

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019



Membertou

Dear Members of Membertou,

The time has come for us, the community, to decide whether we wish to **govern our reserve lands** through our own Membertou Land Code or continue to be governed through the land management provisions of the *Indian Act*.

Our Land Code, if approved, will replace 44 sections of the *Indian Act* relating to lands and resources management. If we reject our Land Code, the Government of Canada will remain in control of our reserve lands and we **remain under the Indian Act** for these purposes.

The Membertou Land Code is a product of more than 6 years of discussions, input and recommendations from our community members living both on and off reserve. The Land Code will only be brought into force **IF** the majority of participating Eligible Voters approves it in the upcoming Land Code Vote.

Keep in mind, that voting “Yes” for the Membertou land code will NOT impact our aboriginal and treaty rights.

#### **Where can I find a copy of Membertou Land Code?**

An electronic copy of the Membertou Land Code is available on the Membertou Governance website at <https://www.membertou-governance.com/membertou-land-code>. If you prefer a hard copy, please drop by the Band Office or the Membertou Entrepreneur Centre.

#### **What happens if I vote “Yes?”**

If our community votes “yes” on our Land Code, Membertou will be governing our reserve lands and resources according to the rules proposed in the Land Code and we will have the ability to pass our own laws with respect to our lands and resources, that reflect our values and perspectives.

#### **What happens if I vote “No”?**

If our community votes “no” on our Land Code, the federal government’s *Indian Act* provisions related to land management will continue to apply in Membertou. *Indian Act* land provisions are archaic, inappropriate and do not recognize our inherent rights to make our own decisions and do not respect our law-making authority. The *Indian Act* requires the Government of Canada to sign land-related agreements and make major decisions on our behalf. It also has the potential of greatly limiting and preventing the economic success of our Community and future integrity of our lands.

#### **How do I Vote?**

Community members have a choice to vote in 1 of 3 ways:

*Please turn over...*

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# Membertou

1. You can vote in person on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre from 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; or
2. You can vote by mail- in ballot. To get a ballot please contact Chris LaPorte, the Ratification Officer at 902-564-8825; or
3. You can vote electronically. The electronic polls will remain open from now until June 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. and the website address is <https://vtnw.com/go/MembertouReg/>

**Who can I talk to if I have more questions before I vote?**

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Knockwood, the Governance Coordinator via email at [cherylknockwood@membertou.ca](mailto:cherylknockwood@membertou.ca) or call her at 1-800-617-6466 Ext. 2520.

She will also be available for drop-in information sessions at the Membertou Entrepreneurship Centre Boardroom every Tuesday afternoon from 2:30-4:00 from May 14<sup>th</sup> until June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Community engagement sessions are also scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, a flyer advertising these events will be sent out soon. If you live in Membertou and would prefer a home visit, please contact Pam Paul at 1-800-617-6466 Ext 3300 to schedule a time convenient for you.

Thank you for your support!

Chief Terry Paul, OC  
Membertou, NS

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