**April 2025 DRAFT MODEL #1**

**REVOKE THE IRA REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE.**

**REPLACE THEM WITH:**

* A NON-IRA CONSTITUTION AS THE UMBRELLA DOCUMENT
* EACH OF THE SIX BAND/ NATION/ TRIBES WRITE THEIR LOCAL GOVERNING STRUCTURE

**CONSTITUTION OF THE**

**MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA NATIONS/TRIBES/BANDS??**

**RENAME?? ONE SUGGESTION IS TO USE THE WORD MAZINA'GAN………………**

**(If renamed, correct the text!)**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the Minnesota Chippewa Nations/Tribes/Bands, consisting of the Chippewa Indians of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte (Nett Lake), and Grand Portage Reservations and the Nonremoval Mille Lac Nations/Tribes/ Bands of Chippewa Indians, exercise its sovereignty and self-determination, do establish and adopt this Constitution for the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE**

Section 1. The Minnesota Chippewa Nations/Tribes/Bands **are** hereby organized under Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended.

Sec. 2. The name of this tribal organization shall be the "Minnesota Chippewa Nations/Tribes/Bands."

Sec. 3. The purpose and function of this ~~organization~~ constitution MAY WISH TO REWRITE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_shall be to conserve and develop tribal resources and to promote the conservation and development of individual Indian trust property; to promote the general welfare of the members of the Tribe; to preserve and maintain justice for its members and otherwise exercise all powers granted and provided the Indians, and take advantage of the privileges afforded by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, and all the purposes expressed in the preamble hereof.

Sec. 4 . The Tribe shall cooperate with the United States in its program of economic and social development of the Tribe or any matters tending to promote the welfare of the Minnesota Chippewa Nations/Tribes/Bands of Indians.

**ARTICLE II – ~~MEMBERSHIP~~ CITIZENSHIP**

**Section 1. Chippewa Bloodline shall be the basis of the Citizenship of the Minnesota Chippewa Nations/Tribes/Bands.**

**Sec. 2. Each Minnesota Chippewa Nation/Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to decide its citizenship, develop its policies and procedures, and determine how to implement its enrollment process.**

**ARTICLE III - GOVERNING BODY**

**Section 1. Each Nation/ Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to decide its governing structure and authorize and develop its policies, laws, interpretations, and implementation.**

**ARTICLE IV - TRIBAL ELECTIONS**

**Section1. Each Nation/Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to conduct tribal elections according to their election laws.**

**Section2. A tribal election of citizens of the six Nations/Tribes/Bands shall be conducted to amend this Constitution.**

**ARTICLE V - AUTHORITIES OF THE TRIBAL**

**~~EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE~~ GOVERNING STRUCTURE**

**Section 1. Each Nation/ Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to decide its tribal governing structure.**

**ARTICLE VI - AUTHORITIES OF THE TRIBAL**

**~~RESERVATION~~ BUSINESS STRUCTURE**

**Section. 1. Each Nation/ Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to decide its Business structure.**

**ARTICLE VII - DURATION OF TRIBAL CONSTITUTION**

**Section1. The duration of this Constitution shall be perpetual or revoked by an election of all citizens of each of the six Nation/Tribe/Band.**

**ARTICLE VIII - MAJORITY VOTE**

**Section1. In elections to amend or revoke this Constitution, the majority shall rule.**

**ARTICLE IX - BONDING OF TRIBAL OFFICIALS**

**Section1. Each Nation/ Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to decide how their tribal officials will be Bonded.**

**ARTICLE X - VACANCIES AND REMOVAL**

**Section1. Each Nation/ Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to decide its policies and procedures for removing and filling vacancies.**

**ARTICLE XI – RATIFICATION**

**Section1.**  This Constitution **~~and the bylaws~~**shall not become operative until ratified at a special election by a majority vote of the adult members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, voting at a special election called by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote, and until the Secretary of the Interior has approved it.

**Or (If the Secretary of the Interior is removed from Article XII-Amendment of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, use this language:**

**Section 1.** This Constitution ~~and the bylaws~~ shall not become operative until ratified at a ~~special~~ Tribal election by a majority vote of the adult members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes voting at a **~~special~~** Tribal election called by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote, and until the Secretary of the Interior has approved it, voting at a Tribal election according to the new TRIBAL ELECTION ORDINANCE.

**ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENT**

**Section1.** This Constitution may be amended or revoked by ~~Act of Congress ???~~ ora majority vote of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_qualified voters of the Tribe voting at a Tribal election called for that purpose.

**ARTICLE XIII –Rights of ~~Members~~ Citizens**

**Section1. Each Nation/ Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to determine their citizens' rights.**

**ARTICLE XIV – REFERENDUM (Needs to be rewritten ?)**

**Section1.** The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ~~Tribal Executive Committee~~, upon receipt of a petition signed by 20 percent of the resident voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Nation/Tribes/Bands **~~or by an affirmative vote of eight (8) members of the Tribal Executive Committee?~~**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_~~,~~ shall submit any enacted or proposed resolution or ordinance **~~of the Tribal Executive Committee~~** to a referendum of the eligible voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Nations/Tribes/Bands. The majority of the votes cast in such a referendum shall be conclusive and binding on the?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **~~Tribal Executive Committee~~. ~~The Tribal Executive Committee~~ ?**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_shall call such referendum and prescribe the manner of conducting the vote.

**~~ARTICLE XV - MANNER OF REVIEW~~**

**Section1. Each Nation/ Tribe/ Band shall have the authority to determine their review process.**

Each Nation/Tribe/Band will develop its governing structure and write it into a Governing Document, MAZINA'GAN (Paper), a Code, Statutes, Rules, etc).

Each Band will decide on a governing and business structure.

1. Sample governing structures are outlined in the Chart of Local Constitution. **See the attachment.**
2. Sample Business Structures

* Reservation Business Committee
* Charter/Corporations
* Federal Law -IRA Section 17 under the authority of 25 U.S.C. § 5124
* State Chartered Tribal Corporation under State law
* Tribal Chartered Corporations under tribal code or resolution
* Limited liability company (LLC)
* Joint venture entities (A Limited Liability Company ("LLC"), A General Partnership ("GP"), Limited Partnership ("LP"), A Corporation).
* Other business and commercial activities

***Reference: Tribal Business Structure Handbook, Office of Energy Economic Development, Atkinson, K., Tribal Strategies, Inc: Nilles, K. Holland & Knight LLP; Tribal Self-Goverance Project of the Tulalip Tribes sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs, 2008.***

**THE ALLIANCE**

* The Alliancehas Anishinaabe history, culture, and beliefs. It is also defined as a treaty or an agreement between sovereign nations. The IZHITAAWIN are customs, practices, and "the way we do things." We do those things because "we are all AnishInaabeg together,"
* Under this model, the Alliance will not be the Umbrella or a governing document. It will become a Guide for the six Nations/Tribes/Bands, a treaty or an Agreement on functioning together under common concepts, cultural and traditional beliefs, and interests.

**THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBAL ORGANIZATION**

* **Known as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. It will manage funding and service. It will have no governing responsibilities. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Council) comprised of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ members from each of the Nations/Tribes/Bands will have oversight of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Organization (MCTO) and the role of liaison between the MCTO and the Nations/Tribe/Bands.**

**Use the attached chart “Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (Organization)” as a worksheet to determine which functions will stay with MCTO and which the Nations/Tribes/Bands will assume.**