



Tseshah First Nation

October 17, 2020

To Chief and Council:

It is with great disappointment that, due to an administrative error, the October 17, 2020 election had to be cancelled. It was the Electoral Officer's decision to cancel based on an outdated and incomplete Voters' List.

Late morning Wednesday, October, 14, 2020, the Electoral Officer reported an increasing number of Tseshah members had been calling to inform that known eligible voters did not receive ballot packages and acknowledged they also did not appear on the Voter's List. Staff cross referenced an internal membership list with that of the Electoral Officer and found that more than 90 eligible voters were left off the Voter's List. This provided the Electoral Officer with sufficient cause to immediately cancel the election.

Upon review of the circumstances that led to the mistake, I confirmed the Electoral Officer was indeed provided with an outdated and incomplete version of the Voter's List. As a result, I have taken decisive action by working with the Electoral Officer to re-schedule a new election for December 12, 2020 and ensure its integrity throughout the process. Measures have been taken to bring a quick and thorough response such as mobilizing additional staff to expedite a review of the Voter's List and to make necessary changes and corrections. Staff then completed a final review before sending to the Electoral Officer for the upcoming election.

It is important to also acknowledge the financial cost associated with the decision to cancel. Total cost for cancelling the election is \$6,300. Cost includes Electoral Officer fees of \$3,000 (reduced from \$5,500) plus mailouts to membership of \$3,300. Fees for Intelivote (electronic voting) were waived for the cancelled election.

I am reviewing system deficiencies that led to this error. Once the review is complete, I will implement corrective measures and establish a process that mitigates future risk and restores confidence in the Tseshah electoral process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Mead-Miller', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Darren Mead-Miller
Executive Director

Tseshah First Nation

5091 Tsuma-as Drive
Port Alberni, BC, V9Y 8X9
Phone: (250) 724-1225
Fax: (250) 724-4385
Tseshah.com