



Anishinabek Nation Government Formation

Terms of Reference for a Implementation Working Group

Background:

To date, five Anishinabek First Nations have successfully ratified the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement (ANGA). Through the ANGA, Canada will recognize the law-making capacity of those Anishinabek First Nations in the jurisdictional areas of:

- Citizenship;
- Language and Culture;
- Elections; as well as the
- Operation and Management of Government, which in the context of the ANGA entails laws, policies, or processes that pertain to:
 - Financial Administration,
 - Enforcement and Adjudication,
 - Registry and Archives,

Each ratifying First Nation of the ANGA will be involved in the implementation of the ANGA within its own First Nation.

To assist the ratifying First Nations to think about what preparatory work they will need to undertake at the First Nation level and not duplicate the work, it is proposed that a ANGA Implementation Working Group be established. This ANGA Implementation Working Group will be comprised of representatives from each of the ratifying First Nations and will meet to share best practices and ideas on which implementation activities should be undertaken first and how they can support one another.

In addition, the ratifying First Nations will engage in discussions around what services can be provided at the central body level, such as the creation of a legislative drafting assistance service or an establishment of an election appeal body that could handle First Nation election appeals, for instance and so on. Sharing ideas on the kinds of services that could benefit all of the ratifying First Nations.

Objectives:

The objectives of the ANGA Implementation Working Group will be to:

- 1) Review state of constitutions – First Nations, Chi-Naaknigewin;
- 2) To collaborate and share ideas on which implementation activities could be pursued first;
- 3) To discuss ways of sharing information and share ideas on the best ways to implement the ANGA at the First Nation level;
- 4) Think about what services could be provided by a central agency or Anishinabek government such as election and citizenship appeal tribunals, or a centralized information agency; and
- 5) Develop and table recommendations for the benefit of the ratifying First Nations regarding the government structure of the centralized body including thinking about what functions this centralized body will provide to its member First Nations.

Composition:

The Working Group will be composed of one technical and Leadership representatives from each of the ratifying First Nations.

The Commissioner on Governance will act as the Chairperson on behalf of the ratifying First Nations.

Decision-Making:

The Working Group will strive to maintain a consensus based decision-making process. The consensus-building process will allow for all views and perspectives to come forward and be supported, with open discussion and goodwill among Working Group members.

Matters that cannot be resolved by consensus will be placed before the collective leadership of the ratifying First Nations for resolution.

Reporting and Accountability:

The Working Group will report to, and be accountable to the Chief and Councils of the ratifying First Nations on a quarterly basis.

Coordination:





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The coordination of the work of the Working Group will be the responsibility of the Restoration of Jurisdiction Department of the Anishinabek Nation - Transition Plan Coordinator.

Frequency of Meetings:

The Working Group will meet monthly.

