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ANISHININEW OKIMAWIN

2022 Constitution 15,000

Island Lake land Red Sucker Lake
Anishininwuk in unity - MAMOW - with
guidance and counsel from its elders
and leaders revitalizing INHERENT
RIGHTS & POWERS OF SELF-
DETERMINATION.

Reuniting our member communities..

A constitution is a living document. This first draft reflects the agreement to date and sets out the basics of the regional organization for Island Lake Anishinew Nation. This draft document does not go beyond the agreements that are in place. The Constitution will be able to be amended with the agreement of the Grand Council.

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Anishinew Okimawin is the restoring of original inherent First Nation governance rights. The vision of past leaders issued a declaration at Wassagamck on June 10, 1988; whereby, they asserted their sovereignty in their self determination. There have been subsequent gatherings over the past decades leading up to the Official Anishinew Okimawin undertaking and commitment to elect a Grand Chief and establish a Grand Council dated August 13, 2019.

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Anishinivuk eh aytatowatch Anishinew Okimawin, eh wi pimpanitamathowatch mina eh wi Tipaynithowatch. Anishinew Okimawin azah kakike oontchi pimotheymakun ekwa kon pakan okimawinink oontchi ma ka thinoon oonasowaywin min muskasithewin.

The Anishinivuk revitalizing their First Nation governance rights that being Self-Determination. First Nation governance right is an inherent right; it is not delegated from any other government.

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i **PURPOSE**

This Constitution details the agreements amongst the member communities of Island Lake Anishinew Nation (ILAN) that strengthen regional governance, that ensure sovereignty for the full ILAN membership and that facilitate Nation-to-Nation relationships between ILAN and Canada, Manitoba, other Indigenous Nations or Political/Territorial organizations.

ii **FOUNDATIONS**

We are directed by the seven sacred teachings of Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility and Truth which provide direction to the application and interpretation of this Constitution. Further, we are guided in our planning and our actions by our Elders' message of Mamow (unity) for the benefit of all membership.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional governance of our former generations with clan and family leadership. We value collaborative consensus decision-making and a history of governing for what is right for the membership. These governance principles guide the Constitution.

Nothing in this Constitution shall derogate the sovereignty of each First Nation nor the sovereignty of ILAN in its actions for the benefit of all membership.

iii **DECLARATION and MANDATE**

On August 13, 2019, the Chiefs of the four Island Lake communities established the Island Lake Anishinew Okimawin with direction to proceed with the election of a Grand Chief and the formation of a Grand Council. That Declaration made at The Old Post provides the mandate for this Constitution.

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1.0 **Article 1 - REGIONAL STRUCTURE**

1.1 Island Lake Anishinew Nation is comprised of four member First Nations: Garden Hill First Nation, Red Sucker Lake First Nation, St. Theresa Point First Nation and Wasagamack First Nation.



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1.2 To develop a stronger regional governance, when regional programs bring added benefit to the membership, the First Nations of Island Lake Anishinew Nation establish a Grand Council (as detailed in section 3.1 below), headed by a Grand Chief.

1.3 The actions of the Grand Council and Grand Chief will always be in the interest of all members of the four First Nations that comprise the region.

2.0 Article 2 - GRAND CHIEF

2.1 The title of the position shall be Grand Chief, Island Lake Anishinew Nation.

2.2 Grand Chief Nominations and Elections

- a. Any eligible voter of 18 years age or over can be nominated for the position of Grand Chief upon obtaining written endorsement from twenty eligible voters who are members of the region's First Nations.
- b. The Grand Chief is elected by the membership of all ILAN communities and serves for a three-year term.
- c. The Grand Chief will be responsible to prepare/review and recommend a comprehensive Election Code and Timetable for presentation to and approval by the Grand Council at a meeting at least six months prior to a scheduled election for Grand Chief.

2.3 Grand Chief

- a. The Grand Chief shall profess an Oath of Office. The Oath enshrines the regional responsibilities of the Grand Chief and that the person holding the office shall work for the benefit of the whole region, for all communities, for all members, and shall not execute the influence of the Office of the Grand Chief in any way that brings undue favour or disfavour to any particular community/communities or members.

- b. The Grand Chief is a paid position. The salary will be part of the annual budget and approved by the Grand Council.

2.4 Grand Chief Role

- a. The Grand Chief shall establish the Office of the Grand Chief and shall hire an executive administrative lead to implement the directions and actions of the Grand Chief and Grand Council.
- b. The Grand Chief shall form a Regional Elders' advisory group comprised of one elder chosen by each Anishinew Nation to advise the Office of the Grand Chief, the Executive Council (see section 2.4 e. below), and Grand Council. Further, The Grand Chief may establish other advisory councils (women, youth, urban) to enrich the advice and perspectives on regional matters.
- c. The Grand Chief shall establish an annual workplan for presentation to the Grand Council.
- d. The Grand Chief shall plan, convene, co-ordinate and report at an annual meeting of the Grand Council during the winter road season after being elected.
- e. The Grand Chief shall establish, and be the Chairperson of, an Executive Council comprised of the four First Nation Chiefs and the Grand Chief. The Executive Council meets four times each year in October, January, April and July or at such times as necessary to deal with important matters that are time sensitive. The Executive Council will support the development and execution of the Grand Chief's annual workplan.

2.5 Grand Chief Responsibilities

- a. The Grand Chief is a principal advocate for regional actions and improvements that benefit the First Nations' membership.
- b. The Grand Chief is the principal regional spokesperson.

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- c. The Grand Chief works diligently to advance those regional functions that are, or should be developed as, part of the regional organization to benefit all members including those residing in Winnipeg with housing, transportation and other needs.
- d. The Grand Chief's regional organization has two areas of direct operation.

One involves a Crown and Treaty secretariat including treaty matters, overall advocacy and realization of ILAN sovereignty.

The second involves overseeing and coordination of regional service delivery to provide the membership with benefit and realization of opportunities. The regional service delivery includes health, child and family services, regional education and economic/business development and other services, such as regional transportation development, as determined from time to time and approved by the Grand Council.

- e. The Grand Chief is responsible to develop the policies and procedures for the conduct of Grand Council meetings including provisions contained in this Constitution.
- f. In the event that the Grand Chief is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities, an Interim Grand Chief will be appointed by the Executive Council.

2.6 Grand Chief Relationships with ILAN Organizations

- a. Once the Office of the Grand Chief is established, the responsibilities of Island Lake Tribal Council (ILTC) will fulfill the duties of the Crown and Treaty secretariat within the Office of the Grand Chief. This shall also require assessment as to the corporate nature and continuance of ILTC.
- b. Organizations in the service delivery functions, such as Four Arrows Regional Health Authority and Child and Family Services keep their current organizational structure with community boards and separate management at the outset until an evaluation as how best integrate services into the regional organization are developed and approved by the Grand Council.



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- c. The Grand Chief will be able to attend any board meetings of the service delivery organizations for information and updating.

2.7 Grand Chief Responsibilities with External Organizations

- a. The Grand Chief leads the process for regional reforms to ensure that ILAN is recognized as a Nation and as a full political territorial organization. Also, the Grand Chief develops ILAN's relationships with the Crown and its agents on a Nation-to-Nation basis.

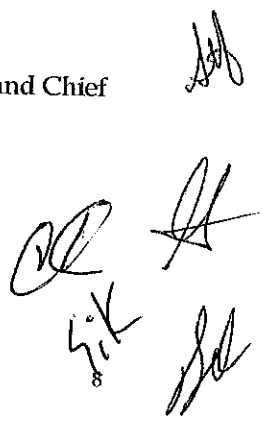
3.0 Article 3 - GRAND COUNCIL

3.1 Grand Council Membership

- a. The Grand Council shall include the Grand Chief, the Chiefs and all currently elected councillors from each of the member communities.
- b. The Grand Council is established on the basis that the Chief and Council of each First Nation in the region support this Constitution. Any member First Nation, as represented by their elected Chief and Council, which chooses to withdraw its membership from may do so by enactment of a First Nation Council Resolution.
- c. Further to section 3.1 b. above, the Grand Chief and Grand Council will develop regional proposals or programs in a manner to allow opportunities for each First Nation to opt in, on a case-by-case basis.

3.2 Meetings

- a. Meetings of the Grand Council shall be planned and co-ordinated by the Grand Chief in consultation with the Executive Council.

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- b. Notice of the Grand Council meetings shall be provided to all eligible attendees at least one month prior to the meeting date. Agendas and materials will be distributed to members of the Grand Council electronically at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.
- c. A quorum shall be required at all times for Grand Council meetings and the quorum shall be fifty percent plus one of all eligible participants.

3.3 Grand Council Authority

- a. Grand Council has authority by consensus, or if required by majority vote, to provide input, to discuss and approve regional plans and any other matters brought forth by the Grand Chief.
- b. Most matters presented to the Grand Council for decisions will be determined by consensus. For those matters or decisions that require a vote, a simple majority will be required and each member First Nation shall be entitled a number of votes equal to the number of members (Chief, Vice Chief and Councillors) that comprise the smallest First Nation Council. In the case of a split vote, the Grand Chief will cast a deciding vote.
- c. Grand Council does have the authority to pass resolutions by consensus or majority vote on regional matters that are deemed to benefit the whole ILAN membership.
- d. Grand Council has the authority to remove the Grand Chief from office - with a two-thirds majority vote of those in attendance at a Grand Council meeting - for reasons of dereliction of duty, malfeasance, conviction for an indictable offence, or other serious matters of breach of trust or gross misconduct.

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4.0 Article 4 - General

4.1 This Constitution may be amended by consensus or majority vote at an appropriately convened Grand Council meeting as long as notice and a proposed resolution for amendments have been sent to all Grand Council members in the meeting agenda package.

4.2 The main office for Grand Chief will be established in the First Nation where the Grand Chief is a member, and an administrative sub-office of the Grand Chief is in Winnipeg.

4.3 This Constitution calls for the Grand Chief to address the incorporation of ILAN, the development of corporate bylaws for the approval by the Grand Council, development of policies for communications, code of conduct and other operational matters as outlined in the Grand Chief's workplan.

4.4 This initial Constitution shall be read in conjunction with, and informed by, the Grand Chief's first annual workplan.



Signed this 2nd day of March, 2022 at Wasagamack First Nation.

Grand Chief Scottie Harper Scott Harper

Garden Hill First Nation



Chief Charles Knott [Signature]

Vice Chief Martinus McKay [Signature]

Councillor Wayne Harper _____

Councillor Roni Beardy _____

Councillor Audrey Monias _____

Councillor Robert Little [Signature]

Councillor Larry Beardy [Signature]

Councillor Bobby Monias _____

Councillor Russell Harper _____

Councillor Mike Taylor _____

Red Sucker Lake First Nation



Chief Samuel Knott [Signature]

Head Councillor Donald T Harper [Signature]

Councillor James Harper [Signature]

Councillor Ivan Dan [Signature]

Councillor Harry Dan [Signature]

Councillor Jackie Green [Signature]

Councillor Mary L Harper [Signature]

St. Theresa Point First Nation



Chief Elvin Flett [Signature]

Head Councillor Ralph Harper [Signature]

Councillor Victor Walker [Signature]

Councillor VACANT

Councillor John Paul Mason [Signature]

Councillor Marie A Wood [Signature]

Councillor Gregory Wood [Signature]

Councillor Vernon Wood [Signature]

Councillor Marcel Mason [Signature]

Wasagamack First Nation



Chief Bobby Knott [Signature]

Vice Chief Walter Harper [Signature]

Councillor Jonas Harper [Signature]

Councillor Phyllis Harper [Signature]

Councillor Bruce Harper [Signature]

Councillor Violet Harper [Signature]

Councillor Kelvin Harper [Signature]

Witness: She Idon Norpid

Name: [Signature]

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Name: [Signature]

**Anishinew Okimawin Grand Council
March 2, 2022**

Re: Chiefs Resolution to Form the Anishinew Okimawin Grand Council

Whereas; The Island Lake Anshinew Nation are a distinct peoples that assert our sovereignty as the Original Peoples of this land;

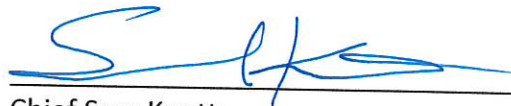
Whereas; Island Lake Anishinew Nation; Red Sucker Lake First Nation, Garden Hill First Nation, Wasagamack First Nation, and St. Theresa Point First Nation have resolved to develop a Regional Governance entitled "Anishinew Okimawin Grand Council";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the four First Nations of Island Lake Anishinew Nation – being Garden Hill First Nation, Red Sucker Lake First Nation, St. Theresa Point First Nation and Wasagamack First Nation – in the spirit of mamow (Unity) hereby establish and enact the Anshinew Okimawin GRAND COUNCIL effective March 2, 2022,

Signed at Wasagamack First Nation, March 2, 2022



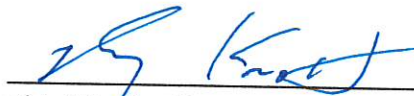
Chief Charles Knott
Garden Hill First Nation



Chief Sam Knott
Red Sucker Lake First Nation



Chief Elvin Flett
St. Theresa Point First Nation



Chief Bobby Knott
Wasagamack First Nation