



## ***Peerless Trout First Nation Trust Fund Process 2020***

**It's time to Vote!**

In keeping with the requirements of the Peerless Trout First Nation Trust, membership is required to vote on proposed community initiatives to be funded by the net income of the Trust.

This year Council carefully reviewed proposals that were put forward by Trust Program staff to fill gaps in funding that were identified in exiting community programs. These programs were already approved for funding through previous Trust Program votes and will continue to run even if community members do not vote in favour of proposed increases to the budget on the ballot. There are two proposals for you to consider relating to PTFN's Community Health and Safety programming and Funeral Subsidy Program.

**To minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19, Chief and Council have decided to hold the Trust Vote on the same day and using the same poll locations as the Council election – October 27, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Poll stations will be located at the at the Peerless and Trout Community Halls and at the Red Earth Community Hall.**

**To further reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, the Red Earth poll location is for members living outside of the Peerless and Trout communities only.**

**Safety protocols such as social (physical) distancing, minimizing contact surfaces and masking will be in effect for the duration of the vote. A summary of COVID-19 protocols for the Trust Vote is included in this newsletter.**

Please read the Notice of Trust Vote for details on how to cast your ballot and the proposals included in this newsletter to help you make your decision. Council thanks everyone involved in developing the current proposals and we encourage everyone to come out and vote on **October 27, 2020** to ensure you get the programs and services you want for our community.

*Yours Sincerely,*

***Peerless Trout First Nation Chief and Council***

## COVID-19 Protocols for Trust Vote

Community safety is our #1 priority. If you are experiencing symptoms typical of a COVID-19 infection on the day of the vote, or were recently exposed to someone that has symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test, we ask that you follow AHS guidelines and do not leave your home to visit the poll station. Typical symptoms of COVID-19 infection include:

- Fever
- Cough (new or worsening)
- Shortness of breath
- Sore Throat
- Runny Nose (new or worsening, not due to other conditions such as allergies)
- Fatigue (new or worsening)
- Nausea/diarrhea
- Loss of sense of taste and/or smell

### Poll Station Safety Protocols:

- For your protection and the protection of poll station workers, you must sanitize your hands upon entry and wear a mask at all times while inside the poll station. Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided at the door.
- High touch surfaces such as door handles and ballot marking stations will be disinfected regularly. Pencils used for marking ballots will be replaced/disinfected as needed.
- Separate entries and exits and one-way movement at the poll stations will be marked. Loitering inside poll stations or near entries/exits will not be permitted.
- A maximum of 45 members will be allowed inside the poll station to witness the ballot count after the polls close. Physical distancing and face masks will be mandatory.
- To decrease the risk of exposure to COVID-19 from outside of the community, members living off-reserve may only vote at the Red Earth poll station. Members who live in Peerless or Trout will not be permitted to vote at the Red Earth poll station. No exceptions will be made.

Peerless Trout First Nation's COVID-19 protocols are based on advice, guidelines and public health orders issued by Alberta Health Services. Peerless Trout's pandemic response team may update these protocols in response to further recommendations from AHS and/or direction from Chief and Council. Updates will be posted at the PTFN Administration Office and on the PTFN website and Facebook page.

If there is an increased risk to the health and safety of community members due to a COVID-19 outbreak and/or excessive community spread in the region the Trust Vote may be postponed until further notice.

## Notice of Trust Vote – October 27, 2020

On **October 27, 2020**, our communities will be holding a vote on the proposals to access income from the PTFN Trust. Vote Polling stations will be in the Community Halls in both Peerless Lake and Trout Lake and at the Red Earth Community Hall for off-reserve members. Voting will be by secret ballot and will take place from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In order to vote you must be a PTFN member that is at least 18 years of age. Please bring valid photo identification. The proposals that you will be voting on are included in this Trust Newsletter. The vote is being held in accordance with the Trust Agreement that was included in the claim settlement that our community voted YES to in March of 2010.

- WHEN:** *October 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.*
- WHERE:** *Peerless Lake and Trout Lake Community Halls  
Red Earth Community Hall – 175 Forestry Road,  
Red Earth, AB (off reserve members only)*
- WHAT:** *Cast a Ballot, and remember you can vote YES for  
more than one Trust proposal*
- WHY:** *Because your VOTE will determine how programs and  
services will be offered to our community*

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS:

<b>Proposal A</b> – Community Health and Safety Supporting emergency preparedness, fire services and enhanced policing. This program would replace the Emergency Response Program that was previously approved.	<b>\$311,500</b>
<b>Proposal B</b> – Funeral Support Program – budget increase. Providing financial support to help pay for funerals for local families. The previously approved yearly budget is \$20,000.	<b>\$40,000</b>

### Election Information & Voter's Responsibility:

The PTFN Election Code, Section 7.1 states that it is the responsibility of non-resident Electors to inform the membership department of their name and mailing address for Election / Voting purposes. **Please ensure your information is up to date by contacting our Administration Office @ 780-869-3985.**

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Frequently asked Questions

**Question** – Who can vote in the Trust Program Vote?

**Answer** – *PTFN members who are 18 or older. Remember to bring your I.D. when you come to vote.*

**Question** – How many members need to vote YES for a proposal to be considered approved?

**Answer** – *A simple majority of members must vote YES for a proposal to be considered approved. So, if 100 members cast a ballot, at least 51 members must vote YES.*

**Question** – Can we vote YES for more than one proposal?

**Answer** – *You can vote yes for more than one proposal. If you vote yes for a program you are providing the Trustees with the authority to fund the program, but that does not always mean the program will receive Trust funding each year. Trust programs are funded based on the available Income to the Trust each year and some years there is not enough income to cover the cost of all the approved programs.*

**Question** – How many programs can be funded by the Trust income funds?

**Answer** – *The amount of Trust income available for programs and services goes up and down from year to year. The Trustees always ensure that funding is available for the highest priority programs that are approved through the Trust Program vote process, such as those that support community health and safety, education, etc.*

**Question** – What if none of the proposals receive a simple majority during the vote?

**Answer** – *The proposed program is not approved, and the funds stay in our Trust account. Under the terms of the Trust, Council may decide to call another vote.*

**Question** – I noticed that the proposals are multi-year, what does this mean?

**Answer** – *These proposals are ongoing, so these they will be funded each year as long as there are enough Trust funds available.*

**Question** – What if the Vote is postponed due to COVID-19 health and safety precautions?

**Answer** – *If the vote is postponed Chief and Council will work closely with PTFN's Emergency Management pandemic response team and Trust Coordinator to reschedule the vote once it is safe to do so. A notification of the new date will be posted at the PTFN Administration building and on Facebook. Any mail in votes received for the Trust Vote will remain unopened in a secure location and will be considered valid for the new vote date. New mail-in packages will not be sent to off-reserve members.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Norma Noskiye at the PTFN Band Office at **780-869-3985** or Carie Santo at **780-257-9079***

## Proposal Details

### Proposal A

#### ***Proposal***

*Draft #3, Dec 19, 2019*

#### **Program**

Community Health & Safety

#### **Your Name:**

PTFN Trustees

#### **Your Contact #:**

Chris Wilson 780-668-9073

#### **Purpose**

The Trustees want to improve and expand the existing Emergency Response Program to increase the budget & the program's scope to address the rising costs that are associated with the operation of the Nation's 2 Firehalls and the related Emergency Services Program. The Trustees also wish to improve the health and safety of the community by improving the Nation's ability to respond to evacuation during the wildfire season and improve individual safety by entering into an Enhanced Policing Service Agreement. If approved, this program will replace the Emergency Response Program that was originally approved in 2014.

#### **Duration**

**Start:** 2020

**Multi-Year:** Program is ongoing while Trust Income is available

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>ESTIMATE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Fire Service Operations	\$210,000	Covers Fire Fighter Program, costs of operation and maintaining the Fire halls, equipment purchases or replacement reserve.
Wildfire Preparedness	\$11,500	3 part time staff during the Wildfire Season
Enhanced Policing Service	\$90,000	A part time RCMP Officer (50%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$311,500</b>	

#### **Breakdown of Budget estimate:**

<b>Fire Service Operations</b>	<b>ESTIMATE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Fire Service	\$70,000	Estimate for Fire Fighter positions & Management
Training	\$20,000	Annual estimate for Fire Fighter Training
Fire Fighter Equipment	\$10,000	Various supplies & equipment for staff
Major Equipment Replacement	\$20,000	Build a funding reserve to replace or purchase new equipment, such as trucks, pumps, hoses, ladders, extraction equipment & other tools
O&M of 2 Fire Halls	\$54,000	Vehicle Gas \$1,500/month, Propane Heating \$1,000/month/hall, & Power \$500/month/hall
Radio Tower O&M	\$36,000	\$3,500/mth Tower Lease (5 yr. agreement - ends Sept 2020) + \$6k radio licenses annually
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	

<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>		<b>ESTIMATE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Emergency Coordinator		\$2,500	One Fire Department Rep @ \$500/month for 5 mths.
Evacuation Assistants		\$2,500	One person/community @ \$250/month for 5 mths
Supplies		\$5,000	Acquire Supplies & attend Training Session
Contingency at approx 10%		\$1,500	
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$11,500</b>	

### Proposal B

#### **Proposal**

*Draft #1, January 7, 2019*

**Program** Funeral Support 2020

**Your Name:** PTFN Trustees

**Your Contact #:** Elizabeth Cardinal

**Purpose** The cost of funerals has increased significantly since the initial Funeral Support Program was established in 2012. To help address the increase costs, the Trustees will increase the funeral subsidy for local families to \$7,000 per funeral.

**Duration**                      **Start:** 2020                      **Multi-Year:** Program is ongoing while Trust Income is available

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>ESTIMATE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Funeral Subsidy	\$40,000	Estimate 5 funerals per year.
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	

**The PTFN Council want to thank you for your time and they hope you can come out to participate in the Trust Vote.**

- ✓ **See you at the polls on October 27, 2020 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.**
- ✓ **Remember to bring your identification**
- ✓ **Be sure to mark your ballot for each proposal with a clear mark for either YES or NO**
- ✓ **Check the PTFN website and/or Facebook page for updates on the vote.**
- ✓ **If you live off-reserve and are voting by mail-in ballot, please mail your ballot package by no later than October 13th.**

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Norma Noskiye at the Band Office at **780-869-3985** or the Designated Officer at Carie Santo at **780-257-9079***