "F" – Identification Form
- Complete Schedule "F" – Identification Form. Take this Schedule, your notarized photo (required for posting) and your government photo ID to the Membership Department and have it completed and sworn.
- Complete Schedule "G" – Residency Form. You must be a resident on or within a 100 km radius of the boundaries of the Samson Cree Nation Indian Reserve #137 or Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve # 138A for a period of not less than 6 months immediately preceding the election.
- Obtain a notarized (current) photograph for posting during the election (this does not have to be a passport photo) and
- Submit payment of the election fee (cash, certified cheque, money order or bank draft). \$ 1,000 for the office of the Chief and \$ 500 for the office of Councillor, payable to Samson Cree Nation.

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK INFORMATION (see s. 3.1 of the Election Law)

1. If you know you have a criminal record, go to the local RCMP Detachment because you will need to get your fingerprints done and obtain a certified criminal record. The cost varies from \$ 25 - \$ 50. Bring a money order payable to the Receiver General. You will need to provide this certified criminal record to the Electoral Officer. **IT TAKES TWO WEEKS TO ONE YEAR TO GET THE RESULTS, SO DON'T DELAY.** Next – you need to go to the courthouse where the charges arose and get a copy of the conviction and provide this **ALONG** with your statement verifying that "the information is true and current as of the application for candidacy".*
2. If you don't have a criminal record, go to your local RCMP Detachment and request the record check Monday-Friday. Ask the Detachment when you can expect the results of the Criminal Record Check because the times and costs may vary. There is no cost for the Maskwacis RCMP criminal record check for local residents. Provide this information **ALONG** with your statement verifying that "the information is true and current as of the application for candidacy and does not disclose a criminal record". **PLEASE NOTE: If the criminal record check comes back with a result that indicates you may or may not have a criminal record then you must obtain a certified criminal record with fingerprints (see step 1 above).**

*The criminal record check without a fingerprint record will only provide very limited information. This record check does not indicate the type of criminal convictions or dates or the information required by the Electoral Officer if you have a criminal record.

You are **ineligible** to run as a candidate if you have been convicted of a non-hybrid indictable offence (unless you have obtained a pardon and / or record suspension). **DO NOT WAIT AS ALL FORMS MUST BE IN ON NOMINATION DAY BY NO LATER THAN 4 P.M.**

Any questions please call or text: Loretta J Pete Lambert at 306-227-3373 or Dorothy Simon at 780-352-1144

SCHEDULE "E"

AFFIDAVIT OF NOMINATED CANDIDATE

) In the Matter of _____
) Band Number _____ born
) _____, Nominated for Candidacy
) as Chief / Councillor in the 2020 Samson Cree
) Nation Election

I, _____, of _____, in the Province of Alberta, solemnly swear (or affirm):

1) I meet the Qualifications for Candidacy for Chief and Council as outlined in Section 3.1 of the SCN Election Law which states:

"3.1 A person is eligible to become a candidate for the position of Chief or Councillor if:

- a) his name appears on the Samson Cree Nation's Voter's list.
- b) he is of the full age of twenty-one (21) years;
- c) he has not been convicted of an indictable offense or, if he has been convicted of an indictable offense, he has received a pardon and / or record suspension through the Canadian legal system; and
- d) he has been a resident on or within a 100 km radius of the boundaries of the Samson Cree Nation Indian Reserve #137 or Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve # 138A for a period of not less than six (6) months immediately preceding an election."

2) I have submitted the following documents as per all the eligibility requirements (marked with a v):

Required Under Section 3.1 (a) of the Samson Election Law

- a) proof of membership obtained from the Samson Cree Nation Membership Department if not verifiable from the Samson Voter's List;

Required Under Section 3.1 (b) of the Samson Election Law:

- b) proof of identification;
- c) a notarized (current) photograph for posting during the election;

Required Under Section 3.1 (c) of the Samson Election Law:

(Every candidate must obtain a criminal record check.)

d) a Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) check (i.e. criminal record check), (which, if it is not 'not clear' or 'not clear - accurate disclosure', includes a digital (fingerprint) criminal record check);

e) If the candidate has a criminal record: provide a copy of the conviction, or the order of acquittal, or in the case of a stay of proceedings or the withdrawal of a criminal charge, a copy of the information confirming same obtained from the court house where the charges arise accompanied by a statement by the Candidate verifying that the information is true and current as of the application for candidacy or any alternative search result which confirms that the applicant's criminal record does not disclose a non-hybrid indictable offence.

Required Under Section 3.3 of the Samson Election Law:

f) proof of payment of election fee in the form of cash, certified cheque, money order or bank draft.

3) Unless I have filed a request for review in accordance with Section 7.1, or an appeal in accordance with Section 7.8 of the Samson Election Law, I understand and agree that all of the required documentation to prove eligibility for candidacy shall be submitted prior to the close of the nomination meeting.

I further understand that all documents are required prior to the close of the nomination meeting and if I fail to provide all documents, I shall cease to be a candidate for office for Chief or Councillor of the Samson Cree Nation.

I know of no reason why I should be disqualified from running as a candidate.

SWORN (or Affirmed) before me)

at _____, Alberta, this)

_____ day of _____, 2020.)

_____)

) Signature of Candidate

)

_____)

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

Reviewed by Electoral Officer (signature)

SCHEDULE "F"
IDENTIFICATION FORM

Candidate: _____
(please print name)
Band No: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Signature: _____

I, the undersigned, a clerk with the Department of Membership of the Samson Cree Nation, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that

(please check the box that applies):

The person identified in the notarized (current) photograph, attached, is a candidate whose name is on the Samson Cree Nation membership and voter's list in accordance to section 3.(1)(a) of the Election Law; and

(please check the circle that applies)

- the person is personally known to me; OR
- the person has produced photo identification to prove that they are the same person whose name is on the Samson Cree Nation membership and voter's list;

OR

The person identified in the notarized (current) photograph, attached, is a prospective candidate whose name is not on the Samson Cree Nation membership and voter's list in accordance with section 3.(1)(a) of the Election Law; and

The person is identified as a member of the Samson Cree Nation according to the Department of Membership's records and therefore is entitled to be added to the membership and voter's list controlled by Samson Cree Nation.

Sworn (or affirmed) before me at _____)
_____, Alberta,)
this ____ day of _____, 2020.)

Signature of Candidate

A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

Samson Cree Nation, Membership Clerk

Witness (Electoral Officer)

Enclosures: Notarized (Current) Photo of Candidate
Copy of photo identification (if candidate is not personally known to the Membership Clerk)

SCHEDULE "G"
RESIDENCY FORM

Candidate: _____
(please print name)

Band No: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I, the undersigned, a candidate for the Samson Cree Nation Elections for Chief / Councillor, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that:

(please check the box that applies):

In accordance to Section 3.1 of the Election Law, I am a resident on the Samson or Pigeon Lake Reserve for a period of not less than six (6) months immediately preceding the election as shown on the attached records;

OR

I am a resident residing within 100 km radius of reserve numbers 137 and 138A Samson or Pigeon Lake reserve boundaries for a period of not less than six (6) months immediately preceding an election as shown on the attached records.

Sworn (or affirmed) before me at _____)
_____, Alberta,)
this ____ day of _____, 2020.)
_____)
_____)

A Commissioner for Oaths in and
for Alberta

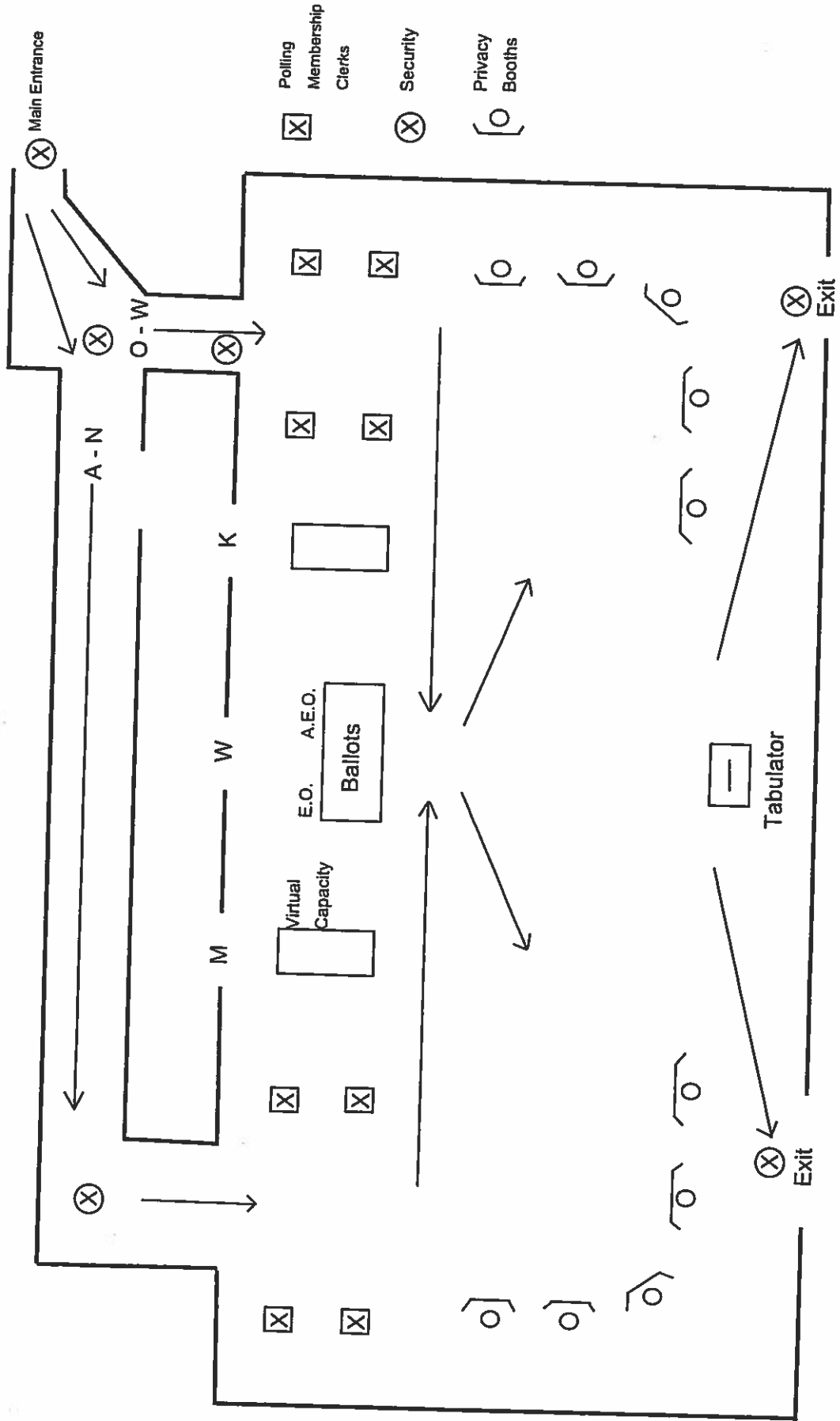
Signature of Candidate

Samson Cree Nation, Membership Clerk

Witness (Electoral Officer)

Enclosures: Proof of residence for not less than six (6) months preceding the election.

SCN Election Layout 2020 - Draft



- ⊗ Main Entrance
- ⊗ Polling Membership Clerks
- ⊗ Security
- ⌋ Privacy Booths