

# TAHLTAN BAND



## Resolution in Writing of the Council of the Tahltan Indian Band ("the Council") Pursuant to the Indian Act, R.S.C. 1985, c.I-5

### Band Council Resolution: 2024-11-21-#01

Re: 2024 Chief and Council Election – Impact of Canada Post Strike

#### Whereas:

- A. The Tahltan Band Chief and Council (the "Council") has managed and operated the Tahltan Band Government in accordance with its inherent right of self-governance and the Bands collectively held traditions and practices, independent from Indigenous Services Canada;
- B. The Council scheduled the Chief and Council election to be held on November 27, 2024 (the "Election") by Band Council Resolution dated (insert date);
- C. The Election is in process and Electoral Officer, Marcus Hadley, has mailed all off-reserve electors mail-in ballot packages to vote to vote in the Election by mail in accordance with the *Indian Act Election Regulations*;
- D. Canada Post employees that form the *Canadian Union of Postal Workers* (CUPW) began a national strike on November 15, 2024, stopping all mail delivery (the "Strike"), including mail-in ballot packages to Tahltan Band electors;
- E. Due to the Strike, Tahltan electors may not have received their mail-in ballot packages and/or may not be able to return completed packages to the Electoral Officer via Canada Post before the election on November 27, 2024, jeopardizing their ability to vote in the Election;
- F. In accordance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)* Indigenous peoples have an inherent right of self-government, including the right to conduct their internal governance affairs with autonomy, including the selection of leadership in accordance with their own procedures, as follows:

**Article 4** Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

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**Article 18** Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

- G. Canada has respected the right of the Tahltan Band to govern in accordance with its inherent rights and in accordance with Tahltan traditions and practices, without interference;
- H. The *Tahltan Band Council Governance Manual (2020)* provides for the procedure for the transition of power following Chief and Council elections; and
- I. The Council wishes to implement steps to ensure all electors have an opportunity to participate in the Election and to maintain programs and services for the well-being and safety of the Tahltan community during the Election process.

## **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 1. To facilitate electors in participating in the Election due to the Strike, Council approves the following amended procedures for the Election:
  - a) The Electoral Officer, Marcus Hadley, shall conduct the in-person polling station in Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek on November 27, 2024, as scheduled;
  - b) At the conclusion of the in-person poll on November 27, 2024, the Electoral Officer will seal the ballot box(es) in the presence of witness(es) and deliver the sealed ballot box(es) and any mail-in ballot packages delivered to the polling stations to the local RCMP detachment for safe keeping, in the respective poll locations or other secure location as determined by the Electoral Officer;
  - c) The Electoral Officer will accept mail-in ballot packages from electors for a period of three (3) weeks (21 days) following the end of the Strike, beginning the day mail-delivery resumes;
  - d) For greater certainty, electors may hand deliver their mail-in ballot package personally or arrange for it to be hand delivered by another person to the polling station on November 27, 2024;
  - e) The Electoral Officer shall attend Telegraph Creek and conduct the count of the in-person ballots and the mail-in ballots within five (5) days of the end of the three (3) week timeframe to accept mail-in ballots as provided in 1 (c).

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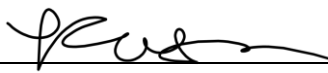
2. The current Chief and Council will remain in office for the good governance of the Tahltan Band until the Electoral Officer completes the vote count and a new Chief and Council are declared elected.

This resolution has been approved by a quorum of the Tahltan Band Chief and Council at a duly convened meeting held on November 21, 2024:



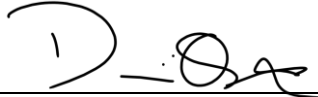
Carmen McPhee

**Chief**



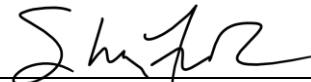
Lorraine Callbreath

**Councillor**



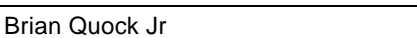
Dennis Quock

**Councillor**



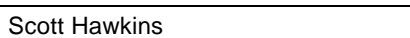
Shannon Frank

**Councillor**



Brian Quock Jr

**Councillor**



Scott Hawkins

**Councillor**