

GUIDING OUR PATH TO A
**BRIGHTER
FUTURE**

DEVELOPMENT OF NCN CONSTITUTION



NCN's Constitution reflects the Seven Sacred Teachings of love (eagle), respect (buffalo), courage (bear), honesty (loon), wisdom (beaver), humility (wolf) and truth (turtle). Each teaching is represented by an animal to remind us of our connection to Mother Earth. These laws were received from the Creator. They are the rules our ancestors lived by and which they passed down to us. A Constitution is a set of oral or written rules

that help a society maintain order so they can live full, happy, healthy lives. It establishes how we will govern ourselves and how we will make our rules but it does not establish the details of those laws as those will evolve over time based on further discussion in our community.

A Constitution creates, empowers and regulates a government and its people. NCN's proposed Constitution creates a solid foundation for our

First Nation to assert our sovereignty and engage in further Nation building activities including negotiations of self-government agreements on a Nation to Nation basis with other levels of government.

We have spent 10 years discussing governance and its relationship to economic development. To move ahead we need to vote to adopt our Constitution.

TIMELINE

2007-09

Governance committee appointed by chief and council met and developed First Written Law proposals and held small group meetings to discuss the proposals

2010

First Written Law presented at Meet and Greets during PDA discussions

2011

- Feedback from Meet and Greets incorporated into document
- Roles & Responsibilities of Chief and Council
 - Code of Conduct for Chief and Council
 - Rights & Freedoms in Canadian Charter guaranteed
 - Institutions of Governance expanded to add Legislative Assembly comprised of Chief and Council and representatives from Elders, Youth, Men and Women
 - Law-making procedures revised

2012

Developed, discussed, reviewed and revised many drafts internally

2013

- Further research undertaken about development of Indigenous Constitutions in North America and Australia
- Celebrations about 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation of 1763 were used to enhance sovereignty
- Newsletters specific to draft Constitution were distributed

2014

- Constitution presented and discussed at several rounds of Meet and Greets and Small Group Meetings
- Feedback reviewed and incorporated into document

2015

- Further newsletters and explanatory materials distributed
- Constitution presented and discussed at further Meet and Greets and Small Group Meetings
- Further changes made to the draft document

2016

- Chief and Council decided to make Aski Pumenikewin (land code) consistent with the Constitution
- Chief and Council decided to hold the vote on Aski Pumenikewin (land code) first followed by a vote on the Constitution

2017

- Meet and Greets on Aski Pumenikewin and its relationship with Constitution discussed
- Successful vote on Aski Pumenikewin in August
- Further Meet and Greets and Small Group Meetings related to the Constitution held in the fall

Let's continue making history together. Your ongoing support is essential as we take this next step together toward approval of our own Othasowewin (constitution). **YOUR VOTE GIVES NCN A STRONG VOICE!**

