



Cheam Custom Election Code: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Custom Election Code?

A Custom Election Code is a set of election rules created by the community to govern how elections are run. Instead of following the federal Indian Act election system, Cheam would oversee and manage its own elections in a way that reflects our values, traditions, and community goals.

2. Why is Cheam proposing a Custom Election Code?

The Indian Act system does not reflect our community's needs or cultural values. A Custom Code allows us to take control of our own election processes, improve leadership stability, promote transparency, and support long-term planning.

3. What are some of the key changes in the proposed Custom Code?

Some highlights include:

- Removing Indigenous Services Canada from oversight of Cheam's election process
- Longer Council terms (from 2 years to 4 years)
- Only Cheam Band Members can be nominated and hold the office of Chief
- A member of the Council can be removed if they are in breach of their fiduciary duties
- Cheam will appoint its own Appeal Board
- If a member of Council steps down or is removed, the candidate with the next highest vote during the election can fill that vacancy without having to hold a By-Election

4. Will this change who can vote or run for Council?

No. All registered members of Cheam aged **18 and older** will still be eligible to vote and run for Council, as outlined in the Custom Election Code.

5. How will the referendum work?

The referendum is your opportunity to vote "Yes" or "No" to adopt the Custom Election Code. To pass, the majority of those who vote must support it. More details on voting locations, times, and mail-in ballots will be provided in your upcoming election package.

6. What happens if we vote "No"?

If the referendum does not pass, Cheam will continue to follow the election rules under the Indian Act, and elections will be managed by Indigenous Services Canada.

7. Where can I get more information or ask questions?

You can contact the Cheam Administration Office at 604-794-7924 or by emailing our Electoral Officer Fred Schiffrer at fschiffrer90@gmail.com or join us at the next Townhall on May 7, 2025. We are here to support you in making an informed decision.