

DEFINITIONS FOR THE MAAMAWIINO ANISHINAABEG NATION (AKA CHIPPEWA) ALLIANCE DOCUMENT

1. ALLIANCE: 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. 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. 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. The Alliance document is intended to show what we have in common and must defend together, our responsibility towards each other, and creation itself. ***Wally Storbakken, a Drafting Committee member, articulated this about Alliances.***

2. ANCESTORS: One who has preceded another in a line of descent.

3. ANISHINAABEG: Ojibwe Indians.

4. ANISHINAABE AKIING: Ojibwe earth, land, ground, country.

5. ANISHINAABE AKIING IZHITWAAWIN: Custom, practice, and religion.

6. ANISHINAABE AKIING MIINAWA ISHPIMING: In the sky above.

7. CITIZENSHIP: People who are citizens of a Nation.

8. CEDED LAND: "Ceded lands" describe areas where an Indian Tribe ceded, relinquished, and conveyed to the United States all their rights, title, and interest in the lands and country they occupied at Treaty signing or when reservations were established. The term, "ceded lands" is used interchangeably with "treating boundary."

9. DOODEMAG (CLAN): Our spiritual helpers

10. GIZHI-MANIDOO/KE-CHE-MUN-E-DO: Great Spirit, God, the Universe's

Creator.

11. **GIZHIGOON:** the roundness of the sky.....look up at the big round sky during a celebration.
12. **MAZINA'IGAN:** A book, paper, letter, or document.
13. **MAAMAWIINO:** We are all together.
14. **MAAMAWIINO ANISHINAABEG:** We are all Anishinaabeg together.
15. **MEWINZHA WAYESHKAD GII-MAJISEG BIINISH KO MOOGOMONG:**
Long ago, in the beginning (when), it began up to now.
16. **MINO BIMADIZWIN:** Living the good life
17. **NATION:** A body of people having a common descent, history, culture, or language but without a separate or politically independent territory. Sovereign people who signed the treaties were called "Nations."
18. **OMAA HERE AYAAYING:** Underground, above ground, gizhigoon, surroundings, the sky, and adjacent areas.
19. **PREAMBLE:** Like a Preamble in a Tribal Constitution, a preamble is a statement of identity. It serves as an introduction that sets forth the Alliance's purpose, the foundational principles of government, and the nation's aim. It establishes the context for understanding and interpreting the details provided in the Alliance document. The content of preambles often has five categories: The Sovereign, Historical narratives, Supreme goals, National identity, and God of religion.
20. **RESERVED RIGHTS:** Rights that have not been expressly extinguished by a treaty or federal statute.
21. **RIGHTS OF NATURE:**
 - a. It is the recognition that our ecosystems – including trees, oceans, animals, and mountains – have rights just as human beings. Rights of

Nature is about balancing what is good for human beings against what is good for other species and the planet. It is the holistic recognition that all life and ecosystems on our planet are deeply intertwined.

- b. Rather than treating nature as property under the law, the rights of nature acknowledges that nature, in all its life forms, has the right to exist, persist, maintain, and regenerate its vital cycles.
- c. And we – the people – have the legal authority and responsibility to enforce these rights on behalf of ecosystems. The ecosystem can be named the injured party, with its legal standing rights, in cases alleging rights violations.

22. SELF-DETERMINATION: The right to self-government, cultural renewal, reservation development, educational control, and equal or controlling input into federal government decisions concerning policies and programs. The **Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975** gave tribes the right to manage federally funded Native American programs under the umbrella of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Services. According to the Act, Congress aims to provide a smooth transition from government control of programs and services to Native American control.

23. SOVEREIGNTY: As sovereign nations, tribes have the power to self-governance or the right to establish their form of political and legal authority. Other rights that tribes have include the right to determine tribal membership, the right to establish their police force, the right to charter business organizations, and the right to administer their judicial system. The last right means tribal members cannot be sued in state court without waiving their sovereign immunity.

24. STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship is the responsible use (including conservation) of natural resources in a way that takes complete and balanced account of the interests of society, future generations, and other species, as well as of private needs, and accepts significant answerability to society.

25. TERRITORY and JURISDICTION: The terms Territory and Jurisdiction are often used interchangeably.

- a. However, in law, Territory means the physical, geographic boundaries

claimed or controlled by the Tribe.

- b. Jurisdiction is the legal authority of the Tribe, the ability to make law, and enforce it through the imposition of sanctions.

26. TREATY

- a. A treaty is a contract between sovereign nations. The U.S. Constitution Article VI, sec 2, declares that treaties are the "Supreme Law of the Land. "
- c. In treaties, Indians agreed to relinquish their land to the U.S.; in exchange, the U.S. promised to create federally protected reservations for the Indians. Some treaties also promise Indians fishing, hunting, gathering rights, education, and specific goods or services such as medical care, food, and clothing. Almost every Treaty assured the Indians they could live on the reservation permanently and the government would not force them to move.

27. Turtle Island: The name indigenous people gave for North America, based on the creation story.

28. UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UNDRIP):

- a. Is an international instrument adopted by the United Nations on September 13, 2007, to enshrine (according to Article 43) the rights that "constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world." The UNDRIP protects collective rights that emphasize individual rights and safeguard the personal rights of Indigenous people.
- b. The United States did not sign the declaration. However, in 2010, President Obama announced that the U.S. fully endorsed the UNDRIP. While Obama also emphasized the document as aspirational, he also stated: "I want to be clear: what matters far more than words, what matters far more than any resolution or declaration are actions to match those words."

RESOURCES:

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