



# Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin

## reamble

- We are the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.
- We affirm and honour our inherent responsibilities to our ancestors and future generations.
- We affirm that we have inherent rights to govern ourselves.
- We affirm our responsibility for our Aboriginal Rights Area and our inherent rights to govern this Area exclusively or jointly with other Nishnaabeg(s). Attached at Schedule "A" is a map of our Aboriginal Title Area.
- We affirm that this Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin is our main law which is consistent with the values, principles and spiritual beliefs upon which our lives are based.

## Citation

- This document shall be referred to as the "Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin" or "Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Constitution".

## Official Language

- Nishnaabewin is the official language of the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.
- English is the working language of the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

## Interpretation

- For the purposes of this law, the following definitions will apply:
  - "Biigtigong Nishnaabeg" means members or citizens of our Nishnaabeg;
  - "Chief and Council" means the executive decision making body made up of the Chief and Councillors of the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg selected in accordance with our Nishnaabeg laws passed pursuant to the Biigtigong Gchi-maaknigewin. Prior to such laws being enacted, consistent with the election sections of the Indian Act, R.S.C. 1985 C. 1-5, as amended from time to time.
  - "Court of Competent Jurisdiction" unless otherwise indicated, means the Federal Court of Canada, or any other court that has the jurisdiction to hear a matter under this law;
  - "Eligible Voter" means a citizen of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg who has attained the age of Eighteen (18) years by or on the date of the vote or referendum;
  - "Nishnaabeg Law" means a law made by our Nishnaabeg in accordance with the Biigtigong Gchi-maaknigewin;

## Purpose and Application

- The purpose of this Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin is to set out the applicable laws and law making process of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.
- This Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin is the main law of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.
- All applicable laws, regulations, rules and policies shall be harmonized with and consistent with this Biigtigong Gchi-maaknigewin.
- In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin and other laws, regulations, rules, practices and policies, the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin shall prevail to the extent of the conflict.

## Governing Institutions

- The members/citizens of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg consistent with our customs, traditions and practices hereby establish and recognize Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Chief and Council as the official elected government of our members/citizens.
- The Chief and Council may establish or delegate some of their authority to other entities, committees, boards, etc. in the best interest of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

The Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin has been approved by the members of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg by way of a Ratification vote that took place on Saturday, September 26, 2015.  
Signed by Chief and Council on this 15th day of December, 2015.

2015-2017  
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Chief and Council

Chief Duncan Michano

Councillor David Courchene

Councillor Simone Desmoulin

Councillor Arthur Fisher

Former Councillor Doris Robinson

Councillor Bonnie Goodchild

Councillor Anthony Hanson

Councillor Arnold Michano

Councillor Daniel Michano

Former Councillor Herb Nabigon

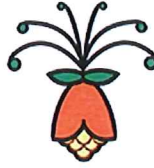
Councillor John Grant Michano

Councillor Roy Michano

Councillor Louis Nabigon

Councillor Sharon Ostberg

Former Councillor Sean Genno



## Jurisdiction and Authority

- Chief and Council of the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg may pass any Nishnaabeg Law for the betterment of our citizens and our lands including, but not limited to:
  - membership/citizenship;
  - elections and referendums;
  - access to and residence in the territory;
  - lands, waters, air and resources;
  - preservation, protection and management of the environment, including animals and fish;
  - economic life, including commerce, labour, agriculture, grazing, hunting, trapping, fishing, forestry;
  - fishing, forestry, mining, and management of natural resources in general
  - the operation of businesses, trades and professions;
  - transfer and management of public monies and other assets;
  - taxation;
  - family matters, including marriage, divorce, adoption and child custody
  - property rights, including succession and estates;
  - education;
  - social services and welfare, including child welfare;
  - health;
  - language, culture, values and traditions;
  - criminal law and procedure;
  - the administration of justice, including the establishment of courts and tribunals with civil and criminal jurisdiction;
  - policing;
  - public works and housing;
  - local institutions; and
  - all other areas as deemed necessary by our Chief and Council including, but not limited to, laws applicable to the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and other governments.
- Chief and Council will determine the process and timing for the enactment of Nishnaabeg laws to come into force consistent with our customs, traditions and practices.

## Amendment/Repeal

- This Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin may be amended by following each of the following steps:
  - Resolution of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Chief and Council proposing an amendment or amendments to the Biigtigong Gchi-maaknigewin;
  - Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Chief and Council to ensure information sessions for Biigtigong Nishnaabeg are conducted regarding the amendment(s) to the Biigtigong Gchi-maaknigewin;
  - Presenting the proposed amendment(s) to Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Eligible Voters to approve by vote at a meeting of our Nishnaabeg called by Chief and Council; and
  - If at least fifty percent plus one (50 % +1) of Eligible Voters in attendance at a meeting approve the proposed amendment(s), the amendments become effective in law, the next business day or a day set by Chief and Council.

## Enactment Clause

- The Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Gchi-maaknigewin shall be ratified by a vote of eligible voters of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg pursuant to the ratification process set out in Schedule "B" to this Law.

## General Provisions

- Severability
- If any part, sub-part, section and sub-section of this Law is for any reason held invalid by a decision of a Court of Competent Jurisdiction, the invalid section will be severed from and not affect the remaining provisions of this Law.
- Singular
- For purposes of interpretation of this Law, the plural includes the singular and singular includes the plural.
- Headings
- The section headings contained in this Law are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Law.
- Enforcement
- Chief and Council or its' designates have full authority to enforce any provision of this Law.
- Coming into force
- This Law shall come into force and effect on OCTOBER 16, 2015.

2013-2015

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Chief and Council

Former Councillor Doris Robinson

Councillor Arthur Fisher

Former Councillor Doris Robinson

Councillor Bonnie Goodchild

Councillor Anthony Hanson

Councillor Arnold Michano

Councillor Daniel Michano

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