

Seabird Island Member's Notice

November 2021 Chuck McNeil, SI Strategic Advisor

Education Jurisdiction

*Seabird Island's Control over Education on Reserve
Members Voted YES*

Dear Family and Friends

Seabird Island is in the process of taking control of our education for kindergarten to grade 12 (K-12) and is asking you to vote **YES** in the upcoming Education Jurisdiction Ratification.

Voting Packages

Ballots and information have been delivered to each house addressed to each eligible voter. If you did not receive one or if you are an off-reserve member, please provide your updated address to get the voting package from One Feather, contact information at end of notice.

Why Education Jurisdiction

Seabird Island has had its own school since 1978 under the BC Ministry of Education system. We feel that we should be operating under our own grade K-12 education system. The opportunity is here. This will allow us the ability to create our own curriculum, meaning more culture, language, land-based learning, and our ways of knowing what is missing from our current education system.

Canada creates Legislation for Education Jurisdiction and Agreements

Canada has created legislation to allow First Nations like Seabird Island to have jurisdiction over education on reserve. Canada has recently finalized the Canada First Nation Education Jurisdiction Agreement and the Canada First Nation Education Jurisdiction Funding Agreement.

Notice to Canada of accepting their Fiscal offer

We accepted Canada's financial offer. The funding will assist in the Ratification process, like hiring the Ratification Officer, One Feather, to oversee the Ratification Voting Process. As well as hiring of our Ratification Coordinator, Patricia Raymond,

patricia.raymond@seabirdisland.ca, to assist with Community Engagement to Vote.

When the Ratification process is completed, it will fund our Education Jurisdiction implementation readiness, which includes developing things like our Education Law, Governance, Policies and Regulation.

Ratification Voting

Seabird Island Members have been asked to vote **YES** on the ballot question that includes the following:

- a) Approval of Canada First Nation Education Jurisdiction Agreement (dated June 18th, 2021) which details the responsibilities of Canada and of Seabird Island.
- b) Approval of the Law-Making Protocol (dated October 15, 2021), which is the process by which Seabird Island passes the Education Law.
- c) Approval that the Chief and Council can make minor edits to either document before signing and adopting them.

Voting Information

One Feather Consulting has been appointed as our Ratification Officer. Voting information is posted on our website, on Seabird Facebook, on the Seabird Island Electronic Screens and on the One Feather voting page (<https://www.onefeather.ca/nations/seabirdisland>).

Information packages have been delivered to members on reserve and available by request for members off reserve that have updated their mailing address with the Membership clerk (membership@seabirdisland.ca).

Voting Method and Dates:

- a) **Electronic Voting** from November 7th at 9:00 AM until December 10 at 7:00 PM (<https://www.onefeather.ca/nations/seabirdisland>)
- b) **By mail-in ballot** until December 10 at 7:00 PM
- c) **In person** at the Seabird Island Millennium Hall polling station December 8-10 from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. NOTE: Covid protocols

Eligible Voters

Members must be 18 years and older at the time of voting, and present valid identification for electronic voting and in person voting.

Successful Ratification

A successful ratification requires 50% + 1 of members voting in favour.

On confirmation of a positive vote, Canada will be notified, and all the necessary agreements will be ready for Chief and Council to sign with Canada.

Community Engagement

Please stay tuned to our web site, Face book page, signage, posters, information sessions and E meetings.

The Education Law

The Education Law will be guided by the Lawmaking Protocol.

The Education Law will be developed to assist:

- a) how non-members will have input into decisions that would affect the student or the parent.
- b) how students can transfer between schools with out academic penalty.
- c) giving the ability to make decisions to a First Nation Education Authority to manage teacher's certification, school certification, graduation requirements and evaluation of locally developed courses for graduation.

Canada First Nation Education Funding Agreement

The Chief and Council will also sign the Funding agreement. This will provide resources to complete the Education Jurisdiction implementation readiness, tuition, ongoing governance funding, and funds to support our Provincial body FNEA, third level services including Special Education, Transportation and Language & Culture.

Self Governance Our Inherit Right to Govern Ourselves

This is a step closer for Seabird Island Self Governance. We already have taken on our own Membership Code, Property Taxation, Land Code, Financial Law, Election Code, and Education Jurisdiction once it is passed. Next we are looking at is our own Child and Family Law, and.....

Once we are in Education Jurisdiction

On September 1st, 2022, Seabird will have jurisdiction over education grade K to 12 on reserve. On our way to Self Governance.

Your YES Vote Matters

We are in Education Jurisdiction

Please share with your Family and Friends

The following excerpt was taken from our members following a Seabird Island Community Presentation about EJ in 2009

What does Education Jurisdiction mean to you?

- *Taking control over your own Education*
- *Making education better for future generations*
- *Learning about our language Halq'eméylem*
- *First Nations have a different learning style*
- *Means parental input on their child's learning*
- *Teacher/Parent working together for children's education success*
- *Having a say of what is in our school's*
- *School's curriculum*
- *Setting standards that is ours in regard to Teachers Standards and Curriculum Standards etc...*

How will your children and grandchildren benefit from Education Jurisdiction?

- *Better success rate*
- *More choices*
- *Off reserve children will now have the opportunity to attend our school*
- *Learning our own language*
- *Making a stronger voice for our people*
- *Texting through the cell phone (updates)*
- *Screen interviews*
- *Newsletter geared towards Kids and Adults*