2026 Bigstone Cree Nation Election Appeal

ELECTION APPEAL FILED BY D. ALOOK

ELECTION APPEAL ARBITRATOR'S DECISION

ISSUED NOVEMBER 25, 2026

DECISION SUMMARY

01. The Appellant sought to be nominated as Councilor for Wabasca/Desmarais and the Electoral Officer determined that she was not eligible to be nominated and her name did not appear on the ballot. That decision of the Electoral Officer is the primary issue in this Appeal.

02. Should I find that the Appellant was eligible to be nominated or that there was an election irregularity, I must then decide whether the infraction materially affected the results of the election.

03. I have decided that the Appellant was not eligible to be nominated based on the documents attached to her Nomination Package. I am not ordering a new election.

04. Since there were multiple issues I had to decide, and the final decision is forty (40) pages long including the Appendices which form part of this Decision, I have prepared this Decision Summary of three (03) pages. The Nation is directed to post the three (03) pages of the Decision Summary and to make an electronic copy of the entire Decision available to those of its members who wish a copy. A full copy of the Decision has been sent to the Appellant, the Electoral Officer, the Candidates and counsel for the Nation.

05. I had to decide the following 7 main issues.

Issue #1 - Was the Electoral Officer required to provide interpreters for the Nomination Meeting?

06. I have concluded that there is no requirement in the *Election Law* for the Electoral Officer to provide interpreters at the Nomination Meeting. The *Election Law* only requires the Electoral Officer to provide interpreters for the date of the election itself.

Issue #2 - Did the Electoral Officer's behavior at the Nomination Meeting amount to a corrupt election practice?

07. I find that the Electoral Officer's behavior at the Nomination Meeting was not a corrupt election practice as that term is defined, nor was it an irregularity that materially affected the outcome of the election.

Issue #3 - Did the Electoral Officer ask for verbal confirmation of nominations at the Nomination Meeting?

08. I find as a fact that the Electoral Officer did not request a verbal acceptance of the nominations at the Nomination Meeting, however this irregularity did not affect the outcome of the election.

Issue #4 - Does the *Election Law* allow a potential Candidate to appeal the Electoral Officer's decision under section 8.7(b) that they were not eligible to be nominated prior to the election?

09. It is my interpretation of the *Election Law* that a potential Candidate who is deemed ineligible by the Electoral Officer does not have the right to appeal this decision prior to the election. They must wait until after the election to file an appeal.

Issue #5 - Does section 8.8 of the *Election Law* require the Electoral Officer to refer all potential Candidates determined ineligible to the Election Appeal Arbitrator prior to the election?

10. I have concluded that the intention of this section of the *Election Law* does not require the Electoral Officer to refer potential Candidates to the Election Appeal Arbitrator if the Electoral Officer decides the potential Candidate is not eligible to be nominated.

Issue #6 - Was D. Alook eligible to be nominated as a candidate according to section 8.6(f)(iii) of the *Election Law*?

11. It is my finding that the Appellant D. Alook was not eligible to be nominated as a Candidate based on the criminal record check attached to her nomination package. The criminal record check provided by the Appellant at the Nomination Meeting showed a 'possible match'. The Appellant did not provide at the Nomination Meeting, the additional clarification from the

RCMP that the 'possible match' was not an indictable offence. The *Election Law* requires potential Candidates to have all of their documents in order at the Nomination Meeting. The *Election Law* does not give the Electoral Officer the discretion to give potential Candidates time to get their documents in order.

Issue #7 – Were the 7 letters attached to the Notice of Appeal valid appeals?

12. The letters attached to the Notice of Appeal were not valid appeals. The *Election Law* requires each person to file their own appeal.

Election Appeal Arbitrator

Per: C Zukiwski

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Carol M. Zukiwski