



April 2025

## *Background on the Referendum Questions*

### **The Electoral Commission sends gratitude and thanks**

for your participation and feedback during the community consultations. This booklet captures the work that we did, and outlines the considerations that you brought forward, that the Electoral Commission worked with to shape the Referendum Questions on your behalf.

#### **In this Booklet,**

We share the considerations that have come from the Squamish Nation people, that may help you decide how you will vote for these Changes on May 31.

**Questions 1 & 2:** On the total size of Council, and regional dedicated seats..... **1**

**Questions 3A & 3B:** On the number of immediate family members on Council..... **2-3**

**Question 3C:** On 2 definitions of 'Immediate Family', in 4 example scenarios..... **4-7**

**Questions 4 & 5:** On choosing the Chairperson, and speaking time limits ..... **8**

#### **Question 1:**

Do you want the size of Council to be 8 Councillors or 16 Councillors?



#### **Considerations Include:**

- The cost of a larger Council
- Honouring the spirit of Amalgamation

#### **Question 2:**

Do you want to keep the three dedicated seats for North Shore, Squamish Valley and Regional Councillors OR do you want all voters to vote for all Councillors?



#### **Considerations Include:**

- Ensuring representation across the Nation including Squamish Valley and other areas
- All voters vote for all Councillors
- Our legal regions:
  - "Squamish Valley" means the geographic area in the portion of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District north of Porteau Cove and within the Squamish Nation traditional territory.
  - "North Shore" means the geographic area within the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, and the District of West Vancouver.
  - 'Regional' means all geographic areas that are outside Squamish Valley and the North Shore.

# 3A/3B

## QUESTIONS 3A & 3B: IMMEDIATE FAMILY ON COUNCIL *CONSIDERATIONS*

Currently, the Law does not limit the number of immediate family members on Council.

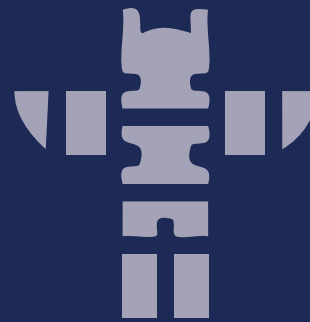
- If changes in the Referendum are approved, all eligible voters will continue to be able to run for a seat on council.
- Depending on how we define immediate family, and how many we choose to allow to sit on Council at the same time, only 1 or 2 immediate family members will be on Council at the same time.



**Question 3A and 3B asks if we should limit the number of family members on Council at the same time, to either 1 or 2 immediate family members. The current Law has no restrictions on this.**

### Question 3A:

Do you want to limit the number of immediate family members who are elected to Council?



### Question 3B:

If the number of immediate family members are limited on Council, how many immediate family members should be permitted on Council? 1, or 2?



### Question 3C:

If the number of immediate family members are limited on Council, which definition of "immediate family" do you want to apply?



### The questions about immediate family (3A & 3B)

will decide how many immediate family members can have a seat on Council at the same time. The current Law does not restrict this.

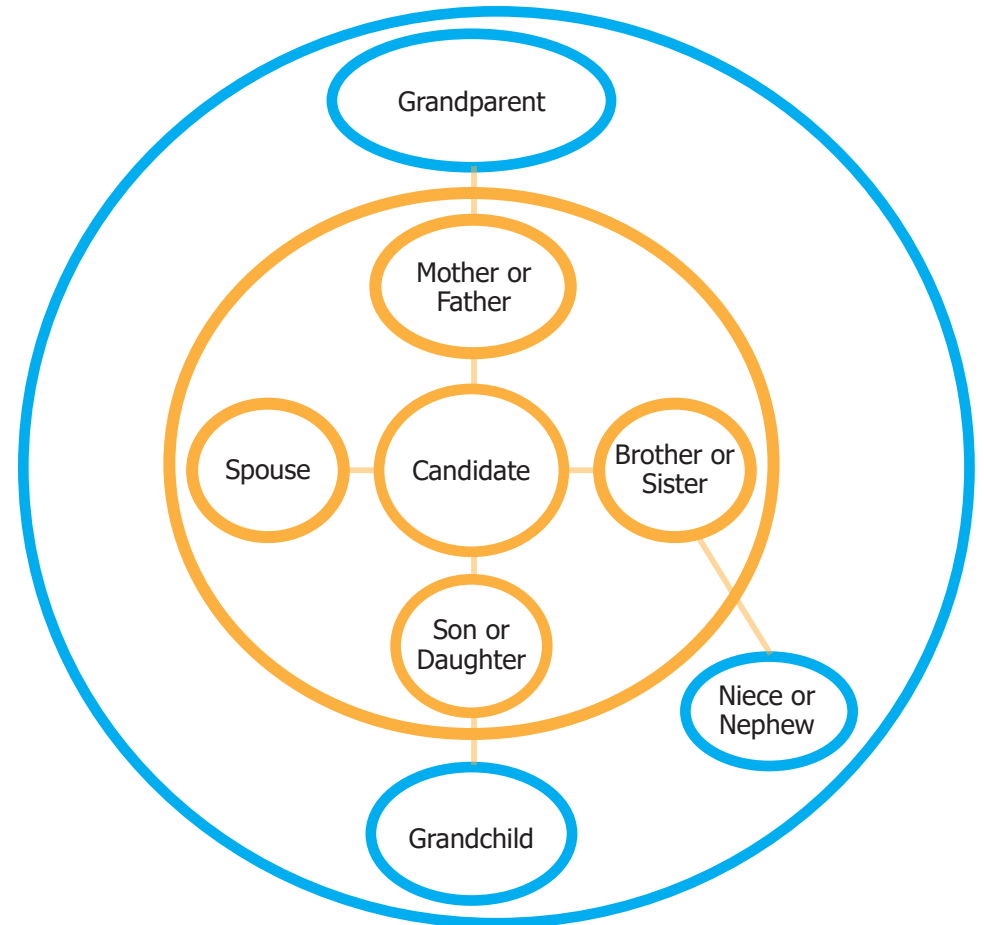
#### Considerations:

- All Squamish Nation members are eligible to, and may, run for a seat on Council.
- The candidates with the highest votes will be on Council.
- The Referendum is asking if we should limit the number of immediate family members, and if we should change our definition of immediate family members.

### Two Definitions of 'Immediate Family'

**(Small) Immediate Family** is defined as 'Mother, Father, Spouse, Brother, Sister, Son, or Daughter' of the Candidate. This means that more branches of the family can have a member on Council, at the same time.

**(Large) Immediate Family** is defined as 'Mother, Father, Spouse, Brother, Sister, Son, Daughter, Niece, Nephew, Grandparent or Grandchild' of the Candidate. This means that a larger branch of the family—from grandparent to grandchild—can have only one member on Council.



#### LEGEND

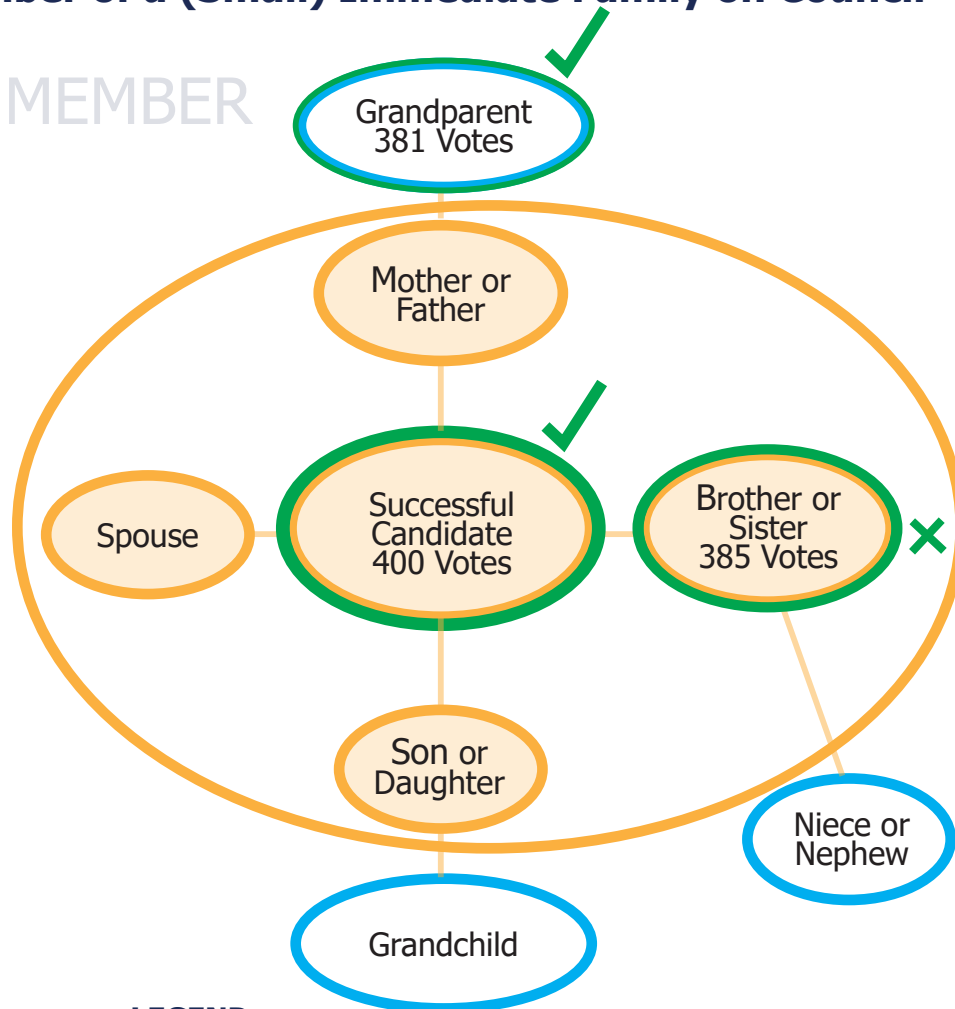
- Yellow Circle: (Small) Immediate Family
- Blue Circle: (Large) Immediate Family

# 3C

## EXAMPLE OF 1 MEMBER ON COUNCIL: (SMALL) IMMEDIATE FAMILY

### Example of Election Results: 1 Member of a (Small) Immediate Family on Council

1 MEMBER



#### LEGEND

- Yellow Circle: (Small) Immediate Family
- Blue Circle: (Large) Immediate Family
- Green Circle: Candidates running for Council
- ✓ On Council

**In this Example,** there are three people who are running for Council:

- a **Candidate**, and their Brother or Sister who are inside the (Small) Immediate Family definition,
- **AND** their Grandparent, who is outside the (Small) Immediate Family definition.

**If the Referendum chooses to allow ONE Immediate Family Member on Council,**

- **Only the Successful Candidate** can be on Council, because they are part of the same (Small) Immediate Family as their Brother or Sister, who has fewer votes.

**AND,** at the same time,

- **their Grandparent can also be on Council,** because the Grandparent is not part of the same (Small) Immediate Family.

#### **A (Small) Immediate Family:**

Is a Candidate, their Mother or Father, Spouse, Brother or Sister, and Son or Daughter.

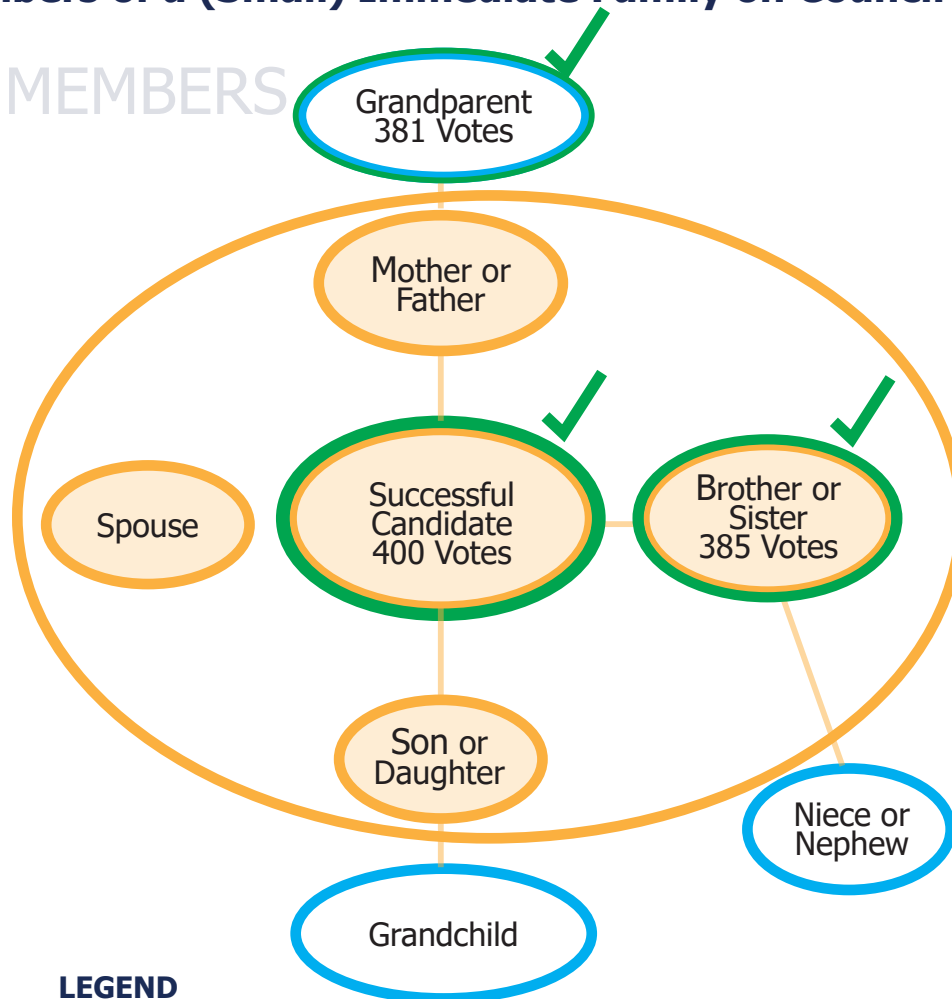
Grandparents, Grandchildren and Nieces and Nephews are not part of the same (Small) Immediate Family.

# 3C

## EXAMPLE OF 2 MEMBERS ON COUNCIL: (SMALL) IMMEDIATE FAMILY

### Example of Election Results: 2 Members of a (Small) Immediate Family on Council

2 MEMBERS



#### LEGEND

- Yellow Circle: (Small) Immediate Family
- Blue Circle: (Large) Immediate Family
- Green Circle: Candidates running for Council
- ✓ On Council

**In this Example,**  
there are three people who are running for Council:

- a **Candidate**, and their Brother or Sister who are inside the (Small) Immediate Family definition,
- **AND** their Grandparent is outside the (Small) Immediate Family definition.

**If the Referendum chooses to allow TWO Immediate Family Members on Council,**

- **Both** the Candidate **AND** their Brother/Sister can be on Council, when they are part of the same (Small) Immediate Family,

**AND**, at the same time,

- **their Grandparent can also be on Council**, because the Grandparent is not part of the same (Small) Immediate Family.

#### A (Small) Immediate Family:

Is a Candidate, their Mother or Father, Spouse, Brother or Sister, and Son or Daughter.

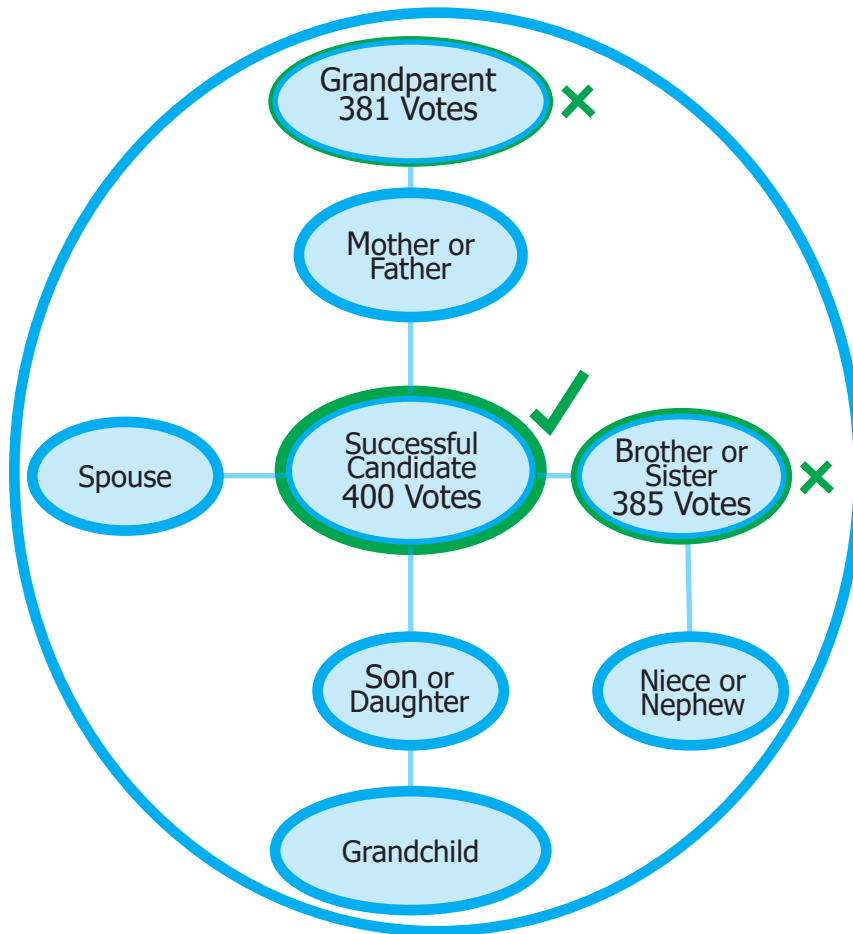
Grandparents, Grandchildren and Nieces and Nephews are not part of the same (Small) Immediate Family.

# 3C

## EXAMPLE OF 1 MEMBER ON COUNCIL: (LARGE) IMMEDIATE FAMILY

### Example of Election Results: 1 Member of a (Large) Immediate Family on Council

1 MEMBER



#### LEGEND

- Blue Circle: (Large) Immediate Family
- Green Circle: Candidates running for Council
- ✓ On Council

**In this Example,**  
there are three people who are running for Council:

- a Candidate,
- **AND** their Brother or Sister,
- **AND** their Grandparent,
- who are all inside the same (Large) Immediate Family definition.

**If the Referendum chooses to allow ONE (Large) Immediate Family Member on Council,**

- **Only the Candidate with the most votes** will be on Council.
- In this example, the **Successful Candidate** will have a seat on Council, because they have the most votes.

#### **A (Large) Immediate Family:**

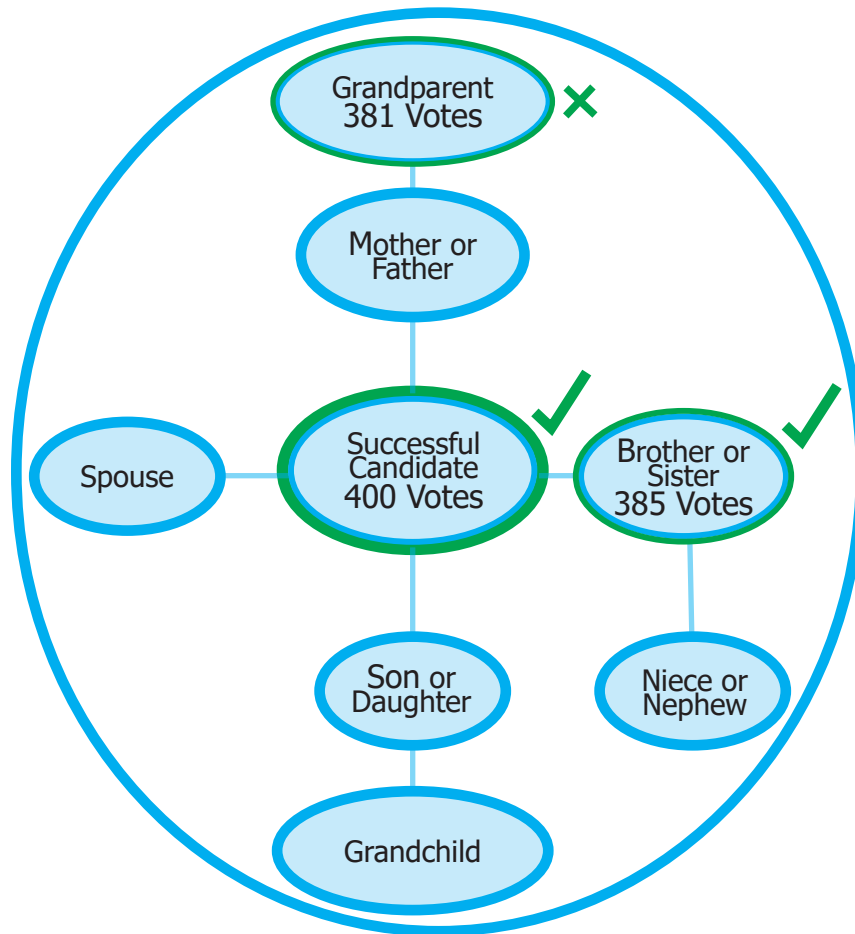
Is a Candidate, their Mother or Father, Spouse, Brother or Sister, Son or Daughter, Grandparents, Grandchildren and Nieces and Nephews.

# 3C

## EXAMPLE OF 2 MEMBERS ON COUNCIL: (LARGE) IMMEDIATE FAMILY

### Example of Election Results: 2 Members of a (Large) Immediate Family on Council

2 MEMBERS



#### LEGEND

- Blue Circle: (Large) Immediate Family
- Green Circle: Candidates running for Council
- ✓ On Council

**In this Example,** there are three people who are running for Council:

- a Candidate,
- **AND** their Brother or Sister
- **AND** their Grandparent
- who are all inside the same (Large) Immediate Family.

**If the Referendum chooses to allow TWO Immediate Family Members on Council,**

- The **TWO Candidates** with the most votes can be on Council.
- Here, the **Successful Candidate** and the **Brother or Sister** have the most votes, and can be on Council.

#### **A (Large) Immediate Family:**

Is a Candidate, their Mother or Father, Spouse, Brother or Sister, Son or Daughter, Grandparents, Grandchildren and Nieces and Nephews.

**Question 4:**

Do you want all voters to choose the Council Chairperson or do you want Councillors to choose the Council chairperson?

**Considerations:**

What skills does the Chairperson need?

The Role and Responsibilities of the Chairperson are to:

- Manage the Council's operations and meetings;
- Keep track of all Councillor's attendance at Council meetings;
- Keep Council focused on topic at Council meetings;
- Preparing and deciding the Agenda for each meeting;
- Mediating any disputes or conflicts on Council, and troubleshooting any conflicts with Councillors' performance

**Question 5:**

Do you want to keep the two-minute speaking limit at a People's Assembly OR do you want a five-minute speaking limit?



- People expressed concern about the length of meetings and amount accomplished if there were more than 2 minutes per speaker
- People expressed they want more time to speak to leadership

**Contact us**  
the Member Services team and  
Monica Jacobs with  
your questions about voting.

**Phone** 604-982-7610

**Email** [membership@squamish.net](mailto:membership@squamish.net)

**Website** [squamish.net/notice-of-referendum/](http://squamish.net/notice-of-referendum/)

**Vote May 31! Your vote counts! Each change needs a minimum of 60% of the voters who vote to take effect. For example, if 500 people vote, then 300 votes (60%) of those 500 are needed for the change.**