



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

TAKE NOTICE THAT, on March 15, 2017, a vote will be held by secret ballot to determine if a majority of the electors of the Cowichan Tribes are in favour of:

- The Cowichan Brennan Lands Specific Claims Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement”);
- the absolute surrender of all rights and interests of any kind in the Brennan Lands described in the Settlement Agreement, pursuant to sections 38 and 39 of the *Indian Act*.

A copy of the Settlement Agreement, including the Absolute Surrender Document (Schedule 1 of the Settlement Agreement) is attached to this Notice of Referendum, and a summary of the main features of this document may be found in the attached information document.

Electors are members of the Cowichan Tribes who are at least 18 years of age on the date of the referendum, which is March 15, 2017.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT the question to be submitted to the electors is as follows:

“As a Voter of the Cowichan Tribes, do you

- a) **agree** to all of the terms and conditions of the Cowichan Brennan Lands Specific Claim Settlement Agreement, including the absolute surrender, initialled by the negotiators for the Cowichan Tribes and Canada, which settles and releases the Cowichan Brennan Lands Specific Claim;
- b) **authorize and direct** the Council of the Cowichan Tribes to sign all documents and do everything necessary to give effect to the Cowichan Brennan Lands Specific Claim Settlement Agreement?”

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT the referendum vote will be held on **Wednesday, March 15, 2017** and the electors may vote between the hours of **9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.**, local time, at a polling station located at:

Temporary Council Chambers at the old VIU
222 Cowichan Way (just south of Superstore)
Duncan, BC, V9L 6P4

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT:

1. Electors may vote either by a mail-in ballot or in person at a polling station, but not both.
2. A mail-in ballot package (including a Notice of Referendum, mail-in ballot, and information package), will be mailed or delivered to electors who reside off the reserve and for whom an address has been provided by the First Nation to the electoral officer. At the request of an elector who resides on the reserve, the electoral officer will provide the elector with these documents.
3. If an elector was mailed, delivered or provided a mail-in ballot, the elector may only vote in person at a polling station if:
 - a) the elector returns the mail-in ballot to the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer; or
 - b) where the elector has lost the mail-in ballot, the elector provides the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer with a written affirmation that the elector has lost the mail-in ballot, signed by the elector in the presence of the electoral officer, deputy electoral officer, a justice of the peace, a notary public or a commissioner for oaths.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT an **Information Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2017** at the **Siem Lelum Gym, 5574 River Road, Duncan, BC** at 9 a.m. local time, breakfast served at 8:30, doors open at 8:00

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT a list of electors is being posted at the same time and at the same location as this Notice of Referendum. Upon request, the electoral officer or deputy electoral officer will confirm whether or not the name of a person is on the list of electors. Any application for a change to the list of electors may be made to the electoral officer at the address listed below.

DATED at Vancouver, British Columbia, this 13th day of January, 2017.



Theresa Marion, Electoral Officer
 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
 600 - 1138 Melville Street
 Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4S3

Theresa.Marion@aandc.gc.ca

Direct Phone: 604-666-5071 Toll Free: 1-800-665-9320 Fax: 604-775-7149