



CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

Statement from Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

October 23, 2026

Approval of Interim Continuity Plan During the Election Period

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) Government is offering a statement today in support of a plan to continue government operations until a new Council has been sworn in.

We recognize that the CAFN Constitution Part 2, Sec. 43 states “the Chief and all Councillors shall be elected for a term not exceeding four years”.

There are no stated rules or procedures on how to proceed when an election is delayed. The delay we are experiencing is taking us beyond the exact four-year mark.

CAFN Administration has reached out for guidance from the Äshāw (Elders) Executive of the Senate on how to proceed. The Senate Executive has supported a plan that will offer continuity of government operations until a new Chief and Council is elected. The Interim Continuity Plan maintains the current Chief and Council in the caretaker role until the election has concluded.

The Äshāw (Elders) Executive of the Senate recognises during the interim election pause that the CAFN government cannot stop functioning. Under section 58(2) of the CAFN Constitution, the Elders Executive of the Senate approves and supports the Interim Continuity Plan as a temporary measure to maintain the essential functioning of CAFN Government until the CAFN election process is complete and the newly elected First Nations Council is in office, as follows:

1. **Administration continues.** CAFN Administration will continue normal day-to-day government operations under existing delegated authority, including programs and services, payroll, existing contracts, payments, statutory and financial obligations, and other routine administrative matters.
2. **Caretaker limits apply.** During the interim period, government activity will be confined to matters that are routine, non-controversial, necessary or urgent in the public interest, or

reasonably reversible by the incoming Council without undue cost or disruption. Existing obligations and previously approved work may continue where necessary for continuity of government.

3. **Major new decisions are deferred.** No major new policy initiative, substantial new expenditure, significant appointment, exceptional commitment, or other decision that would unnecessarily bind or constrain the incoming Council will be made unless the matter cannot reasonably be deferred and action is necessary to protect CAFN, its Citizens, employees, assets or legal obligations.
4. **Urgent exceptions are narrow.** Where an exceptional matter cannot reasonably wait, only the minimum action necessary will be taken. The reasons for proceeding during the interim period will be documented. Where the matter raises a significant governance question, guidance will be sought from the Elders Senate Executive before action is taken, to the extent permitted by the Constitution and CAFN law.
5. **Election neutrality is mandatory.** CAFN authority, staff, funds, vehicles, communications systems and other government resources will not be used to support or advantage any candidate. Official activities and communications will remain non-partisan and separate from campaign activity.
6. **No extension of elected office is created.** Nothing in this plan extends the elected term of the current Chief or Councillors, creates holdover authority, fills a Council vacancy, transfers Council's constitutional powers to the Elders Senate, or amends the Constitution, Government Administration Act, or Election Rules and Regulations.
7. **The election remains the priority.** CAFN will continue to support the independent election process and take the administrative steps necessary to allow the election to proceed as quickly as reasonably possible.
8. **Automatic end.** This temporary continuity arrangement ends automatically when the election is completed, and the newly elected First Nations Council can assume office.

CAFN wishes to be clear that this approval is limited to the Interim Continuity Plan and does not extend the elected term of the current Chief or Councillors, appoint them into holdover office, transfer the powers of the First Nations Council to the Elders Senate, or amend the CAFN Constitution, Government Administration Act, or Election Rules and Regulations.