

**Dear Community Members of Magnetawan First Nation**

**Re: Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement**

From February 1<sup>st</sup>/21 to February 28<sup>th</sup>/21 we are asking you the members of Magnetawan First Nation to vote on the ratification of the **Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement (ANGA)**. Voting will be done electronically and by mail-in ballots.

Virtual information sessions will be scheduled once the two dates have been confirmed and will be posted immediately.

The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement would see Canada formally recognize what we have always known that we have the right to govern ourselves. We are on a journey towards a more prosperous future, a future that we will decide. The pieces in this agreement will help us move forward on the journey.

What are you voting for? If you vote yes to this agreement, you are saying yes to our own way of governing without other government interferences in four crucial areas.

**Language and Culture:** to preserve, promote and develop the use of Anishinabek culture, history and language.

**Elections:** to decide how chief and council will be elected and the qualifications necessary to fulfill the roles

**Citizenship:** to decide who will be citizens and what responsibilities come with citizenship.

**Management and Operations:** more based funding to run our programs and services.

You are saying yes to stable, long-term funding to govern ourselves effectively in those areas. This opportunity is a game changer for us. We are asking you to imagine a future where we are in control of our own destiny.

Think about the future you want for your family, for your First Nation. It will be your voice and input that will shape the future of our community if this vote is ratified. We want each and everyone of our members to be clear on this important decision, and to make an informed choice on our future. If you have any questions, please contact me or Lloyd Noganosh at (705) 346-0552.

Miigwetch,



Chief William Diabo  
Magnetawan First Nation



# Anishinaabe Governance Is... **TAKING CONTROL OF OUR FUTURE**

**“Governance” is about making decisions about how we want to live and what we will provide for future generations.**

**We are creating our own governance laws in four essential areas of law-making to determine:**

**Citizenship:** Deciding who belongs, who is a “citizen”, is a fundamental to a nation of People. Citizenship is about identity. Using Anishinaabe law and principles for deciding who belongs can include criteria like knowledge of Anishinaabe history, culture and language, and an application process. Decisions could be made by an Elders Council. In the past, the Grandmothers made these decisions. Our Grandmothers know “those who belong” - E’Dbendaagzijig.

**Leadership Selection:** Deciding how we select our leaders our own way can range from staying with our First Nation’s current election code to implementing a plan to gradually transform to our traditional governance system, the Dodemaag or Clan System. The Dodemaag System promotes unity and quality among Anishinabek.

In between the status quo and the Traditional Clan System of Government, we could decide to make changes to the number of First Nation councillors; length of terms in office; and the criteria and qualifications of Chief and Council. Some First Nations may decide to designate equal seats on council for balance between women and men, or to included Elders and Youth.

**Language and Culture:** Making decisions and taking responsibility for the preservation and promotion of Anishinaabe culture and Anishinaabemowin. This is our identity. Without Anishinaabe language and culture, Anishinabek cannot fulfill obligations to the Seventh Generation.

**Management and Operations of Government:** Deciding laws and processes to increase citizen inclusion in setting priorities and budgets, resulting in more transparency and trust. Under our law, our First Nation government is accountable to their citizens, not the Ministers of Indian Affairs.

...the Promise, Hope, and Future

**Niigaan Zhaamin-Forward Together**

[governancevote.ca](http://governancevote.ca)