

Declaration of the Alliance of Ojibwe Anishinaabeg in Minnesota

PREAMBLE

We, the Ojibwe Anishinaabeg, in order to reunify the numerous Human Beings of the Ojibwe Anishinaabeg Nation, and to protect the Rights of Nature and our treaty responsibilities, preserve our sovereignty, enrich our culture, achieve and maintain a desirable measure of prosperity and the blessings of freedom acknowledging with humility and gratitude the goodness, aid and guidance of the Creator of the Universe in permitting us to do so, do ordain and establish this Alliance for the Governments of the Ojibwe Anishinaabeg in Minnesota..

Article I. Rights of Nature.

Let it be now known that the inherent Rights of Nature do supersede our own rights as it is Nature that does sustain us. Nature, including ALL Treaty Lands, Waters, Airspace, and adjacent territories, as well as every living soul and creature, is hereby granted plenary rights to exist and flourish and shall be protected from all agencies who disturb her Natural serenity. It is our first responsibility to maintain our abundant gifts in a good way.

Section 1 As taught in our Creation story, Our Creator prepared the Earth for Human Beings first with a great abundance and diversity of life to sustain and keep our Ancestors well. Human Beings were Creator's last Creation. We have been taught to respect all life as it is necessary to sustain us, while conversely, recognizing our humble role of caretakers, and fully realizing our responsibilities to protect our good environment.

Section 2 As agreed, in our many Treaties with the U.S., government, The Ojibwe Anishinaabeg do hereby retain all rights and responsibilities, since time immemorial, set forth by our Ancestors which do preserve our original rights to hunt, fish, and gather therein, as well as the natural authority to maintain our original language, teachings, customs, and ceremonial practices, as they are the prescription for a good life and good Treaty relationships.

Article II. Federal Relationship

The Ojibwe Anishinabeg Alliance reaffirms the sovereignty of the individual Bands and Reservations, and mutually beneficial relationship between the Ojibwe Anishinaabeg and the United States of America as recorded in numerous Treaties with many Ojibwe Anishinaabeg Bands.

Article III. Jurisdiction

The boundaries of Alliance territory shall be those described by the Treaties of its constituent reservations:

Section 1 The founding Reservations are those previously organized as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe under Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, which include White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte, Grand Portage, Sandy Lake, and Mille Lacs.

Section 2 Additional Reservations may be admitted into the Alliance: upon the consent of each Reservation's governing body as well as by referendum vote of its People.

Section 3 The constituent Reservations of the Alliance retain the right to organize local government; adopt their own Constitutions; exercise rights retained specifically for them under Treaty; exercise inherent rights not expressly granted to the Alliance under this Declaration; and to adopt local rules, regulations, and legislation that does not abridge this Declaration of Alliance.

Article IV. Citizenship

All citizens of the Alliance must be original enrollees, or descendants of original enrollees listed in prior governing documents sanctioned by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and/or their descendants. The Alliance recognizes the basic rights retained by all People and groups affiliated with the Alliance, retained from time immemorial, to remain a separate and distinct People. Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed to prohibit the People of the Alliance's constituent reservations from pursuing their inherent right to govern themselves, provided that it does not diminish the jurisdiction of the Ojibwe Anishinaabeg Alliance as enumerated in this document.

Section 1 There shall be established in the Constitutions of the constituent Reservations, an Article defining and delineating the membership requirements of each Reservation.

Section 2 Membership, as used in this Article, refers to the process of enrolling at one of the constituent reservations which meet a lineal descent requirement.

Article V. Distribution of Powers

The powers of the Alliance shall be vested into a General Assembly consisting of one member from each of the member reservations of the Alliance.

Section 1 Selection of General Assembly members must be delineated in the Constitution/ordinances of the individual reservations and may be by election, or by appointment, as determined by the membership of each reservation.

Section 2 The General Assembly may create temporary ad-hoc committees charged with performing specific tasks and consisting of members from the reservations with requisite knowledge and skill to perform the specific task.

Article VI. Clans

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed to prohibit the right of any Ojibwe to belong to a recognized clan.

Article VII. Supersedes Constitution of 1936, revised 1963, amended 1972, 2006.

The provisions of this Declaration overrule, supersede, and repeal the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe approved the 24th day of July 1936, and the provisions of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe adopted November 23, 1963, and as amended in 1972, 2006.

Article VIII. Adoption

This Declaration shall become effective when ratified by the registered voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Upon ratification of this Declaration, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall officially become the Alliance of Ojibwe Anishinaabeg in Minnesota. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Tribal Executive Committee shall dissolve itself upon adoption. The General Assembly shall enact laws in conformance with this Declaration within eighteen (18) months of its ratification, provided that the provisions for Article V shall be enacted within six (6) months of its ratification.