



RULES OF PROCEDURE



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

JULY 21, 2010

REGISTRATION

1. The COO Executive Director shall be the official Registrar and shall be responsible for all final registration rulings, in consultation with the Assembly Speaker.
2. First Nation Chiefs are entitled to be registered.
3. A Proxy shall only be registered if he/she presents the Registration Desk with a letter or resolution from the First Nation government authorizing the Proxy. To the extent possible, Proxy letters/resolutions should be submitted in advance of the Assembly.
4. An individual cannot hold more than one Proxy.
5. A Proxy cannot transfer his/her proxy to another individual. A new potential Proxy requires a First Nation letter or resolution.
6. In emergency circumstances, when a Chief is required to leave the Assembly, the Chief can designate a Proxy by letter. In non-emergency circumstances, the potential Proxy must be authorized by letter or resolution sent from the First Nation government.
7. Fifteen minutes after the "Call-to-Order" by the Speaker, the lists of the registered Chiefs and Proxies will be submitted by the Registrar to the Speaker. The Speaker will determine whether there is a quorum for decision-making for this Assembly from these lists or from a head count. If a quorum is not present, the Assembly may continue on an informational and non-decision-making basis until quorum is secured.

ATTENDANCE

1. The All Ontario Chiefs Assembly is a gathering of First Nations leadership of the 133 recognized First Nation communities in Ontario.
2. First Nation Elders, Councillors, Tribal Council and regional organization representatives, and First Nations citizens are entitled to attend the Chiefs Assembly and will be charged a nominal fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). No charge for Elders and students.
3. First Nation Chiefs and Proxies are committed to stay in the Assembly during the official deliberations, except in the case of urgent business.

4. All people in the Assembly shall deactivate the ring or other sound of all cell phones and other electronic devices.

THE SPEAKER

1. As the official Chairperson of every Chiefs Assembly, the Ontario Regional Chief shall open the Assembly. The Regional Chief may then delegate his/her authority to a Speaker for the purposes of Chairing the Assembly.
2. The primary responsibility of the Speaker shall be to complete the Assembly Agenda on schedule and to ensure that all priority Resolutions are dealt with.
3. The Speaker shall recognize one intervenor at a time and will keep all intervenors on topic. Each intervenor shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes, which shall be recorded on a clock at the front of the meeting room visible to all. In order to follow the Agenda, the Speaker has the authority to limit the number of intervenors and to reduce the three minute allocation.
4. The Speaker will ensure that all intervenors who wish to speak to an issue have the opportunity to do so before anyone speaks for a second time, except for clarification purposes and at the discretion of the Speaker. This is subject to the general authority of the Speaker to limit debate in order to conform with the Agenda and to deal with all priority Resolutions.
5. The Speaker has the final say on all procedural issues, including interpretation of these Rules. If a point-of-order is raised by a Chief or Proxy to challenge a procedural ruling, the Speaker shall have the opportunity to consult legal counsel and shall announce a final ruling, which is not subject to any further appeal, whether by point-of-order, resolution or otherwise.
6. Where discussion of a Resolution is inconclusive and contentious, the Speaker may require interested Chiefs and Proxies to participate in a side meeting to develop a consensus Resolution, with the assistance of COO technical staff. The Resolution shall be brought back to the Assembly for a vote or other disposition.
7. The Speaker shall be assisted at all times by a Secretary.
8. These Rules apply equally to a Co-Speaker if one is delegated by the Ontario Regional Chief.

SECURITY

1. Security through the designation of appropriate persons, shall be designated by COO to act as Security Officers during the Chiefs Assembly.

2. A Head Security Officer shall be designated by COO and he/she shall be responsible for the Security Team. The Head Security Officer shall report directly to the Speaker and the Registrar on a daily basis.
3. Security Officers shall ensure that only First Nation Chiefs and Proxies, First Nations Councillors, Tribal Council and Association representatives, First Nation citizens, staff, invited guests, and other authorized persons are admitted to the meeting room.
4. Security Officers will deal swiftly and firmly with all instances of disorderly conduct during all of the days at the Chiefs Assembly.
5. Any participants found to be responsible for serious disorder or damage will be asked to leave at his/ her own expense.

PRESS

1. No members of the press shall be permitted in the meeting room unless approved by the Chiefs and Proxies.

DECISION MAKING

1. In accordance with Special Chiefs Assembly Resolution 06/103, the quorum for decision making at a Chiefs Assembly is 60% of all membership of the Ontario Chiefs in Assembly (133). The required number to constitute a quorum is 80.
2. Chiefs and Proxies constitute the decision-makers of the Assembly. Others, as recognized by Chiefs and proxies, including Elders, members of the Youth Council and members of the Political Confederacy shall also have the right to speak, at the discretion of the Speaker, at the Special Chiefs Assembly.
3. Where the Speaker has determined that all reasonable consensus-reaching processes have been exhausted, including a side meeting, the Speaker shall ask the mover and seconder of a Resolution if they wish to hold a Standing Vote.
4. Standing Vote shall be decided on a 50% plus one (1) basis. The vote shall be determined based on those voting for or against the Resolution, with abstentions not counting.

RESOLUTION PROCESS

1. A Committee on Resolutions shall be appointed by the COO Executive Director to guide the overall Resolutions process. The Committee shall include representatives from the 4 regional organizations and the Independent First Nations.

2. Resolutions must be moved and seconded by a Chief or Proxy prior to submission to the Resolutions Committee.
3. Except in emergency circumstances, to be ruled on by the Speaker, all draft resolutions must be submitted to COO at least 14 days in advance of the first day of the Assembly. Draft resolutions that do not meet this requirement shall not be considered.
4. First Nation governments are encouraged to deal with support issues through correspondence and other means apart from Assembly resolutions. COO and the Ontario Regional Chief will assist in this regard.
5. Resolutions should only be advanced if they are necessary because of new developments and authorities. The Resolutions Committee shall notify the Speaker when a draft Resolution repeats an existing Resolution and does not appear to be necessary.
6. The mover and seconder of a Resolution must be present in the meeting room when the Resolution is introduced. If they are not in attendance, the Speaker may ask the floor for alternative movers and/or seconds. .
7. The mover and seconder of the Resolution shall be allowed 3 minutes each to speak to the Resolution.
8. The Speaker shall make three (3) calls for intervenors on each Resolution. If no one indicates their desire to speak, the Speaker will call “question” on the Resolution and proceed to a vote.