



# Anishinaabe Governance is... **HOW OUR FIRST NATION GOVERNMENT OPERATES**

Basic to governance are processes and procedures for decision-making and being accountable for those decisions. This is what law-making authority, jurisdiction, over Operation and Management of First Nation Government is about.

We have an opportunity put decision-making processes in place to meet our needs. We can determine and define how our First Nation Government functions.

These processes and systems are really the foundation to delivering all necessary programs and services including health and well-being, housing, child care, education, and looking after our Elders. Operation and Management of First Nation Government rules can also provide us with tools to maintain accountability of how funds are spent and how decisions are made.

**Who is accountable?** Ultimately, we are all accountable to future generations. If you are happy with the operation and management of your First Nation Government, and the Chief and Council have demonstrated accountability, you can re-elect your Chief and Councillors. If they have not been accountable, you can choose other candidates in the next election.

Putting rules in place for Operation and Management of First Nation Government ensures that accountability mechanisms are built into governance. For example: having a say in the annual Chief and Council budget; or having Chief and Council report on how they spend money.

## **Who has a voice in making decisions?**

You. Ultimately, the people elect their government during Chief and Council elections. In turn, you empower the Chief and Council to make decisions on your behalf, according to the laws and policies your First Nation has put in place, and in which you were involved.

## **How are decisions made?**

Decisions are made through laws, policies and representation. What is your role in establishing First Nation laws and policies? What is the law and policy for your inclusion in your First Nation's decision-making process?

For example, after you elect your Chief and Council, then you empower them to make decisions on your behalf, according to the laws and policies the citizens have put in place. Then decisions are made by Chief and Council based on those laws and policies. To learn more about the Anishinabek Governance ratification process call you Communications Coordinator or visit: [governancevote.ca](http://governancevote.ca).

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