GLOOSCAP First Nation

REFERENDUM & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING · 2026

Why We Are Voting

Four decisions that belong to the community — in plain language.

This vote is what we heard from you.

Over the last two years, Chief and Council listened. Community engagement sessions, surveys, and conversations with Members told us clearly what needed to change. These four questions are the result — and each one is going to a vote because the decision belongs to the community, not the Council table.

Two years of listening

This did not start with a vote. It started with Members telling us what was not working:

- Our Band Regulations were hard to read and used wording and job titles that no longer exist.
- Members living away from the community could not take part in votes as easily as Members at home.
- Some Members felt Council was stretched too thin; others were concerned about what more Councillors would cost.
- Members told us overwhelmingly that Glooscap should be in the cannabis industry — on our own terms, with the profits staying here.

What you are voting on

1 **Plain-language updates to the Band Regulations**

Fixes outdated wording, old job titles and typos — without changing how we govern ourselves.

2 **A fourth Councillor — yes or no**

Should Council grow from three Councillors to four? Real benefits, and real costs.

3 **Online voting — yes or no**

Should Members be able to vote securely online, as well as by mail or in person?

4 **The Cannabis and Tobacco By-law — yes or no**

Should GFN assert its right to enter this industry, with a community-owned store and profits flowing back to Members?

The four decisions

DECISION 1 · REGULATIONS

Bringing the Regulations into modern times

These are housekeeping edits. They make the Regulations easier to read and bring them up to date. They do not change our rights, our elections, or how decisions get made.

For example: "Band Manager" becomes "Chief Administration Officer." "51 of the electors" becomes "50% + 1." Errors like "by-lays" and "Counsil" are corrected. Every single edit, and the exact section it applies to, is listed in the Table of Edits so Members can review each one before voting.

DECISION 2 · COUNCIL

Adding a fourth Councillor

Today Council is one Chief and three Councillors. This vote asks whether that should become one Chief and four Councillors.

THE CASE FOR

- More Members at the table — more voices and perspectives in decisions.
- Council workload spread across four people instead of three.
- Better coverage on committees, boards and community files.

Important considerations before you vote

Cost — about $100,000 per year. That figure is all-in: honorarium, benefits, travel, training and support costs.

Office space — we do not have room. A fourth Councillor means adding additional space, which is a further cost on top of the $100,000 per year.

Council is not recommending a yes or a no on this question. The benefits are real and so are the costs. Members decide.

DECISION 3 · VOTING

Enabling online voting

This vote asks whether Members should be able to vote through a secure online system, in addition to voting by mail or in person.

- Members living away could vote as easily as Members at home.
- Mail-in and in-person voting stay — online voting is an added option, not a replacement.
- The Regulations add protections: a secure website, verification of every submission by the Electoral Officer, and the same secrecy rules that apply in the polling place.

If Members vote no, voting stays by mail and in person only.

DECISION 4 · CANNABIS AND TOBACCO

Why the Cannabis and Tobacco By-law

Through community engagement sessions and surveys, Members told us overwhelmingly that Glooscap should assert its right to enter the cannabis industry — and that there was strong support for a community-owned store, with the profits flowing back to the community.

This proposed by-law is what makes that possible.

WHAT THE BY-LAW DOES

- **Lets us do it.** It gives GFN the legal framework to license, regulate and operate cannabis and tobacco businesses on our own land — including a community-owned store whose profits benefit Members.
- **Asserts our right to trade.** It puts on the record that trade in cannabis and tobacco is a collective Treaty right protected by Section 35 of the Constitution — a right belonging to the community as a whole.
- **Protects that right in court.** Having our own written law — passed by a vote of the membership, and meeting or exceeding provincial health and safety standards — puts GFN in a far stronger position if our right to regulate this industry is ever challenged.

Where the cannabis money goes

Net profits from GFN-owned cannabis business, together with the cannabis licence fees, levies and excise taxes collected under this by-law, go into the Cannabis Fund. The Fund is split four equal ways:

25% running the industry **25%** dividend to Members **25%** education and tuition **25%** reinvested in the industry

Tobacco is not part of this. Tobacco proceeds are exempt from the 25/25/25/25 formula and are not paid into the Cannabis Fund.

ALSO BUILT IN

- Nobody under 19 can be sold or given cannabis or tobacco. Youth protection comes first — and 25% of the Cannabis Fund goes to education and tuition every year.
- All retail and manufacturing stays in the commercial area at the Landing — never in residential areas on reserve.
- Traditional and ceremonial tobacco use is protected and is not affected by this by-law.
- The by-law only comes into force if Members approve it in this referendum.

Your vote decides

Every Member can review the full documents before voting: the Band Regulations, the complete Table of Edits, and the Cannabis and Tobacco By-law.

Questions? Contact the Band Office — 159 Smith Road, Bishopville, NS · PO Box 449, Hantsport, NS B0P 1P0