



TOQUAHT NATION COUNCIL ELECTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many positions are up for election?

Three.

When is the general voting day?

Monday, September 21, 2015.

Who can run for elected office?

- ✓ Any Toquaht citizen age 18 or older (as of the general voting day).

Who **cannot** run for elected office?

- × A Toquaht citizen who is an “undischarged bankrupt” (currently going through bankruptcy, which takes about a year)
- × A Toquaht citizen who is suffering from a medical condition, including mental illness or dependency on drugs or alcohol, that a medical practitioner believes would make them incapable of performing their duties
- × A Toquaht citizen who has been convicted and incarcerated for a criminal offence.

What should I expect to do as a Councilor?

- Serve a 4 year term (September 2015 – September 2019)
- Attend 1 – 2 Council or Executive meetings per month, either in person, by video conferencing or by conference call
- Participate in special/unexpected meetings of Council or Executive from time-to-time
- Participate in or chair meetings for 1 – 2 committees
- Come prepared for meetings, participate fully and frankly in deliberations/discussions, and ask questions
- Attend 4 People’s Assemblies per year
- Sign a confidentiality agreement



- Become familiar with the Maa-nulth Treaty, all Toquaht laws and regulations, and become generally knowledgeable about the affairs of the Toquaht Nation
- Participate in Councilor orientation, and development programs from time-to-time

How many hours per month will I have to dedicate to being a Councilor?

On average, expect to dedicate about 25 hours per month. There will likely be more work up front as you spend time on orientation and becoming familiar with the role, Toquaht laws and regulations.

Will I be paid?

- Elected Councilors are paid a monthly honorarium of \$1,250
- Any travel that is required and is approved by the Chairperson of Council will be provided by the Toquaht Nation, working within approved annual budgets.

Integrity

As per the Toquaht Nation Government *Integrity Act*, “the Toquaht Nation assumes the responsibility of providing transparent and accountable government. This requires Toquaht officials to perform their duties and exercise their powers with honesty, integrity, impartiality and regard to the common good of all Toquaht citizens.” This includes:

- Adhere to the highest ethical standards in both personal and professional dealings
- Serve the citizens on an impartial and equitable basis
- Conduct themselves at all times with integrity and respect for their positions
- Place Toquaht interests ahead of their own
- Must not exercise an official power or duty (or influence another’s) knowing that in doing so there is an opportunity to further his or her private interests
- Adhere to and uphold Toquaht law
- Understand the difference between governing and managing, and not encroach on the Toquaht administration’s area of responsibility



- Be an effective ambassador and representative of Council, while recognizing that the Tyee Ha'wilt is the only public spokesperson for Council and the Toquaht Nation
- Demonstrate good judgment
- Interact appropriately with other members of Council and the Toquaht Nation administration
- Be a positive and constructive force on Council
- Demonstrate openness to others' opinions and a willingness to listen
- Have the confidence and will to make difficult decisions, including the strength to challenge the majority view
- Act honestly and in good faith
- A candidate running for Council must not reward, induce, intimidate, compel or persuade someone to vote for them
- A candidate running for Council must not reward, induce, intimidate, compel or persuade someone to *refrain* from voting for someone else.

How do I actually run for an elected position?

- You must be nominated by an eligible voter (a Toquaht citizen who will be age 18 years or older on the date of the vote)
- A nomination meeting will be held at least 45 days before the voting date
- A nomination deposit of \$100, payable in cash, or by money order or certified cheque payable to the Toquaht Nation, must be deposited with the Chief Electoral Officer at the time a candidate files their nomination papers
- An eligible voter may nominate an eligible Toquaht citizen:
 - In person at the nomination meeting
 - By hand delivering or mailing a written nomination and a completed, signed and witnessed voter declaration form to the Chief Electoral Officer so that it is received before the time set for the nomination meeting
- An eligible voter may not nominate him or herself
- An eligible voter may not nominate (or second the nomination of) more than 1 candidate for the same election
- A candidate may withdraw by delivering a signed notice to the Chief Electoral Officer.



What can I do to better prepare to run for Council?

- Read the 29-page Toquaht Nation Constitution (<http://www.toquaht.ca/constitution>)
- Become familiar with Toquaht laws and regulations (<http://www.toquaht.ca/law-and-regulations>)
- The following laws and regulations (all available online at the link above) will be helpful to better understand Councilor's roles and responsibilities, and the election process:
 - Government Act
 - Integrity Act
 - Council Rules of Order and Procedures Act
 - Executive Rules of Order and Procedures Regulation
 - Elections Act
- Surf around the Toquaht Nation website: www.toquaht.ca