



**ANISHINAABE  
CHI-NAAKNIGEWIN**



## **NGO DWE WAANGIZID ANISHINAABE** **One Anishinaabe Family**

**Debenjiged gii'saan anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni mnidoo waadiziwin.**

*(Creator placed the Anishinaabe on the earth along with the gift of spirituality.)*

**Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, giibi dgosdoonan wii naagdowendmang  
maanpii shkagmigaang.**

*(Here on Mother Earth there were gifts given to the Anishinaabe to look after, fire, water, earth and wind.)*

**Debenjiged gii miinaan gechtwaa wendaagog Anishinaaben waa naagdoonjin  
ninda niizhwaaswi kino maadwinan:**

*(Creator also gave the Anishinaabe seven sacred gifts to guide them. They are:)*

**Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendmowin, Nbwaakaawin, Dbaadendiziwin,  
Gwekwaadziwin miinwa Aakedhewin.**

*(Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.)*

**Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin.**

*(Creator gave us sovereignty to govern ourselves.)*

**Ka mnaadendanaa gaabi zhiwebag miinwaa nango megwaa ezhwebag,  
miinwa geyaabi waa ni zhiwebag.**

*(We respect and honour the past, present and future.)*

*Preamble to the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Anishinabek Nation Constitution)  
Adopted by the Anishinabek Grand Council - June 6, 2012*

## **Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe**

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is founded on Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe and forms the Traditional Government of the Anishinabek Nation, within the Inherent, Traditional, Treaty, and Unceded Lands of Our Territories.

The Anishinabek Chi-Naaknigewin is proclaimed by the Peoples identifying as the Anishinabek Nation, who in exercising their Sovereign, Inherent, and Treaty Rights, now establish and empower the Anishinabek Nation Government as their Traditional Government.

### **Article 1 – Interpretation; In this Law**

1.1 “Anishinaabemowin” refers inclusively to all languages of the Peoples belonging to the Anishinabek Nation.

1.2 “Anishinabek Nation” refers to those First Nation who together have proclaimed and signed this Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin and includes “Our Territories”.

1.3 “Chi Naaknigewin” refers to the written constitution of the Anishinabek Nation.

1.4 “Dodemaag” refers to the traditional Anishinaabe clan system of governing which is based on the Seven Sacred Gifts and informs the roles and responsibilities of the Dodemaag represented by: Deer, Eagle, Crane, Turtle, Loon, Bear and Marten.

1.5 “E’Dbendaagzijig” refers to the citizens of the Anishinabek Nation, which are those people who are recognized as E’Dbendaagzijig by the Anishinabek First Nations or the Grand Council. In English E’Dbendaagzijig translates to those who belong.

1.6 “Grand Council” refers to the law-making authority of the Anishinabek Nation and is comprised of a Grand Council Ogiimah, Deputy Grand Council Ogiimah(k) and a representative of each First Nation of the Anishinabek Nation, all of whom must be citizens of the Anishinabek Nation.

1.7 “Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe” refers to the preamble of the Anishinabek Nation, In English, Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe translates to One Anishinaabe Family.

1.8 “Our Territories” refers to the fire, water, earth and wind of the inherent, traditional, treaty, and unceded lands of those First Nations identifying as the Anishinabek Nation, as established in Appendix A.

1.9 “First Nation Resolution” refers to an official decision made by the Chief and Council of an individual First Nation.

## **Article 2 – Official Languages of the Anishinabek Nation**

2.1 Our Language is Anishinaabemowin and English is a secondary language.

## **Article 3 – Citizenship of the Anishinabek Nation**

3.1 Every person recognized as a E'Dbendaagzijig of an Anishinabek First Nation, or recognized as E'Dbendaagzijig by the Grand Council is a E'Dbendaagzijig of the Anishinabek Nation.

## **Article 4 – Principles of Government Structure of the Anishinabek Nation**

4.1 The Anishinabek Nation Government shall be guided by the principles and way of life of the seven sacred gifts given to Anishinaabe, namely: Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.

### **Government Structure**

4.2 The Anishinabek Nation Government shall be based on the Dodemaag system of governance.

4.3 The Anishinabek Nation Government will include the law-making authority, the Grand Council, and, an Elders Council, a Women's Council, and a Youth Council, to advise the Grand Council.

4.4 The Anishinabek Nation Government will fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the Dodemaag, including the administration of the day-to-day operations of government and the administration of a system of justice.

## **Article 5 – The Anishinabek Nation Law-Making Powers**

5.1 The Anishinabek Nation has the inherent right bestowed by the Creator to enact any laws necessary in order to protect and preserve Anishinaabe culture, languages, customs, traditions and practices for the betterment of the Anishinabek.

5.2 The Grand Council shall enact Rules of Procedure to govern the Grand Council.

## **Article 6 – Anishinabek Nation E'Dbendaagzijig Participation and Consultation**

6.1 The Anishinabek Nation Government will establish processes to ensure E'Dbendaagzijig participation and consultation in its law-making and policy procedures.

## **Article 7 – Institutions of the Anishinabek Nation Government**

7.1 Through a decision of the Grand Council, the Anishinabek Nation Government has the authority to establish institutions for the administration of government.

## **Article 8 – Relationship of Laws**

8.1 Anishinabek Nation laws and Anishinabek First Nation laws are equally operative; however, First Nation laws will take precedence.

## **Article 9 – Constitutional Amendment**

9.1 The Anishinabek Nation Grand Council may propose an amendment by a majority decision and any proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to the Elders, Women's and Youth Councils within 30 days.

9.2 After review by the Elders, Women's and Youth Councils, the Grand Council will consider the comments of the Elders, Women's and Youth Councils and decide whether to amend, withdraw or submit the proposed amendment to each Anishinabek First Nation community for approval.

9.3 If the Grand Council decides to proceed and submit the proposed amendment to each Anishinabek First Nation for approval, the Grand Council must obtain at least a majority approval by First Nation Council Resolution from the Anishinabek First Nations, in consultation with their citizens.

## **Article 10 – Admission of First Nations to the Anishinabek Nation**

10.1 A First Nation may be admitted to the Anishinabek Nation by a decision of the Grand Council confirming the addition.

## **Article 11 – Withdrawing of First Nations from the Anishinabek Nation**

11.1 A First Nation may withdraw from the Anishinabek Nation by way of a First Nation Resolution notifying Grand Council on the withdrawal.

### **Proclamation and Signatory**

This Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is hereby accepted and proclaimed by the Peoples of the Anishinabek Nation, through the Grand Council of Chiefs, on this 1st day of May, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Hare". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glen" being more prominent than the last name "Hare".

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Grand Council Chief Glen Hare

The Anishinabek Nation is a political advocate for 39 member First Nations across Ontario, representing approximately 65,000 citizens. The Anishinabek Nation is the oldest political organization in Ontario and can trace its roots back to the Confederacy of Three Fires, which existed long before European contact.



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