



# COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT OF BEHCHOKÒ

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## NEWS RELEASE

December 13, 2016 - Behchokò, NT

### **Behchokò Votes to Lift Prohibition**

The community of Behchokò voted on a liquor plebiscite on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> to remove all alcohol restrictions in the community and the vote was strongly in favour of lifting the liquor prohibition: 346 to 95.

An Advance Poll was held on November 28<sup>th</sup>, and the main plebiscite vote was held on December 12<sup>th</sup>. There were 2 polling stations, in Edzo & Rae, and a total of 445 ballots were cast.

Says Chief Clifford Daniels, *“The public has spoken. I have formally advised the Minister of Finance of the results, and I have requested that they now proceed with all the appropriate legislation. Hopefully, everything can pass the Legislature so the ban can be lifted on April 1, 2017. It is now in the hands of the Territorial Government. The Community Government of Behchokò has done all we legally can do.”*

Chief Daniels says that the Community Government of Behchokò will now be reminding everyone that, until the Legislature removes the liquor ban, that it is **STILL ILLEGAL** to have alcohol in Behchokò. Says Chief Daniels, *“It certainly would be sad if someone got charged for liquor possession only a few weeks before the ban is lifted, but breaking the law is breaking the law. I encourage everyone to please be patient and wait until the ban is lifted, and then people can share a beer together ... legally.”*

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**Liquor Plebiscite Facts:**

The ballot was printed in Tłıchq̓ as well as English. Tłıchq̓ translators were available at both polling locations to assist all voters.

The English portion of the ballot question read as follows:

*Do you support the removal of all liquor restrictions within the boundaries of Behchok̓?*

The results of the ballots cast were as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Spoiled</u>
Totals	<u>346</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>4</u>

Total possible voters	1,338
Total Ballots cast	445
Percentage Turnout	33%

Media inquiries please contact:

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