

# Questions & Answers

## on

### The Draft Teme-Augama Anishnabai Citizenship Law and Process

#### Who can vote?

- All TAA citizens, 18 years old and over, as of the future voting date and whose name appears on our citizenship lists.
- This includes all TFN status Indians the age of 18 or over.
- Citizens who are not sure that they are on the citizenship list can contact Laura Irvine 705-237-8943 ext.101.

#### When will the final vote for the citizenship law occur?

- The Citizenship Committee and Council are working on an engagement plan and ratification process to bring to our citizens for review and direction. Please attend our future engagements.

#### How can I get more information?

- Email: [citizenship@temagamifirstnation.ca](mailto:citizenship@temagamifirstnation.ca)
- Phone: (705) 237-8943 ext. 232 (Dwayne Becker, Citizenship Coordinator)
- Website: <https://thetaa.ca/citizenship/>
- Individuals, clans, families, and citizens' groups such as Youth and Elders can request specific meetings to review and discuss the Draft Citizenship Law.

#### What is the process for voting?

- We will be bringing forward a draft ratification process to our citizens soon for review and direction.

#### Why are we doing this?

- To exercise inherent jurisdiction over the determination of our citizenship by deciding on the criteria for:
- Who is eligible to be a Teme-Augama Anishnabai citizen?
- What responsibilities and benefits does Teme-Augama Anishnabai citizenship include?
- To decide the processes and procedures for applications for citizenship and the decision-making process on those applications, including an appeal process (due process).
- To ensure the Teme-Augama Anishnabai citizens have a strong identity and a sense of belonging so together we can fulfill our obligations and responsibilities to N'dakimenan and future generations.

#### How will the Teme-Augama Anishnabai Citizenship Law affect the Temagami First Nation?

- There is no effect or impact on TFN governance, First Nation membership, Indian status, or TFN programs and services.

### Why is there only a TAA vote at this time?

- We know who we are! We are all Teme Augama Anishnabai! This initiative is about self determination and inherent rights. We must ratify this law based upon exercising the authority we have inherited from our ancestors: our inherent right. Canada (or any Colonial government) has no right to determine who our people are.
- We reject the Doctrine of Discovery. We are embarking on a process of decolonization.
- The TFN is not restricted in its considerations of any determinations it may choose to make in terms of TAA citizenship. (For example, choosing to formally endorse the Citizenship Law may be considered.)

### Will the government of Canada and Ontario recognize the outcome?

- We do not need recognition by Canada or Ontario. What we need is the recognition and expression by our own citizens of their inherent authority to determine Teme Augama Anishnabai citizenship.

### What other steps may be applicable after the vote?

- Assuming the Draft Citizenship Law is adopted by the citizens, we would be determining and administering our own citizenship processes and procedures (i.e.: registry, application process, decision-making processes on granting citizenship, appeals processes, and potential amendments).

### What is the origin of the draft Citizenship Law?

- The current draft Citizenship Law was developed by the Citizenship Committee in consultation with Teme-Augama Anishnabai /Temagami First Nation Joint Council and First Peoples Law. The draft Citizenship Law is based on Teme-Augama Anishnabai customs and our inherent right to determine citizenship.

### How do I offer input on or recommend changes to the Draft Citizenship Law?

- Individuals, clans, families, and citizens' groups such as Youth and Elders, can request specific meetings to review, discuss, and propose amendments to the Draft Citizenship Law. In addition to the above, some planned sessions will be organized.
- Email: [citizenship@temagamifirstnation.ca](mailto:citizenship@temagamifirstnation.ca)
- Phone: (705) 237-8943 ext. 232 (Dwayne Becker, Citizenship Coordinator)