

**SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS  
ELECTION COMMISSION**

Complaint: Fred Paquin

June 12, 2026

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**BACKGROUND**

On June 12, 2026, the Election Commission filed a complaint against Fred Paquin. In that complaint, the Election Commission alleges that Mr. Paquin violated 10.115 for failure to file a monthly report detailing all contributions and expenditures by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June.

The complaint requested the following relief:

1. That a Notice to Rectify be issued to Fred Paquin according to the sanction schedule.

**ANALYSIS**

The Election Commission requested the Election Commission Attorney pursuant to 10.121(2) on whether the allegations in the contest constitute a violation of this Code. The Election Commission Attorney presented his findings to the Election Commission during the May 6, 2026, meeting.

The relevant code sections to this contest are 10.115 and 10.121.

10.115 (1) Each Candidate and Non-Candidate Registrant shall file reports under oath and penalty of perjury with the Designated Representative at the Designated Office detailing all Contributions and expenditures, including without limitation, advertising, flyers, postage, fundraising expenses, phone bank charges, online contributions, and other campaign costs, in accordance with this Section. An initial report shall be filed within five (5) days of registering as a Non-Candidate Registrant or submitting a Letter of Intent as a Candidate. Interim reports shall be filed monthly no later than the fifth (5th) day following the end of each month. A final report shall be filed no later than the deadline set for Contests.

10.121(3) The Election Commission, establishing two categories of Complaints: Administrative Complaints and Campaign Complaints.

- a. Administrative Complaints: shall mean any type of action that is related to filing paperwork with the Election Commission. These types of Complaints can be initiated administratively by a majority vote of the Election Commission outside of the complaints/contest process. Examples of these types of Complaints

include missed report filing deadline or failed to place endorsement on an advertisement. The Election Commission shall make the following types of decisions on these types of Complaints:

i. Dismiss the Complaint in writing as being without merit, if a Complaint is based on second-hand knowledge, it shall be dismissed as being without merit; or

ii. Issue a notice pursuant to the published Sanctions Schedule.

b. Campaign Complaints: shall mean any type of violation related to campaigning. These types of Complaints can only be initiated by members or candidates through the complaint process. The Election Commission shall make the following types of decisions on these types of Complaints:

i. Dismiss the Complaint in writing as being without merit, if a Complaint is based on second-hand knowledge, it shall be dismissed as being without merit; or

ii. Convene a hearing on the matter and render a written decision pursuant to subsection (5) of this section.

This is a complaint filed by the Election Commission pursuant to a majority vote of the Commission on June 12, 2026, and is an Administrative Complaint for failure to file required paperwork with the Election Commission. Under 10.120(3), all findings of the Election Commission regarding any complaints or contests shall be published on the Tribe's Website once the decision has been finalized in writing.

All candidates are required to submit their contribution and expense reports by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. The Election Commission sent a letter on April 10<sup>th</sup> to each candidate reminding them of their responsibility to submit their contribution and expense report by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month, and if any late or missing final financial reports, the Election Commission Sanction Schedule will take effect. It is the responsibility of each Candidate to ensure they file all required paperwork with the Election Commission in a timely manner under Chapter 10.

As of the Election Commission meeting on June 12, 2026, Fred Paquin has not filed their contribution and expense report for the month of June.

### FINDINGS

The Election Commission makes the following findings:

1. That Fred Paquin did not timely submit their contribution and expense report for the month of May and violated Tribal Code 10.115.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the Election Commission makes the determination pursuant to 10.121(3)(a)(ii) that Fred Paquin violated 10.115 and under Section 5(a) of the sanction schedule, a Notice to Rectify will be issued. Failure to cure within the time frame in the Notice of Rectify will automatically result in additional sanctions being issued pursuant to the sanctions schedule, and a new Notice to Rectify will be issued for each additional sanction until the violation is cured.



Election Commission Vice-Chairperson

June 12, 2026