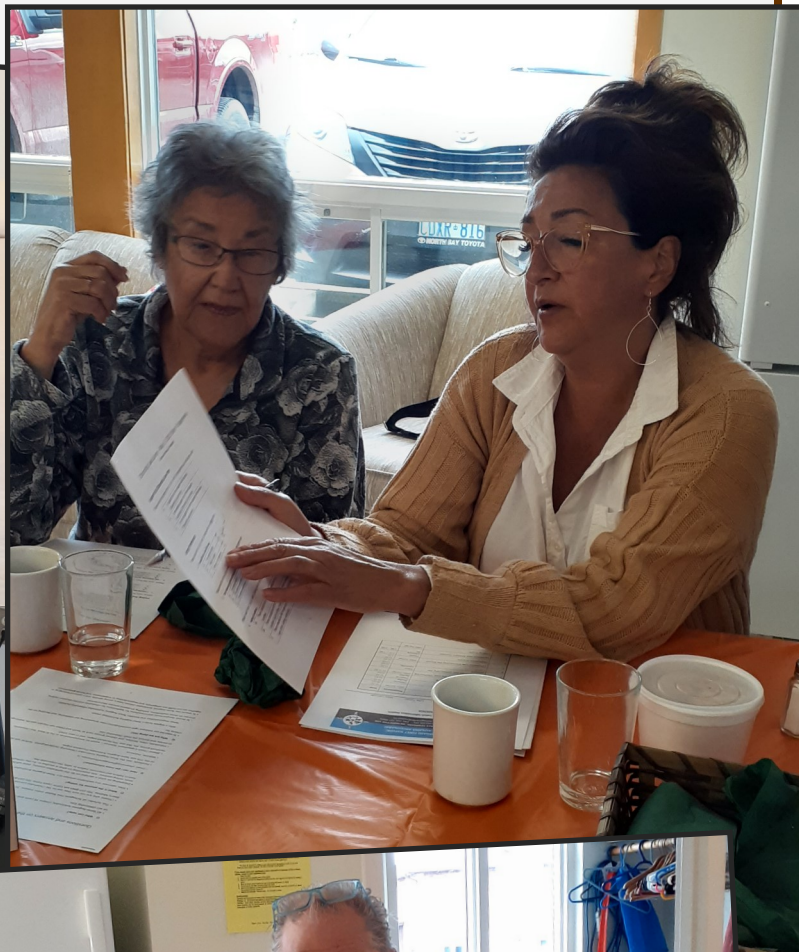
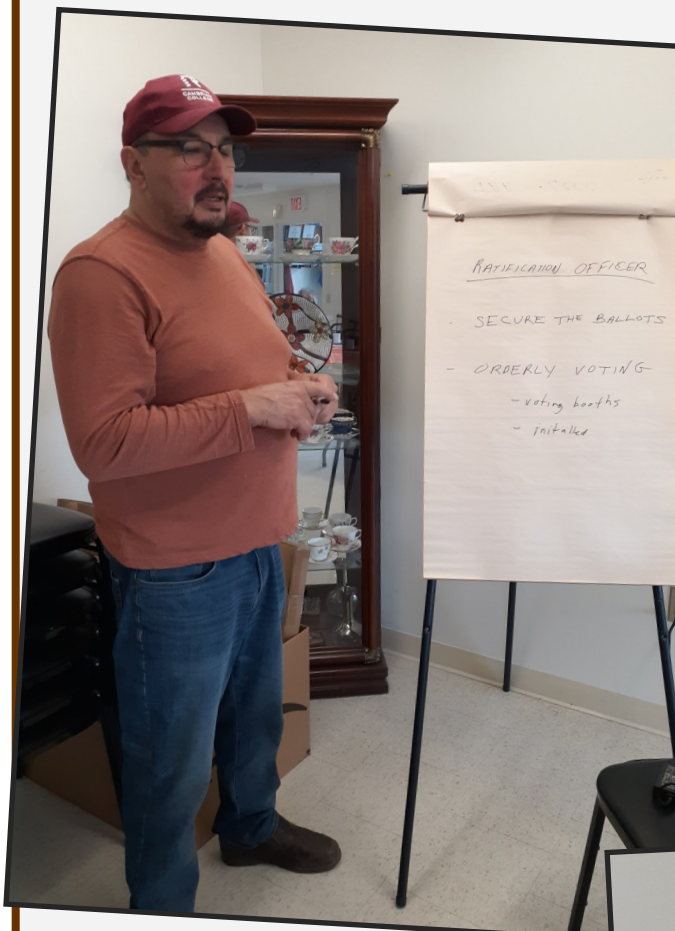


# *Citizenship law information session at Ronnoco House, Temagami May 3/ 23*



*Above, David Laronde canvassed the Elders who believe mail-in ballots and electronic voting, in addition to in-person polling stations, are needed.*

*Above right, Marjorie Turner Roy and daughter Rhonda Roy Etmanski fill out the Elders' survey on voting options.*



*Right, Marion Turner Blake and Citizenship Committee Chairperson, Dwayne Becker. Marion won the door prize, an air fryer.*

# *Sovereignty and self-determination main topics at engagement on Citizenship Law*

*The response of Temagami First Nation and Teme-Augama Anishnabai leaders to the Metis Nation of Ontario's "identity theft" of our ancestors brought the importance of maintaining the sovereign right to determine our citizenship under our own law into sharp focus.*

At the citizens' engagement on the fresh, second draft of the Citizenship Law, Aanike-Ogimaa John Turner provided participants with a series of maps showing that the Teme-Augama Anishnabai exercised sovereignty and self-determination well into the 1900s. It was noted that the oral records and research done from the 1960s and into the 1980s are invaluable resources that allow us to both maintain the sovereign right of self-determination and fend off incursions into our Nation.

The research produced reams of oral and archival information dating back to the 1700s. It is the foundation of the family trees we rely on today. The Teme-Augama Anishnabai can deny Metis claims to rights in N'dakimenan and to our ancestors with certainty.

The maps showed the evolution of the family hunting grounds system as evidence of a sovereign people integrating and adopting individuals and families within the boundary of N'dakimenan. It took some time, but it was a valuable discussion for the 28 citizens attending at the community centre at Bear Island.

Elder Hugh McKenzie, a member of the Citizenship Committee, related how people would share territories and respond to the needs of the collective. "People lived with each other and moved to other territories. Like when people were suffering with T.B. It's hard enough to cut wood when you're healthy let alone when you're sick. So, families had to live with other families during the winter to survive."



## *Sovereignty and self-determination main topics at engagement on Citizenship Law, continued*

Resolutions from 1975 were reviewed showing that the Teme-Augama Anishnabai asserted its rights of self-determination. Under the leadership of Temagami Indian Band Chief Gary Potts, the Teme-Augama Anishnabai inherent right of self-determination was exercised when the Temagami Indian Band Council, as it was called at the time, recognized “all descendants of the Temagami Indians from time immemorial”.

It is the conferring of citizenship as the Teme-Augama Anishnabai exercising the inherent right of self-determination that shows we had never surrendered our right to self-determination. Later, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized that we, as the Teme-Augama Anishnabai, possessed this right.

Because of the time taken to discuss sovereignty and the inherent right of self-determination, the new, second draft Citizenship Law could be reviewed only partially.

The draft law is now titled “Timiiaagaming Anishinaabeg Onaakonigewin K’Dibendaagozimin” (The People of the Place of the Deep Water at the Shore Living Law of We Who Belong). This change is response to citizens’ input that Anishinaabemowin be used as much as possible.

Other major inputs and feedback are that criteria for citizenship should include domicile and attachment to N’dakimenan along with a cut-off date to claim ancestry. Also, all references to colonial governments and law should be removed.

Contact Dwayne Becker (705) 237-8943 ext 232 for further information.

To offer your comments, email [citizenship@temagamifirstnation.ca](mailto:citizenship@temagamifirstnation.ca) on the citizenship law initiative.

*Continued next page*



*Citizens can access the  
2<sup>nd</sup> version of the draft*

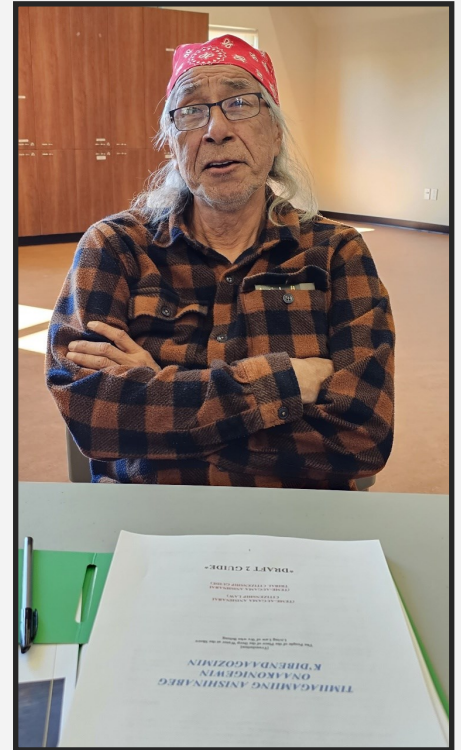
*“Timiiaagaming Anishinaabeg  
Onaakonigewin K’Dibendaagozimin”  
on the Teme-Augama Anishnabai  
website: [www.thetaa/citizenship](http://www.thetaa/citizenship).*

*Please review and prepare for our  
next robust discussion on the past,  
present, and future of the People of  
the Deep Water by the Shore.*





*Miigwetch to all who have participated in the Citizenship Law development process so far. Everyone's input is welcome and needed.*



***For more information on Metis Nation of Ontario's identity theft of Teme-Augama Anishnabai ancestors and Teme-Augama Anishnabai response:***

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9702924/metis-nation-of-ontario-accused-of-recasting-first-nations-ancestors-as-metis/>  
[fbclid=IwAR0YcC6oMOZMDEwKCroAK0Ihz3u0YKmZjUz73kfQPTIeSgGkaqX3Mq0UP5A](https://www.facebook.com/metisnationofontario/)

<https://www.metisnation.org/registry/citizenship/ontario-metis-root-ancestors/>

(Scroll down to "James Bay and Abitibi-James Bay/Temiscamingue Harvesting Areas")

<https://www.metisnation.org/news-media/the-metis-voyageur/>

(Scroll down to 2019)

<https://thetaa.ca/press-release-re-mno-self-government-legislation/>



*...the Temagami Indian Band Council, as it was called at the time, recognized "all descendants of the Temagami Indians from time immemorial".*