

**Presentation by Drafting Committee at the MCT  
Constitution Reform Convention on April 20, 2023**

**MAAMAWIINO ANISHINAABEG NATION (AKA CHIPPEWA)  
CONSTITUTION ALLIANCE**

The alliance is not an organization.

Wally Storbakken, a Drafting Committee member, articulated this about Alliances.

Our people, since time immemorial, have always entered into alliances. Even down to the simplest act of our creation, we are an alliance. Even in our acts as human beings, our marriages are alliances, and everything goes from there. Our alliance of our families to our clans, our alliance of our communities, to our bands. The alliance of our bands into our tribes and our nation. It's all based on getting along together with our common interests. That's why we have our alliances. An alliance is nothing more than a treaty or an agreement that says this is how I will behave toward you and how you will behave toward me. And these are the things I can expect of you. For example, if another tribe asks for help because you are an alliance, you consider it. If it is the right thing to do, you help. If it is not the right thing to do, you might not help. That's what an alliance is, and that's what the alliance is about. This document is intended to show what we have in common and must defend together, our responsibility towards each other, and creation itself.

The Constitution Alliance, the Bylaws, and other laws of our nation give our governing bodies organizational structure under the direction of the people.

We expect our governing bodies and Citizen Councils to use the Constitution Alliance's fundamental policies, rights, and values as a road map when making decisions.

<p><b>The MCT Constitutional Reform Drafting Committee took into consideration the following policies, values, and rights when writing the Constitution Alliance document:</b></p>	<p><b>After researching the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Drafting Committee recognized that UNDRIP addresses the same policies, values, and rights the Drafting Committee considered in writing the Constitution Alliance. See below which Articles apply.</b></p>
<p>Emphasize our self-determination, including the right to manage federally funded programs. It also includes other issues, like self-governance, civil rights, education, environmental justice, and decision-making on issues that affect their people.</p>	<p>Articles 3, 4, 5, &amp; 18</p>
<p>The importance of our land.</p>	<p>Articles 9, 25-30 &amp; 32</p>
<p>Congress and its Plenary power could terminate our federally recognized status anytime. Therefore we must remain a viable, recognized, unique entity with language, culture, and traditions weaved into the Constitution Alliance.</p>	<p>Articles 11 &amp; 31</p>
<p>Inclusion of our descendants (passing teaching down to them, enrollment, education).</p>	<p>Articles 14, 15 &amp; 33</p>
<p>The people have the right to have input in planning all governmental decisions and implementation aspects.</p>	<p>Articles 19 &amp; 20</p>
<p>The Citizen Councils shall address the needs of the specific groups represented.</p>	<p>Articles 21 &amp; 22</p>
<p>A process in which disputes are heard and resolved.</p>	<p>Articles 23, 24, 34 &amp; 40</p>

<p>Emphasize our rights retained by our treaties and those reserved rights that have never been extinguished.</p>	<p>Article 37</p>
<p>Preserve our sovereignty.</p>	<p>Article 46</p>
<p>Reduce the risk of further actions that diminish our sovereignty, at least those under our control. One area we should have control over is our governing bodies' compliance with the provisions in the Constitution Alliance, Bylaws, and Tribal Laws.</p>	
<p><b>We recognize that the protection and rights of the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) apply to our citizens, culture, and resources.</b></p>	