



SAIK'UZ  
FIRST  
NATION

# What to Know About Voting in the Next Saik'uz Election

March 27, 2025 to elect:

- Two (2) Councilors at Large
- One (1) Elder Councilor (aged 60+)
- One (1) Off-Reserve Councilor

## **NEW CHANGES TO OUR CUSTOM ELECTION CODE**

On Tuesday, December 3, 2024, Saik'uz First Nation held a Community Vote on 14 proposed amendments to our custom Election Code.

The amendments were developed based on engagement that took place from July 2024 to October 2024, with guidance from the Election Amendment Oversight Committee.

Membership approved the 14 amendments by majority vote. These changes are in effect for the upcoming Council Election on **March 27, 2025**.

### **KEY CHANGES:**

#### **Nomination Package**

- Candidates must hand in the Nomination Package to the Electoral Officer via email or at the Nomination Meeting. There are two ways to submit your Package:
  - **Email:** Submit by February 18, 2025, at 6:00PM to [ronlauferelections@gmail.com](mailto:ronlauferelections@gmail.com)
  - **In-person:** Submit to the Electoral Officer on February 13, 2025.

#### **Council Expanded**

- Council has added two new seats: an Elder Councilor (60+) and an Off-Reserve Councilor (who can reside outside of the traditional territory Of Saik'uz First Nation)

#### **Secure Online Voting**

- Saik'uz will be using a secure online voting system, the same one which was used in the amendment vote.

## WAYS TO VOTE

### IN-PERSON

- Polling Stations are open from 9:00AM to 8:00PM on March 27, 2025
  - Saik'uz
    - Saik'uz First Nation Band Office, 135 Joseph St.
  - Prince George
    - The House of Ancestors , 355 Vancouver St.

### BY MAIL

- Mail-in ballots are still sent out to every off-reserve member on February 20, 2025.
- Mail-in ballots will be accepted until March 27, 2025, at 8:00PM.

### ONLINE

- Online Voting Registration opens on February 20, 2025.
- Registration may take up to 24-hours as the Electoral Officer verifies each registration personally.
- Once registered, you can vote online starting March 20, 2025, at 9:00AM.

**Note: Once you vote online, mail-in, or in person, you will be immediately crossed off the Voter's List.**

To be eligible to vote, you must be at least 18 years old on the Election Date and a Band Member.



For more information, visit [www.saikuz.com/election](http://www.saikuz.com/election)

## ELECTION NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Notices and communications related to the election process will be available at the band office, in the newsletter, and online at [www.saikuz.com/election](http://www.saikuz.com/election).

Please update your address and/or email address by February 13, 2025, by contacting Ron Laufer, the Electoral Officer.

**QUESTIONS? Contact Ron Laufer, the Electoral Officer at:**



[ronlauferelections@gmail.com](mailto:ronlauferelections@gmail.com)



(604) 715-4777

# LIST OF 2024 ELECTION CODE AMENDMENTS

## 1. Election Code Clean-Up

The code was edited for consistency, updating timelines and wording.

## 2. Council Expansion

Expands Council by two (2) members, to include an Elder Councilor (60+) and Off-Reserve Councilor (lives off-reserve).

## 3. Council Residency

Council must live within the traditional territory of Saik'uz and has 90 days to relocate if elected.

## 4. Saik'uz Employee Eligibility

Saik'uz employees must step down from their positions if they are elected.

## 5. Chief Experience Requirement

It still requires candidates seeking the chief position to have served one (1) term on Council.

## 6. Campaign Rules

Saik'uz employees who are candidates are not allowed to use employer resources for their campaign and must not campaign while at work.

## 7. Complaint and Appeals Board and Conflict of Interest

Board members must recuse themselves if the complainant is their immediate family member (child, parent, grandparent, sibling, or spouse).

## 8. Nomination Package

Candidates will now submit a Nomination Package, which includes a Criminal Record Check, declaration form, candidate fee, and current email address.

## 9. Criminal Offences

It has been expanded to include serious offences, election-related offences, and creates an exception for convictions relating to Aboriginal Rights or Title.

## 10. Governance Training

Candidates must complete governance training.

## 11. Election Notices

Allows communications related to the election process to be delivered more widely.

## 12. Online Voting

Allows members to vote either in-person, by mail, or online.

## 13. Plebiscites (Official Community Voters)

These types of votes will follow the election process.

## 14. Post-Election Vacancy Period

If a council seat becomes vacant within 90 days of an election, the candidate with the next highest votes will assume office.