

# Quick Facts



October 2017

## OTHASOWEWIN TIPETHIMISOWIN (OUR CONSTITUTION - OUR SOVEREIGNTY)

### A CONSTITUTION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT:

- Gives us more control over our own lives and further removes us from the Indian Act
- Describes the beliefs, values and principles that guide our First Nation
- Describes our government, their powers and authority
- Describes the rights and responsibilities of our Citizens
- Is a framework for stable governance and describes how decisions will be made
- Establishes the process for laws to be made
- Establishes how laws will be enforced and how disputes will be resolved
- Is a critical building block for creating sustained economic development and self-sufficiency.

## Get To Know **NCN's CONSTITUTION**

**Preamble** – describes who we are and an overview of our beliefs and principles

**Chapter 1** – includes the customary law principles that have guided our Nation for centuries as well as definitions used in the Constitution

**Chapter 2** – describes the rights and freedoms NCN Citizens have within our Nation, within Canada and as part of international law

**Chapter 3** – confirms the laws of Canada and Manitoba will apply unless replaced by an NCN Law (it is the same as in the recently approved Nisichawayasi Aski Pumenikewin)

**Chapter 4** – describes the jurisdiction of NCN's Government which is not just limited to NCN Citizens but to anyone who takes action on our lands

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**Chapter 5** – describes NCN’s governing institutions – the General Assembly (the people), Chief and Council and the Nisichawayasi Court

**Chapter 6** - describes the rights related to General Assemblies

**Chapter 7** – confirms the number of positions on Chief and Council and establishes the right of NCN to make its own laws Chapter 8 – describes the roles and responsibilities of Chief and Council

**Chapter 9** – establishes a Code of Conduct for Chief and Council

**Chapter 10** – describes the procedures related to Chief and Council meetings

**Chapter 11** – describes the organizational structure of the NCN Government and the relationship between Chief and Council and the other entities that Chief and Council establish including their reporting requirements

**Chapter 12** – describes financial accountability provisions and how the NCN Government will operate

**Chapter 13** – confirms the importance of land governance and describes certain land principles

**Chapter 14** – describes the law-making process (it is the same as in the recently approved Nisichawayasi Aski Pumenikewin – land code)

**Chapter 15** – confirms Chief and Council may seek input from NCN Citizens including by way of votes before making major decisions

**Chapter 16** – describes dispute resolution mechanisms such as the Nisichawayasi Court and the establishment of administrative tribunals to hear disputes

**Chapter 17** – describes the Constitution ratification process (majority decision by at least 25% of NCN Citizens 18 years of age and over)

**Chapter 18** – describes the process for amending the Constitution (majority decision by at least 25% of NCN Citizens 18 years of age and over)

**Chapter 19** – indicates that the existing Chief and Council will remain in office till the next elections in 2018 and that the bylaws currently enacted will remain in force until replaced

**Chapter 20** – indicates that the Constitution will take effect in whole or in part on the dates established by Council Resolution after approval by Ratification Vote (this is the same procedure as in the Land Code)

## **RISKS** IF THE CONSTITUTION IS NOT APPROVED

- The rules established by the Indian Act will continue to apply
- There will continue to be limited law making processes for everything except land and we will have to continue seeking permission from the Minister of Indian Affairs on many matters
- Our goals of self-determination and economic self-sufficiency will suffer a major set-back
- Our negotiating strength in self-government negotiations will be compromised
- Our Election Law will have to be amended using the same divisive, costly system we had to incorporate into our law in 1998 to comply with INAC policies



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## **YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR OUR MAJOR INITIATIVES IS CRITICAL**

Please listen to the information, attend our meetings, and most importantly, **VOTE** on one of the following dates.

### **OPEN HOUSES**

October 5 – Winnipeg  
October 11 – Leaf Rapids  
October 12 – Thompson  
October 19 – General Assembly  
October 24, 25, 26 – Small group workshops NCN

### **VOTING DATES ARE:**

November 1–29 – E-vote  
November 20 – Leaf Rapids  
November 21 – Thompson  
November 23 – Winnipeg  
November 28-29 – NCN  
All polls will be from 12:00 to 8:00