

March 10, 2025

## Public Statement for Members

Dear Blueberry Members,

At the Blueberry Council meeting on Thursday, March 6, a group from the late Edward Apsassin family, who are claiming a loss of confidence in Councillor Gauthier, presented a petition and report in support of this claim. At the same meeting, Council also read an open letter signed by other members of the late Edward Apsassin family, who argue that the group of petitioners does not represent the views of the majority of this family group.

Nonetheless, as the petitioners have now completed the first step in the process for removing a Family Councillor, Council is now taking the next steps to properly investigate this claim further, as required under our Election Code.

Since we do not have a Chief Operating Officer (COO), this process will require the hiring of an independent investigator - a representative with no previous associations with Blueberry, who is qualified to handle this type of investigation.

Once in place, the investigator will first assess the merits of the petition and confirm that it meets the requirements under Blueberry's Election Code; then, if necessary, the investigator will compile a report on the claims against Councillor Gauthier, and will then present it to Council (not including Councillor Gauthier).

It is essential that this process is done properly and impartially in accordance with our laws. This will take time, and while we are moving with urgency on this matter, we appreciate everyone's patience while the process gets underway.

To ensure transparency, we will provide updates on this matter at our official Council meetings, and by public statements when appropriate.

Blueberry River First Nations Council