



Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement **FACT SHEET**

Leadership Selection

What does the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* mean when it comes to leadership selection?

Points to Remember:

It means Anishinabek Nation citizens can help develop their First Nations' laws for leadership selection that may include:

- Laws to determine qualifications for Chief and Council (Leaders).
- Laws to set longer terms of office (especially in First Nations who still elect leaders every two years under Indian Act rules) so leaders can have more time to get important work done in their First Nations.
- Laws to coordinate leadership selection across the Anishinabek Nation to allow for better planning on a larger scale (as an example: one day, week, or month for leadership selection for the whole Anishinabek Nation). Then First Nations can better work together on collective goals and initiatives.

For more information please contact your First Nations Communications Coordinator or call the governance Toll-free line: 1-833-297-9850.

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Language & Culture

What is in the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* in terms of language and culture?

Points to Remember:

It means Anishinabek Nation citizens can develop laws to promote and protect Anishinaabe language and culture, which may include:

- Laws to promote the use of traditions and ceremony in our collective and community life, to integrate and preserve Anishinaabe identity.
- Laws that will promote the use of Anishinaabemowin in First Nation Administration Offices and on street and business signs in First Nations, in schools, and in everyday life.
- Laws to revitalize traditional Anishinabek Nation governance which is based on the Dodemaag (Clan) System and rooted in Anishinaabemowin.
- More money that could be put into projects like learning languages in First Nation homes and culture camps for Anishinabek children and youth.
- Incorporating language and culture into First Nation and Anishinabek Nation governance will support Anishinabek identity and well-being.

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Proposed Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

What does the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* actually mean?

Points to Remember:

It means Anishinabek First Nations can govern themselves without interference from Canada in the areas of language and culture, citizenship, leadership selection and First Nations operations and management and may also include:

- Laws in those areas created by Anishinabek citizens for Anishinabek citizens.
- A government that works for Anishinabek citizens.
- Constitutions that mean more stable governance institutions and processes.
- Establishing an Intergovernmental Forum between the Anishinabek First Nations that ratify the Agreement and the Government of Canada to deal with issues that are important to Anishinabek citizens.
- More money to govern Anishinabek First Nations and to support the collective Anishinabek Nation government.
- Keeping the First Nations tax exemption, Section 87 of the *Indian Act*.
- Removing Anishinabek First Nations from the *Indian Act*, Sections 8 - 14, Sections 74 - 79 and Section 80.

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Management & Operations of Government

What does management and operations of government and finances mean under the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement*?

Points to Remember:

It means:

- Anishinabek citizens can develop laws such as a Financial Management Act for their First Nations and the Anishinabek Nation government.
- Chiefs and Councils are financially accountable to citizens.
- Anishinabek citizens can develop laws for the establishment and management and operation of Anishinaabe Institutions, such as appeals and redress systems.
- Anishinabek citizens can help Chiefs and Councils set priorities that meet their needs.
- Anishinabek citizens can be involved in looking at how their Chief and Council decide on spending money to run their First Nation.
- More money to make and support decisions in the First Nations.

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Citizenship

What does citizenship mean under the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement*?

Points to Remember:

It means:

- Anishinabek First Nations can decide who their citizens are. “Our blood flows through family, not federal law.” - Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare
- Anishinabek citizens can decide what responsibilities and privileges come with being a citizen of Anishinabek First Nations.
- Anishinabek First Nations can implement the E'Dbendaagzijig Naaknigewin (citizenship law) as required by individual communities.
- “We need a healthy discussion of good old common sense to make the call as to who belongs. We know our people.” - Former Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee

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