



Anishinaabe Governance Is... **TAKING CONTROL OF OUR FUTURE**

“Governance” is about making decisions about how we want to live and what we will provide for future generations.

We are creating our own governance laws in four essential areas of law-making to determine:

Citizenship: Deciding who belongs, who is a “citizen”, is a fundamental to a nation of People. Citizenship is about identity. Using Anishinaabe law and principles for deciding who belongs can include criteria like knowledge of Anishinaabe history, culture and language, and an application process. Decisions could be made by an Elders Council. In the past, the Grandmothers made these decisions. Our Grandmothers know “those who belong” - E'Dbendaagzijig.

Leadership Selection: Deciding how we select our leaders our own way can range from staying with our First Nation's current election code to implementing a plan to gradually transform to our traditional governance system, the Dodemaag or Clan System. The Dodemaag System promotes unity and quality among Anishinabek.

In between the status quo and the Traditional Clan System of Government, we could decide to make changes to the number of First Nation councillors; length of terms in office; and the criteria and qualifications of Chief and Council. Some First Nations may decide to designate equal seats on council for balance between women and men, or to included Elders and Youth.

Language and Culture: Making decisions and taking responsibility for the preservation and promotion of Anishinaabe culture and Anishinaabemowin. This is our identity. Without Anishinaabe language and culture, Anishinabek cannot fulfill obligations to the Seventh Generation.

Management and Operations of Government: Deciding laws and processes to increase citizen inclusion in setting priorities and budgets, resulting in more transparency and trust. Under our law, our First Nation government is accountable to their citizens, not the Ministers of Indian Affairs.

...the Promise, Hope, and Future

Niigaan Zhaamin-Forward Together

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