



Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

***Indian Act* Governance (WHAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE)**

- Our First Nations are not recognized as legal entities under the *Indian Act* or even as governments.
- There is not enough funding provided by Canada for governance-related activities like holding our council meetings, committee meetings and running elections.
- Canada provides no funding to promote language and culture.

Anishinabek Nation Governance (WHAT WE CAN HAVE)

- Our First Nations will now be legally recognized as governments. Our leaders will be able to pass our own election laws, citizenship laws, language and culture laws and financial administration type laws.
- Chief and Council will receive more money from Canada for governance functions, including work we're already doing.
- Our First Nations can determine who our citizens are and what rights and responsibilities come with that citizenship.
- Chief and Council can pass financial management laws and not be forced to disclose information about salaries, honourariums and travel expenses to Canada. Chief and Council will still be accountable to their citizens.
- Our First Nations will be removed from parts of the *Indian Act* that cover band lists and Chief and Council elections and the Indian Band Council Procedure Regulations that prescribe how Chief and Council meetings must be conducted.

***Indian Act* Elections**

- Chief and Council are limited to serve two (2) year terms under the *Indian Act*. This is not enough time for Councils to get their work done.
- The size of our Council is determined by the Minister and the *Indian Act*, not us.
- First Nation Custom Election Codes still need review and approval by Canada.

Anishinabek Nation Governance Elections

- Our First Nations can set longer terms in office so our Chiefs and Councils have enough time to finish the important work needed in our communities.
- Our First Nations can decide how they want to elect their government and set their own qualifications to run for office.

Intergovernmental Forum

- The Anishinabek Nation (on behalf of First Nations who ratify the Governance Agreement) and Canada will meet in an Intergovernmental Forum, which will establish a new government-to-government relationship on matters of concern to our First Nations. No other self-government agreement has this provision.

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