

Constitution Questions

1. What is a First Nation Constitution?

A constitution is a set of principles or rules that defines a government and its powers. The rules show what the government can do, and what it cannot. They also show who has power to make decisions.

In its constitution, a First Nation can define its values, its members' rights and responsibilities, the structure of government, and how it manages money, land and resources. It can also describe how disputes will be resolved in government and between members.

2. Are First Nations constitutions required to be part of the Education Agreement?

Yes. Each First Nation must approve its constitution by the end of the voting period, which is December 2nd. A First Nation can approve its constitution before voting on the education agreement. Some Anishinabek First Nations have already approved their constitution.

3. What are the options for First Nations to develop their own community constitution?

A First Nation can write its own constitution that takes into account the wishes of its members. Or, a First Nation may use a sample constitution that the Union of Ontario Indians has developed.

The Union of Ontario Indians is available to any Anishinabek First Nation to help it to develop and approve its constitution.

4. What is the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin?

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is the constitution of the Anishinabek Nation. It is a written document ratified by the Anishinabek First Nations. It outlines the role and responsibilities of the Anishinabek, and how the 40 Anishinabek First Nations govern themselves as a group. It is not the same as the constitution a First Nation needs for the education agreement ratification.