

**FIRST NATIONS IN
TREATY 2 TERRITORY**

ONANKONEHKAWIN



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PIINDAAKOJIGEWIN and OMBINIIMONG of the OPWAAGO'NAG is GIZHE MANIDOO's SACRED LAW which guides and protects the Anishinaabek way of Bimaadiiziwin

THE PRINCIPLES OF ANISHINAABE MINO BIMAADIZIWIN

Anishinaabemowin is our original way of speaking which allows us to process and express our thoughts. It is our way of communicating with Creation, with Spirit, and with one another.

Anishinaabe Inaadiziwin is our original behaviour, values, way of life and being Anishinaabe in the fullest sense. The development of the highest quality of Anishinaabe personhood, connected to the earth and in relation to all Creation.

Anishinaabe Inendamowin is our original way of thinking, our way of perceiving and of formulating thought resonating from our Anishinaabe beliefs and foundational truths. Anishinaabe Inendamowin is our Anishinaabe philosophy and world view.

Anishinaabe Gikendaasowin is our knowledge and way of knowing. It is the body of knowledge that informs us of our origins, our way of life, our way of being, and our worldview.

Anishinaabe Izhichigewin is our Anishinaabe way of doing things. It is our way of taking action with the life skills we need as Anishinaabe to live effectively in the world and contribute to building quality of living and quality of community.

Anishinaabe Enawendiwin is our way of relating to Spirit, to each other and to all of Creation. It is an all-inclusive relationship that honours the interconnectedness of all our relations and recognizes and honours the human place and responsibility within the family of Creation.

Gidakiiminaan is our connection and relationship to the land, and all of Creation. It is the experience of knowing and understanding the relationships that exist throughout Creation and understanding your own role and responsibility in this relationship. This connection is the primary shaper of Anishinaabe identity, and it is this total relationship with Creation that informs our environmental ethic.

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SECTION 1 TERRITORY

1. The Anishinaabe Nation includes Local Nations located in the Anishinaabe, Inineu and Treaty 2 territory. In addition to the Anishinaabe Nation, the collective Nation includes Dakotas, Inineu (Cree), Nakota and Ojibway.

NATION MEMBERSHIP

2. To exercise the sovereign decision to (Ji-biindige'waad) opt-in as a member nation of Treaty 2 Territory, a resolution must be provided from the Local Nation Council. To sanction this inherent governmental power, the ancestral protocol of the dancing in ceremony is ignited and will be carried out during the Grand Council. p
3. To exercise the sovereign decision to (Ji-zaag'aamoo'waad) opt-out as a member nation:
 - a) A majority vote of the Local Nation members to opt out of Treaty 2 Territory must be provided to the Governing Council;
 - b) Once the local nation process is formalized, a majority vote of the Governing Council while sitting in the Grand Council is required to accept the local nation's decision to opt-out.

SECTION 2 ANISHINAABE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

4. Our OpwaaGUN (pipe) leads our sacred protocol law in Anishinaabe Onankonehkawinan.
5. Our Onankonehkawin is founded on an Anishinaabe legal framework. The legal framework includes Spiritual, Natural and Customary;
 - a) Spiritual Law is Mino Bimaadiziwin which means living the good life.
 - b) Natural Laws are Aang-waa-misin (Peace), Mino-aani-gidoowin (Balance), Chi-sh-wi-ding (Harmony) and Chi-nah-ni-chi-kan (Natural Order).
 - c) Customary Laws are the nation's traditional way of maintaining order.

SECTION 3 JURISDICTION

6. Gizhe-Manitou put us here to protect our mother earth. Our Anishinaabe traditional territory is located on central turtle island.
7. The Anishinaabe traditional Treaty 2 territory shares jurisdiction with all its member Local Nations throughout the entire turtle island and does not interfere with each Local Nation's lands.

SECTION 4 CITIZENSHIP

8. Anishinaabe connected through a Local Nation in the territory as well as any eligible person who resides in the territory constitute the citizens.
9. Each Local Nation will create their own citizenship regulations through their Onankonehkawin which harmonizes with this Onankonehkawin.

SECTION 5 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

10. The languages of the territory include Anishinaabemowin, Ininew, Dakota, Nakota and the English language. The Anishinaabe double vowel system is also recognized as the official Anishinaabe Ozhibigewin of the Anishinaabek of Treaty 2.

SECTION 6 THE BUNDLE of the ANISHINAABEK NATION

11. In keeping with the precedence and sacredness of spiritual law and in the honouring of Wiisaakodaadiiwin Gizhibaabwewin – the Nation’s Grand Council Eagle Feather, Binisii Mitig (Eagle Staff) and our sacred bundles for each Council and Circles shall be always present and respected.

SECTION 7 LOCATION OF OFFICE

12. The registered head office is located within the Territory. All government business and all councils will be conducted within the traditional territory lands.

SECTION 8 OUR SEVEN ANISHINAABE ONANKONEHKAWINAN

13. Our Seven teachings and Onankonehkawin are the teachings from the Great Miikinaak Miinis (Central Turtle Island) which flow as seven grandfathers’ teachings: Love, Wisdom, Courage, Truth, Honesty, Respect and Humility. The four bundles follow and abide by these teachings in all interactions and functions in Peacemaking. Contrary actions to the Seven sacred laws are recognized as breaking the Great Law of Mino-Bimaadiziwin and the law of Lateral Kindness.
14. Our Kidaakiiminaan, Sacred Ancestral Homelands also known as Anishinaabe Aki. As part of our spiritual laws - The Opwaagun (Pipe) is sacred protocol law and our unwritten Onankonehkawinan. Our protocols have been with us for many generations and will continue to govern us for the next seven generations and beyond. Our Ohnushsheewehwiin is our supreme and ceremonial binding mandate derived from our Giizhe Manitou.

SECTION 9 GIZHAADIIZIWIN LATERAL KINDNESS

15. The Anishinaabe way of kindness is a teaching that is part of who we are. We have been given instructions from our Giizhe Manitou to treat everything and each other with love, respect, truth, honesty, wisdom, courage, and humility. Lateral kindness

is a construct that is said to encourage dialogue that will aid in the eradication of violence in bullying, gossip, intimidation and harassment. To heal we must all take responsibility for healing ourselves if required, and be kind, mindful and respectful to each other.

SECTION 10 PURPOSE

16. To restore and revitalize Anishinaabek Inherent sovereignty to govern and administer our Anishinaabe in the Anishinaabek traditional and ancestral Treaty 2 Territory.
17. The Purpose of Onankonehkawin is to proclaim and guide the Anishinaabek Inherent sovereignty to govern and administer our Anishinaabe in traditional and ancestral Treaty 2 Territory.

SECTION 11 GOVERNANCE BUNDLES

Our four (4) governance bundles stem from our Onankonehkawin which are:

LEGISLATIVE BUNDLE

18. Our Legislative Bundle is responsible for the legislative councils which includes the Governing Council, Ogimaakweg, Knowledge, Ininiug, Ikewak and Oshkiniug Councils.

EXECUTIVE BUNDLE

19. Our Executive Council is responsible for day-to-day Administration, Circles and Regional Office. The Ogichidaa, the Executive Council, and Intergovernmental guide this bundle.

EARTH LODGE BUNDLE

20. The Earth Lodge is responsible for Self-identity, Wellbeing, Lifelong Learning and Nation building. This is guided by the Seven Principles of Anishinaabe Mino Bimaadiziwin.

PEACEMAKING BUNDLE

21. Peacemaking is maintained with our Anishinaabek through our own Anishinaabe system that includes the seven foundational circles: Bizhiw(Lynx), Wawaashkeshi(Deer), Migizi(Eagle), Mikinaak(Turtle), Makwa(Bear), Mahng (Loon) and Ahjijawk(Crane).

SECTION 12 INAKONEGAWIN MAKING AUTHORITY

22. Our Inakonegawin law-making stems from Gizhe-Manitou and our mother earth. Our councils are mandated to govern our Nation and territory.
23. Councils will maintain as part of their record the minutes of all meetings, and which contains the record of resolutions considered and decisions taken on each resolution.
24. Each Council will meet a minimum of four times per year and will be constituted of one appointed member from each member Local Nation within the territory. The Chairperson of each council will be a member of the Governing Council and be a full voting member.
25. Onankonehkawinans will be made by the Governing Council.

GRAND COUNCIL

26. The Grand Council is constituted by all member Local Nations within the territory. Grand Council will be constituted by all citizens of Local Nations of the territory present at the annual meeting.
27. The Grand Council will call an annual gathering, once per year, on or around the 21st of August each calendar year. An agenda and package containing all Grand Council business to be considered will be provided to all member Local Nations at least thirty days in advance of the annual meeting.
28. Anishinaabek elected leaders, knowledge keepers and citizens from the ages eighteen years and older, in good standing, will make decisions during the period the council is gathering.
29. Grand Council have final authority over governance in territory.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

30. The Governing Council is constituted of the Ogimaa of each member Local Nation in the territory and supported by a chairperson from each Council.
31. The Governing Council provide advise to Bundles and Circles and consider all matters and make any decisions and issue directions that it considers appropriate to conduct business on behalf of First Nations in Treaty 2 Territory.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

32. The Governing Council will select an Executive Council, each year, immediately following the Grand Council meeting. A designate or proxy will not be a member of the Executive Council.

33. The Executive Council is made up of Ogichidaa and four (4) Ogimaas who will follow all instructions and directions provided by the Governing Council.
34. The Executive Council will meet monthly.
35. The Executive Council has authority between meetings of the Governing Council and will report at the next meeting to the Governing Council on all decisions taken, and those decisions will be ratified, amended, or rejected by the Governing Council.
36. Executive Council will consider all matters and make any decisions or issue instructions that it considers appropriate while the Governing Council is not meeting.

KNOWLEDGE COUNCIL

37. The Knowledge Council will from time-to-time review laws and provide recommendations to guide the Governing Council and Executive Council in their deliberations. An assigned Knowledge Keeper participates at all meetings to ensure decorum and to provide guidance for any of the proceedings.
38. The Chairperson or another designated member of the Knowledge Council will participate at all other member Council meetings.

OGIMAAKWEG (GRANDMOTHER) COUNCIL

39. The Ogimaakweg Council will from time-to-time review laws and provide recommendations to guide and provide wisdom and love for the Mikinaak Circle, Governing Council and Executive Council in their deliberations.
40. The Ogimaakweg participates at all meetings to ensure the Anishinaabe way of Mino-Bimaadiziiwin is paramount in decision making.
41. The Lead Ogimaakweg or another designated member of the Knowledge Council participate at all other member Council meetings.
42. The Ogimaakweg Council guides the Crane Circle in Peacemaking Appeals.

ININIUG (MEN) COUNCIL

43. The Ininiug Council advises and make recommendations for the operation of the Life Long Learning Circle and Care and Protection of the Natural World and law-making process of the Governing Council.
44. The Ininiug Council advises and make recommendations to the Governing Council and Executive Council on matters of governance.

IKWEWAK (WOMEN) COUNCIL

45. The Ikwewak Council advises and makes recommendations for the operation of the Children, Families and Nation Circle, Health and Well-being and law-making process of the Governing Council.
46. The Ikwewak Council advises and makes recommendations to the Governing Council and Executive Council on matters of territorial governance.

OSHKINIUG (YOUTH) COUNCIL

47. The Oshkiniug Council provides recommendations to guide the Governing Council and Executive Council relative to their deliberations. A representative from the Oshkiniug Council participates at all meetings to provide the directions and observe governing practices to build capacity within the Council.
48. Oshkiniug are a priority and will continue to be included as vital contributors to territorial governance.

SECTION 12 ANCESTRAL SELECTION OF OGICHIDAA

49. The Ogichidaa is to be a citizen in good standings from one of the member Local Nations within Treaty 2 Territory (T2T). Ogichidaa is the political collective voice of the 21.4 million acres of Kidaakiiminaan. Ogichidaa will work with the Grand Council, Governing Council and all Anishinaabek Councils.
50. The Ogichidaa will be selected through the process at the Assembly of the Grand Council and must be an elected Ogimaa from one of the member Nations. A traditional selection will take place where candidates will be asked to stand, and appointed council members will stand behind their selection until one leader is chosen. The Ogimaawkek Council will be responsible for carrying out the ancestral selection process.
51. It is the responsibility of Ogichidaa to ensure all governance and business activities are faithfully carried out and are communicated to all Ogimaas.
52. Ogichidaa has a separate political authority as a sitting Ogema of his/her Nation.
53. The political authority of Ogichidaa comes directly from the Grand Council.
54. The term of Ogichidaa will be for the leadership period of three (3) years, and the incumbent Ogichidaa will be eligible for re-election. Ogichidaa may be removed from office by 66% of the registered representatives of Anishinaabek present at a Grand Council meeting convened for removal.

REMOVAL OF OGICHIDAA

55. If Ogichidaa is removed from Office, or resigns, or is found unfit to carry out his/her duties, and the term of office ends, then the Governing Council by Resolution will appoint an interim Ogichidaa who will remain in office until the next election.
56. If an Ogichidaa is accused to be unfit, the Governing Council will provide direction on the investigation and decision process.
57. Ogichidaa will automatically vacate the office of Ogichidaa if that individual ceases to be an elected Ogema of a member Nation.

SECTION 13 NIIGAANIIS

58. Ogichidaa from time to time will appoint an Ogema of the Governing Council as a Niigaanii of a Circle. The Niigaanii will be the chairperson of the Circle and perform an advisory function to the Circle Keeper. Each Niigaanii has the authority to operate each role and position.

REMOVAL OF NIIGAANIS

59. If Niigaanis is removed from Office, or resigns, or is found unfit to carry out his/her duties, and the term of office ends, then the Governing Council by Resolution will appoint an interim Niigaanis who will remain in office until the next election.
60. If a Niigaanis is accused to be unfit, the Governing Council will provide direction on the investigation and decision process.
61. Niigaanis will automatically vacate the office of Niigaanis if that individual ceases to be an elected Ogema of a member Nation.

SECTION 14 TREASURY AND ADMINISTRATION

62. The administration of finances will be operated by the Treasury and Administration Onankonehkawin.
63. The functions of the Treasury is the following:
 - a) To manage projects and administer finances;
 - b) To provide organizational and logistical support;
 - c) To allocate human and fiscal resources;
 - d) To organize and prepare undertakings, studies, and reports;
 - e) To provide accountability mechanisms and meet reporting objectives for administration.

AUDIT

64. Internal and external auditing will be performed by the Treasury and Administration circle, utilizing generally accepted accounting and financial practises. Internal auditing will be performed quarterly. An external auditor will be appointed each year and the audit will be submitted to the Governing Council by 30 June each year to be presented to the Grand Council.

SECTION 15 PEACEMAKING

65. Peacemaking is a bundle within the Nations framework through the Grand Council.
66. The Grand Council has given the Governing Council the authority to administer the Peacemaking Bundle.

SEVEN CIRCLES OF PEACEMAKING

67. We have seven (7) circles that will be harmonized within the Peacemaking Onankonehkawinan:
 - a) **The Bizhiw (Lynx) Circle:** The Bizhiw Circle's role is Wellness Promotion, Early Intervention, Education and Awareness, referrals, and Wellness Support.
 - b) **The Waawaashkeshi (Deer) Circle:** The Waawaashkeshi Circle is responsible for wellness assessments and plans, sharing circles, mediation, healing circles, and family group conferencing.
 - c) **The Migizi (Eagle) Circle:** The Migizi Circles reviews and implements the Wellness Plan that includes culture and language, land-based teachings, programming, and ceremonies.
 - d) **The Miikinaak (Turtle) Circle:** The Miikinaak Circle is responsible for The Anishinaabe Law Centre and Registrar.
 - e) **The Makwa (Bear) Circle:** The Makwa Circle is responsible for Protection of the Nation and members, Care and Protection of the Aki Guardians, Peacekeeping, Wellness Supervision, and Search and Rescue.
 - f) **The Mahng (Loon):** The Mahng Circle is Legal System responsible for civil, criminal, family and youth matters.
 - g) **The Ahjijawk (Crane):** The Ahjijawk Circle is responsible for the Legal appeals circle, involving the Grandmother's Council.

SECTION 16 PROCEEDINGS AND RECORD KEEPING

68. All notes / records will be taken during all Council meetings. Only decisions and not actual discussion will be recorded of "In Council" meetings. In camera meetings will be registered.
69. Subject, to any law or confidentiality, all notes / records will be made available for review by the Governing Council, and it is the responsibility of each Council

member to report on notes / records to their respective Nation Council and Anishinaabek.

SECTION 17 MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

70. Councils, meetings, and gatherings are governed by Onankonehkawinan, regulations and policies.
71. A special meeting, other than a monthly or quarterly meeting may be called by Ogichidaa and/or by the Executive Council. Reasonable advance notice will be given.
72. The agenda for each meeting will be set prior to each council meeting.

SECTION 18 AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION

73. Our Onankonehkawin and Onankonehkawinans are living and breathing document – Bimaadiziimaagan Maazinegan.
74. The Governing Council, Knowledge Men, Women, and Youth Councils may from time to time recommend changes to Laws to the Grand Council, through special gathering, however any changes will not take effect until the following year. Any amendments to laws continue to be made by Hahaam.
75. The Grand Council will call a “Special Assembly” to deal with any proposed amendments and will only come into effect in the following year.

SECTION 19 COMMENCEMENT OF ONANKONEHKAWIN

76. Our Onankonehkawin comes into force on a date to be determined by resolution with the Governing Council and approved by the Grand Council.

Annex – Definitions

The following definitions are used to assist the Parties in a common understanding of the Local Nations' and T2T's point of view.

“Anishinaabe Agowidiwinan” means the original representatives at treaty of the nations of T2T, who decided on rights over and above original rights and which include the nine original Nations that made Treaty 2: Dauphin River, Ebb and Flow, Keeseekoowenin, Lake Manitoba, Lake St. Martin, Little Saskatchewan, O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi, Pinaymootang, and Skownan.

“Anishinaabek” means the original Anishinaabe people who were here since time immemorial and are the keepers of the Treaty2 Territory.

“First Nations in Treaty 2 Territory (T2T)” means the Government of First Nations in Treaty 2 Territory created on 12 June 2018 by resolution of the Council of Chiefs of Anishinaabe Agowidiwinan, Treaty 2, for the purposes of implementing the Inherent Right of self-government for the collective Local Nations located within the Treaty 2 territory.

“Councils” means one of seven (7) Councils including: Grand Council (people), Governing Council, Grandmothers, Knowledge, Men, Women and Youth Councils.

“T2T Membership” means the collective of the Local Nation Membership.

“T2T Helper” means a staff member who helps a Keeper and coordinates tasks and matters in any area of the Government of T2T.

“T2T Keeper” means a staff member who manages or directs an area or circle in administration and/or governance for the Government of T2T.

“T2T Local Nations” means one the Local Nations within T2T and includes the current following Local Nations: Ebb and Flow; Dauphin River; Gamblers; Keeseekoowenin; Lake St. Martin; Lake Manitoba, Little Saskatchewan; O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi; Pinaymootang; Skownan; and Tootinaowaziibeeng. This list may be amended and may also mean any First Nation within the Treaty 2 Territory.

“Gizhe Manitou” is our Creator.

“Implementation of the Treaty” means to implement Treaty 2 and obligations of any treaty we have in such a way that respects the Spirit and Intent of the Treaty which brings defined clarity in a modern context, see Annex A Declaration.

“Inherent Rights” means Creator-given rights that flow through our relationship with Mother Earth. See Annex A Declaration and Annex B The Great Binding Law.

“Inakonegawin” means our process in which we create an Onankonehkawinan.

"Jurisdiction" means law-making authority;

"Local Nation" means a band;

"Local Nation Council" means the selected leadership of a Local Nation and includes the Chief and councillors;

" Local Nation Government" means the government of a Local Nation represented by its Ogimaa and Council;

"Local Nation Helpers" means a person appointed by a Local Nation as the liaison between the Local Nation and the Regional Offices.

"Local Nation Membership" means a person whose name is included in the membership list of a Local Nation.

"Miina-go-ziiwin" means Inherent Rights;

"Mino-aani-gidoowin" means balance;

"Natural Laws" means the laws that have been passed down through ceremonies based on our relationship with the Creator. The Natural World is a source of law for Anishinaabek.

"Natural World" means all the physical and spiritual elements contained within Mother Earth. See Annex B The Great Binding Law.

"Ogichidaa" means lead spokesperson of the First Nations in Treaty 2 Territory;

"Onankonehkawin" is the unwritten and written Constitution of the Anishinaabek, Anishinaabe Agowidiiwinan and First Nations in Treaty 2 Territory;

"Regional Offices" means the office created to liaise between the Local Nations and T2T through the Local Nation Helpers.

"Spirit and Intent of the Treaty" means upholding the original relationship and Anishinaabek understanding of the promises made by the Crown. See Declaration.

"Traditional Knowledge" means knowledge systems embedded in the world view and traditions of Anishinaabek, Local Nations and T2T.

"Treaty 2 Territory" means part of the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, including the 21.444 million acres as described by our leaders in 1871 to the representatives of the Queen of England and Ireland, we have 24 Nations (AKA First Nations), nine Nations who made Treaty 2 and 15 other Nations. The 15 other Nations

are comprised of two Treaty 1 Nations, three Dakota Nations, eight Treaty 4 Nations and two Treaty 5 Nations.

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