

AGENDA  
FDL CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE  
Date: 3/8/22 Time: 6:00 PM

Facilitator: Carol J. and John R.

PRESENT: Janis F., Raymond B., Marcie M., Donovan D.,

Discussion:

Declaration of Alliance of Ojibwe Anishinaabeg in Minnesota Document-

- Umbrella Document
- Better reflect our Nature/who we are
- Rights of nature is important- the language was brought forward in the doc. to Article I
- Discussion of Three Fires Confederacy was one people who split into three groups and were named for their roles as Anishinaabeg. Firekeepers/Traders/Spiritual People. AKA historical names Potawatomi/Ojibwa/Ottawa were formed from one common group.

Naming of the document:

- Alliance vs. Consolidation
- Why "Ojibwa Anishinaabeg"
- Talked about the three fires and the

Sovereignty

- Good discussion about the meaning of Sovereignty
- Need to emphasize it in the document
- Express how sovereignty works, which may be better suited in a separate document
- Stand on our Sovereignty/Proclaim our Sovereignty

Questions about who is going to vote on documents, Referendum Vote, the vote of the MCT eligible voters!

Expressions that the document must be written to last a long time into the future

Preamble

- Should have language about Who We Are.
- Concern about our identity be defined by treaties
- Suggest there be a separate article for Treaties, similar to the Rights of nature
- Emphasize sovereignty
- Suggested language "maintain our ability to enjoy treaty rights"
- Suggested language "reaffirm and preserve our sovereignty"
- Suggested language "reaffirm and exercise our sovereignty"
- Suggested language "exercise our pre-treaty rights"
- Reserved right
- Remove the word "responsibilities" after treaty and possible use the word "rights"

#### Article I Rights of nature Section 1

- Seen as favorable language

#### Article II Federal Relationship

- Concern about “mutually beneficial” language
- Should talk about relationships with other governments as well as U.S, government
- The current trend in dealing with the government- is you are more apt to be successful using the treaty angle than the use of the sovereignty argument

#### Article IV Citizenship

- Concern expressed about the word Citizenship vs. membership

#### Article V Distribution of Power

- Need more members (2-6) from each member tribe to avoid all the issues when you do not have separation of power and only a few people are making decisions
- Maybe members are determined by committees
- Details might be delineated in local constitutions or ordinances
- Need for oversight
- Definitely need a change in the current government
- Discussion about Grand Council /people councils/general assembly (are more inclusive)
- Delineate functions

#### Treaty Language throughout the document

- Concern about defining ourselves relate to treaties
- Suggestion-use fewer references to the treaty in the document
- The government and Courts are giving more weight to “Treaty” than “Sovereignty” arguments.

#### General discussion

- Bill of Rights
- Due Process
- Use of International Laws i.e. Declaration of Indigenous People Rights
- Charters protect people

#### ACTION:

- Donovan D. will send a copy of info on Charters
- Donovan D and Marcie M. will provide their specific comments about the Alliance Document
- Carol J. will post a copy of **The United Nations Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous People** In March of 2022 the United States announced its support of this Declaration. <https://www.achp.gov/united-nations-declaration>

NEXT MEETING DATE: 3/15/22

FACILITATOR: Carol J.