

## **MCT Constitution Reform Convention**

**August 18, 2023, 9:00 AM to 4 PM**

### **In-person Attendees:**

Cheryl Edwards FDL, Carol Janick FDL, Julia Lintgen FDL, Wayne Dupuis FDL, Danielle LaPrairie FDL, Theresa Moritz FDL, Louis Johannsen W.E., Jolyn Dannell W.E., Patty Straub W.E., Emily Annette W.E., Sybil Gund W.E., Raymond Bellcourt W.E., Michele Hakala-Beeksma Grand Portage, Clair Gonzales Leech Lake, Beth FB Leech Lake, Christina Bowstring Leech Lake, Nikki Pleratus, Bois Forte, Sally Fineday, Leech Lake..

### **Zoom Attendees:**

Marcie McIntyre Grand Portage, Rita Evans Grand Portage, Debra Komis FDL, Carrie D Aspinwall LL Urban, Sherelle Graves FDL, Lawrence Fairbanks, Andrea Thompson, Dawn Goodwin WE, Nanci Glennstone, Sandra Borden Grand Portage,

### **Welcome and Invocation**

- Welcome Cheryl Edwards
- Invocation, Wayne Dupuis

### **Delegation Roll Call**

- Mille Lacs not present
- Fond du Lac, Bois Forte, Grand Portage, Leech Lake and White Earth present

### **Housekeeping/Reminders (Cheryl E.)**

- Housekeeping: Do be respectful. The time limit for speaking: Three (3) minutes (unless presenting). Minutes are due within one week of each Convention Meeting. Attend committee meetings. Share this information within your community for discussion and input. Three (3) months per issue
- We are off track! All delegations should now be working on GOVERNMENT/ORGANIZATION. Attention to the Alliance document is required for this section.
- Approval Process Attached to agenda.  
At the October 2019 Constitutional Convention meeting at Cedar Lakes Casino in Cass Lake, the Constitutional Convention Delegates voted on adopting a process to help guide our reform efforts. It is a three-month process as follows:
  - 1) Identify and prioritize issues (one meeting).
  - 2) Brainstorm possible solutions/options/direction regarding that issue (One to two meetings).
  - 3) Take possible solutions/options/directions to our communities for input (in between meetings).
  - 4) Take a vote on proposed solutions/options/directions regarding the issue (One Meeting).
  - 5) Start the process over with a new issue.
- The direction today is to work on the Alliance document.

**Acknowledgment – Wally Storbakken** by Carrie D-A., Carol J., and Marcie M.

**Alliance Document - Drafting Committee Assignment to all delegates.**

### **Preamble**

**Questions/Comments/Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

Glossary of Native Language (Sandra B.) and some of the English words (Marcie M.)

### **Article I Origin**

**Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

Might have an addendum of our Creation Story. Most of us know our creation story taught through oral history, but the future generations may not know it. (Marcie M.)

### **ARTICLE II MINO BIMADIZWIN (LIVING THE GOOD LIFE)**

**Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. What does Maamawiino mean? (Unnamed delegate) We are all together! and Maamawiino Anishinaabeg means we are all Anishinaabeg together! (Marcie M.)
2. I thought we were going to get this translated into Ojibwe? (Unnamed delegate) That was the original intent, but we don't have the money for translating yet. (Cheryl E.)
3. Anishinaabe Akiing means the land of the Ojibway. This is very important about our land and communities. For example, back in 1959 when a highway went through Mount Josephine and even before, oral history said that the humans were behaving so terribly that the Thunderbirds left Mount Josephine, where they had lived. It just shows that we have a responsibility to maintain the rights of nature. (Marcie M.)
4. The statement "The life of Anishinaabe Akiing is inseparable from the life of Maamawiino Anishinaabeg. Since all life is interconnected, our actions and laws must reflect what is good for the whole. Since we believe no one can own Anishinaabe Akiing, nature is not considered property under the law; nature has inalienable rights just as humans do. Therefore we can grant Anishinaabe Akiing a legal identity." Is directly from our ancestors but all Turtle Island believes this. It is universal in the Western Hemisphere. (Marcie M.)
5. Article II first paragraph, last sentence "Directed by our philosophy of respect and stewardship, we pledge to protect the fundamental values of the distinct Maamawiino Anishinaabeg identity that have ensured the existence of our Tribe and welcome all our descendants." Do you think this sentence will cause confusion if we do not see changes in our membership? For example when we say "welcome all our descendants, will that confusion all those who are not enrolled? (Jolyn D. ). If we maintain 1/4 Blood Quantum, we have to look at this and remove it. (Marcie. M.) Our ancestors have always been inclusive, see the 1847 Treaty. (Carol J.) The question always comes up about our enrollment, clarify criteria (Jolyn D.). Chat: This is such a beautiful start, so much meaningful guidance. (CarrieD A.) **Chat:** Indinawemaaganag (Debra K.) Add a statement "We have endured the existence of our tribe and our citizens." This might cover what might happen in the future. Eliminate "Welcome all our descendants."( Patty S.) Also include the word "family." (unnamed delegate).

6. In the statement “The life of Anishinaabe Akiing is inseparable from the life of Maamawiino Anishinaabeg. Since all life is interconnected, our actions and laws must reflect what is good for the whole.” Need to take out Since, and in the second sentence take out “Since we believe.” In that same paragraph change it to read “Therefore Akiing has legal identity.” Because it already exists, we do not grant it. (Tara T.)

7. Article II “The Treaty of 1854” hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. There is more than one Treaty with those rights, could you rephrase it to include all of the treaties. (Julia L.)

8. Last year Gertrude Buckanaga expressed her interest in drafting a document to make it more concise. Maybe she should be invited to sit in on the drafting committee? (Patty S.) Cheryl E. said she has her e-mail and will send an invitation out.

### **ARTICLE III RIGHTS OF NATURE.**

#### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. Manishinaabe Akiing Miinawaa Ishpiming means the land of the Ojibway and what we would call heaven, which is not the best translation, but it comes from the Bible. Most of you will recognize the relationship we have with the animals, and if you look in the literature-Lame Deer Seeker of Vision, there is a part in there where he speaks to a fox and this shows us that there is really a relationship between animals and humankind, well actually we are human animals too. (Marcie M.)

2. In Section 1 change “Should be” to “are.” Section 2 take out “which also” and replace with “that.” (Sally F.)

### **ARTICLE IV TREATY AND RESERVED RIGHTS**

#### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. We studied all the treaties that had to do with our people, we were called Chippewa, and the treaties were documents to take our land. In the 1800’s we were referred to as Indian Nations and there were rights to hunt, fish and gather and taken the little bit of sovereignty we have and deal with it as to what we have not what we don’t have. So we empathize Nationhood and we have specific rights. (Marcie M.)

2. Regarding the words “agreed to by our Ancestors,” there were many things that weren’t agreed to but were inherently retained. So if we limit it to “agreed to” and not say “inherently retained” we may be giving up some things. So strike “agreed to by our Ancestors.” (Wayne D.)

3. Change word “control to stewardship” (Emily A.)

4. In the sentence “We agree to retain all our Reserved Rights...” Strike “agree to” (Tara T.)

### **ARTICLE V DECLARATION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND SOVEREIGN RIGHTS**

#### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. The UNDRIP is a very good document and we all should become familiar with it and it should be a addendum (Marcie M.)

2. If you reference another document like UNDRIP, it is better not do an addendum as a reference because UNDRIP is evolving, and we want to reference what is current. (Sandra B.)

3. How are we going to address non-citizens on our reservations? (Nikki P.) We will elaborate on that in our governing documents, the separate governing bodies (Carol J.)
4. From a sovereignty aspect, how can we be citizens of the United States when the Constitution excludes us? It goes to our identity. It takes away our true identity. The longer this goes on the more they are going to take from us. It took an act of Congress to enact the Indian Citizenship Act. We must be citizens of our own Nation. (Raymond B.) Article V it doesn't state anything about us being citizens of the U.S. That may to another Article later. (Cheryl E.)
5. Stating "We, the Maamawiino Anishinaabeg people "is repetitive, take out "people." and change the word citizen throughout to Anishinaabeg. (Nikki P, LL) This will be brought back to the drafting (Carol J.)
6. There is a request for the speaker before the last speaker to paraphrase his comments in chat because it was difficult to understand. (Marcie M.)

#### **ARTICLE VI CLANS**

##### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. In the sentence Historically, Clans were the center..." change "were" to "are." (Sally F.)
2. Strike out Citizen and put Anishinaabeg in the last sentence. (Unnamed delegate)
3. We have spent hours on discussing what we will call ourselves, Citizens or members. (Cheryl E.)
4. **Chat:** I wonder about the clans, if some clans were hidden for years where would they be placed on clans? (Sherelle G.). They are placed where they are traditionally placed, whether they were hidden or not. (Cheryl E.)
5. **Chat:** Like we know where the turtle, migizi and bear stand, but who knows about the hidden clans? (Sherelle G.).

#### **ARTICLE VII EXTERNAL GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

##### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

We use Chippewa because it was used over and over again in the treaties, and even if we don't like that word, we want to show continuity of who we are because other people may not understand that. (Marcie M.)

**Chat:** Anishinaabe is a description of the many tribes of original people on Turtle Island so it basically means original human. My opinion is that it should be Ojibwe Anishinaabeg which specifically describes us better. (Lawrence F.)

**Chat:** If this is our way, do we still fit the chimooks they never gave us that option? I don't think we should give them loopholes. Options. (Sherelle G.)

#### **ARTICLE VIII SELF DETERMINATION**

##### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. Strike the word also in the last sentence. (Sally F.)

2. Change the word Sustainable in the first sentence to “perpetuity or sustainable and perpetuity.” (Nikki P.)

3. Are we just looking at the U.S. or Mexico, what area tribe or Canada? (Rita E.)

## **ARTICLE IX ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TRIBAL NATIONS**

### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

**Chat:** Where does dual citizenship fit? For Section 3 why does that not include all Anishinaabeg on Turtle Island? (Sherelle G.)

1. Does that include native Tribe’s from MCT, state-wide, nation-wide or Turtle Island or does it include all Nations of Anishinaabeg/ any reservation? (Sherelle G)

2. Section 3 is just the established territories, reservations. (Rita E.)

3. Regarding citizenship, my questions were not answered. If someone were of Native American lineage but there not enrolled anywhere would that be dual Citizenship? And if they are, do we include them in our jurisdiction and citizenship? (Sherelle G) Inaudible answer given.

4. Regarding joining the Alliance, how does that work? How would each founding reservation give consent? How do they get consent, where is the voting process in the governing Tribal Council? Need clarification. (Michele B.)

## **ARTICLE X TERRITORY AND JURISDICTION**

### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. Needs to be clarified a bit to allow for the future when we might have new tribes entering the alliance. Who are the members here? It’s getting a little confusing. It just may need a few tweaks to allow that Section 3 founding reservation based on treaties. (Sandra B.)

2. Actually the territory and jurisdiction have to do with our governments if a tribe comes in under the Alliance, they would not be under our jurisdiction they would be aligning with us on particular topics, maybe on legislation that would not be included in our tribal laws and our governance system. (Carol J.)

3. Should we include jurisdiction regarding MCT land that is throughout Minnesota? (Patty S.)

4. If a tribal member goes off reservation boundaries and purchases land, why would that not be considered part of the boundaries? Maybe because it was before the signing? If I unenroll myself from my tribe, where would I fit in all of this? (Sherelle G.) That question is related to purchase of property and doesn’t apply within the document (Carol J.)

5. Regarding “ceded territory, if we ceded the land in treaties, are we now trying to declare jurisdiction over them now? (Michelle B.)

6. Side comment-We will get assignments and we will want to move it through, we are already up to number 8. That is a lot to present to our citizens. Can we keep it to a manageable number? (Michelle B.)

## **ARTICLE XI CITIZENSHIP**

### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. These criteria are from the past and current MCT Constitutions. (Carol J.) Using the pronoun "his" to identify children. (Wayne D.) We will eliminate "his." (Carol J.)
2. What about the children who were taken, i.e. boarding school and adoption? (Sherelle G.) They would have to do some research and could apply for citizenship if they have the proper certificates and can show they are a descendant of someone enrollment by one of the criteria. Their situation will be looked at. (Carol J.)
3. What Census? (Sally F.) We have not decided what the appropriate Census or Allotment records are yet. (Carol J.)
4. Most Leech Lake people are not on the 1941 Roll. (Sally F.) We have decided to expand this to include Census, and Allotment Records. (Carol J.)
5. Section 2 is not determined yet. It depends on the election results. (Patty S.) I heard what you stated, but most of us want lineal descent. The Alliance is a way to change that. At this point...(muffled) (Cheryl E.)
6. In the July TEC meeting, Kevin Dupuis questioned what the was the definition of Lineal Descent. We can't go forward without defining it. (Patty S.) It is on the agenda for this afternoon. (Cheryl E. Also defined in Section 2 of Article XI of the Alliance. Based on bloodline. (Carol J.)

## **ARTICLE XII CIVIL RIGHTS**

### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. In Grand Portage you cannot speak against the government. This is stated in the employee manual and people are afraid to join the Constitution Reform group. (Rita E.) There are a lot of civil rights being violated (Carol J.) the paragraph is confusing. We are putting a lot into this Document about culture, but this is a lot of current. None of the tribes have a jail. We have agreements with the State. P.L. 280 comes into this. Would added tribes come under this? (Jolyn D.). Long sentence. It starts out with "Shall not" then it goes into "...and at own expense have the assistance of counsel for his defense." Hard to follow. (Michelle B.)
2. Should be a disclaimer that all prior laws up to this time shall stand. We have our own laws. We have civil rights laws. (Sally F.)
3. Would other tribes be willing to share courts until the tribes have them? (Sherelle G.) It is our vision that all bands will have a court system, and the Supreme Court will be shared. (Carol J.)
4. The TEC changed the petition criteria and did not give notice to G.P. and TEC is the only one who has a copy of the petition they denied. (Rita E.) The Petition process will be discussed in Drafting (Carol J.)

**Chat:** Where is the section that holds up these rights? Why is it ok for RBC members to imprison people for the same thing? Your right about speaking up that are being violated. I think we should be able to sue for violating these rights. (Sherelle G.)

**Chat:** Lots of work from drafting. Miigwech (CarrieD A.) Indeed, thank all who are helping with the drafting. (Sherelle G.).

## **ARTICLE XIII RIGHTS OF CITIZENS**

### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

UNDRIP will be presented this afternoon. (Carol J.) What tribal rights are extended to off reservation members such as teaching home schooled children about hunting and gathering on their own land off reservation? (Sherelle G.) Send specifics to drafting, discussions have to be had regarding off reservation citizens as well (Carol J.)

#### **ARTICLE XIV RIGHTS OF CHILDREN**

##### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

There might be some words missing in the second to the last sentence. (Sandra B. If you read it in it's entirety it sounds right. (Cheryl E.) "Children deprived of their liberty" is a description and does fit the grammar and syntax of the rest of the sentence. (Sandra B.) It is the language of the UN Convention on children's rights, but it can be cleaned up a bit. (Carol J.)

#### **ARTICLE XV SEPARATION OF POWER**

**Questions/Comments/Suggestions:** No comments.

#### **ARTICLE XVI GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

##### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

Does this give RBC the right to do whatever they want? (Sherelle G.) Absolutely not. If you go through the rest of this document with us you will see that the governing bodies are separated and RBC will not have that power. (Cheryl E.)

#### **ARTICLE XVII GRAND COUNCIL**

##### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. What is the process for "all Citizens" to, for example to approve a budget? (Sandra B.) If you see the second handout on Governing Bodies, you will see that Representatives from each Band will be selected. (Carol J.) Are you implying that these Reps will be drawn from all the Citizens? (Sandra B.) Yes.

2. Include a Grandmother Council somewhere. (Patty S.)

3. Are you saying the Grand Council is a government? (Michelle B.) No, the government is all councils together, with separate powers to get the government back in the hands of the people for transparency and cooperation. There will be an interchange between them and representatives from each band as a part of the Grand Council. Each band will have its own constitution. (Carol J.)

4. We have the 1854 Treaty is Grand Portage, Bois Forte and Fond du Lac. Any change could be approved by the whole Grand Council. In a way, we are giving away that ability to make our own decisions. (Michelle B.)

**Governing Bodies handout on governing bodies will be posted at [fdlconstitution.org](http://fdlconstitution.org).**

**A brief summary of the following governing. No comments given:**

- ARTICLE XVIII CITIZEN COUNCIL
- ARTICLE XIX CENTRAL COUNCIL
- ARTICLE XX ~~GENERAL ASSEMBLY~~ GRAND COUNCIL

- ARTICLE XXI ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISORY COUNCIL
- ARTICLE XXII TRADITION AND CUSTOM DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- ARTICLE XXIII JUDICIARY

### **ARTICLE XXIV ETHICS, REMOVAL, RECALL, AND VACANCIES**

#### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

When you talk about a Major Felony, are you talking about court systems in the U.S.?  
(Unknown) This is what is proposed (Carol J.)

### **ARTICLE XXV AMENDMENTS**

#### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

It should state Grand Council not General Assembly. (Carol J.)

#### **A brief summary of the following governing. No comments given:**

- ARTICLE XXVI SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY
- ARTICLE XXVII ELECTIONS
- ARTICLE XXVIII SEVERABILITY

### **ARTICLE XXIX SAVINGS CLAUSE**

#### **Questions/Comments/Suggestions:**

1. This brings up the question. Are any of the Ordinances and Resolutions valid if they didn't have approval of The Secretary of the Interior? Probably not, but they will all be looked at and see which are consistent with what is good for our citizens. (Carol J.)

2. Are we saying that MCT ordinances will stay in effect even though they're invalid? (Raymond B.) Yes, but the drafting committee will need to review all of them and eventually they will have to be replaced or gotten rid of. (Carol J.). I don't think they should go forward. (Raymond B)

**Assignments** Take the following back to the community to discuss and in three months (November 2023), the delegation will vote to approve them to move forward.

- Assignments1-Preamble
- Assignments2-Article II
- Assignments3-Article III
- Assignments4-Article V
- Assignments5-Article VII
- Assignments6-Article VIII
- Assignments7-Article IX
- Assignments8-Article X

#### **Roles & Responsibilities Discussion/Approval Cheryl E.**

- See handout. This is an agreement on what delegates will do. It is not meant to tell anyone how to do it.



- Bullet Point #1 has an additional highlighted area that should explain the first part. Carrie D A. suggested that the highlighted area be the introduction and the bullet points to follow that.
- No comments on Bullet Point #2
- Bullet Point #3.(Christine B.) to change “behave” to “conduct.”
- Bullet Point #4- Rita E. wants explanation. Muffled answer. Unidentified delegate requested clarification-This doesn’t have anything to do with the number of delegates at meeting or voting, right? Cheryl E. answered Yes. This is an agreement about what the delegates will do. It is not telling them how to do it.
- Bullet Point #5 no comments.
- Bullet Point #6. Meeting minutes are due within one week of the convention.
- Bullet Point #7 Sandra B. asked Doesn’t the facilitation Committee produce the agenda. Cheryl E. Yes. Once the hosting Band has the agenda, send a flyer out to all bands informing them of the next convention meeting. Carrie D A. asked if the facilitation really meets one week after the convention meeting. Cheryl E. YES. The rest of the answer was muffled. (Facilitation will meet next Friday at noon.)
- Bullet Point #8 Cheryl E. The hosting Band must download the Convention recording.

Louis J. suggested each Band should attempt to have 1-2 in delegates attending in person, not to go through Zoom. Cheryl E. stated that this is volunteer work, and we cannot force people to attend in person. Michelle B. stated that would put an undue burden on people. We need good equipment for all bands.

Michelle B. stated that Grand Portage doesn’t get supported. Two delegates are out of state. It takes a lot of time to participate/travel. Which need better Zoom equipment. From her experience in other work on Zoom it can work very well.

Carrie D A. We must be upfront about the commitment and expense for being a delegate.

Cheryl E. We should have as many delegates as possible who can attend in person, but we should not discount the delegates who are on Zoom.

### **Discussion related to storage and recordings.**

- Store through Zoom, FDL, Jump Drive, or Google storage. There was a recommendation that they be stored on FDL website, which has lots of storage available.
- Cheryl stated that there should be one place to store recordings. Bands can have an additional recording stored locally.
- Recordings not downloaded in the past have led to missing minutes. Also this is historical work that is being done and it should be preserved.
- It takes a commitment of time and resources.
- **Chat:** CarrieD A. If the recordings are going to be stored, will they be distorted as the meeting. Can’t hear anything but muffled. Sherelle G. asked if the storage can be backup like on flash drive, just in case.
- Marcie M. suggested that we invest in Recognition Software for taking minutes.

Jolyn D. Suggested that we revisit how we started out and what the delegates are doing. We need different views on our committee’s work and that information should be shared. Cheryl E. we do a lot of revisiting. If you want to make changes, you should write a motion and get this

information to the Facilitation Committee and get it on the agenda. (For example, how many delegates are there per committee.)

Each Band who was present agreed that the Roles and Responsibilities were good, as amended. No comment from Mille Lac. No need for a vote. Marcie M. asked for a copy of the Roles and Responsibilities sent to all the delegates.

### **Educational Flyers – Approval of Sovereignty flyers.**

- Two-page flyer- Julie L. suggests the spacing needs fixing and need to remove unnecessary bullets. Carrie D A. suggested putting changes in Chat. Julie will scan and send the correction directly to Carrie.
- **Chat:** Sandra B. Sovereignty document is in Fond du Lac e-mail dated August 14, 2023 5 :17 pm with 5 other attachments.
- Nikki P. asked that we capitalize Reservation. The real point is Sovereignty is the control/power over your own land/domain and freedom of choice...muffled.
- Cheryl E. We can't add too much more due to spacing, we will do the best we can. Any additional edits send to Carrie **Chat:** [Carriedaspinwall@gmail.com](mailto:Carriedaspinwall@gmail.com)

### **Comments on the one-page Sovereignty Flyer**

- Raymond B. How can we be separate sovereigns if we are United States Citizens. Muffled.... Citizenship Act... muffled...If you exercise your rights on the reservation, see how much of a citizen you are. We cannot allow the IRA to control us any longer. Muffled...a lot more research needs to be done.
- Cheryl E. Asks for suggestions on how to go forward. It still needs some work.
  - Marcie M. suggests Tribal sovereignty includes the right to participate in the government in one's community.
  - Raymond B. Muffled statement about Sovereignty.
  - Wayne D. stated "Sovereignty is as Sovereignty does. How have we been doing? It takes the Supreme Court to say the Treaties are the Supreme laws of the Land."
  - Nikki P. suggested we should add sovereignty predates the U.S. Constitution and it is perpetual.
  - Marcie M. suggests the last bullet point is not a sentence and should state "Sovereignty is the foundation of our power and strength as a Tribe." Don't need the statement about generations because in a statement above, there are word "perpetuity/forever.
  - Carol J. Second sentence include the word inherent before sovereignty, because as Rayment stated we are the only ones that have inherent Sovereignty, the United States just created theirs.
  - CarrieD A. Thanked everyone, which helps her solidify the concept.
  - Sally F. Muffled

### **Finance Committee – Funding balance from original \$60,000 Funding Educational Meetings – Policy and forms (Cheryl E.)**

- Met with Beth Drost, the conversation ended with the delegates would put together the documents and get back to her. Ther is no final answer today.

- Finance Committee is working on a Disbursement of Funds Policy for our educational meetings.
- For the eligibility and requests must be submitted by Authorized Rep. from the Constitution Reform Finance Committee.

After this point it became very muffled.

- No funds disbursed for hotel, meals, and travel.
- All funds must fall within the scope of the policy.

Muffled again

CarrieD A. asked if the money was the? \$60,000. Cheryl E. Yes, but also the \$100,000.

- Cheryl E. said they were told the balance of our funds (Originally, \$60,000) was reallocated and we have no funds. But in 2020 MCT lost all of their records. So it will be up to the Finance Committee to pull all of our records.

### **Video on The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP ) and Discussion:**

- Carol J. This is an Introduction to UNDRIP, more research to be done. Article XIII Rights of Citizens is based on UNDRIP. Posted at UNDRIP\_E\_web.pdf
- The rights of our citizens should be the same as the rights of every other indigenous person in the world.
- Use the handout called Reference Guide to understand the rights and where they can found under UNDRIP.
- Chart of the 46 Articles of UNDRIP and it shows where in the Alliance the Article are affected Indirectly and directly. There are also laws, concepts, safeguards and argument related to each of the 46 Rights. There is more research to be done.
- Wayne D. Comments following the UNDRIP presentation:  
 “This codifies our rights to be sovereign for the Fond du Lac band I am the environmental program manager and we weigh in on everything that happens in our seated territories there is 100 miles of mines 60 miles north of us but we have the right to consult with the government we weigh in on every time we have the opportunity to The United states says it gives us the right to do that but we inherently had that right to go there because it is our seated territory we have the right to hunt fish and gather so they say but that's the right to use the land a property right so we assert that if you look at the handout called did you know? In 1847 (Treaty) the Lake Superior and Mississippi Chippewa stipulated in Article 4 all those people living amongst us, Aanikoobijigan, shall be considered Chippewa. If you look at genocide, it is genocide that takes that right away from you to connect to those coming generations this has been one of the sticking points for the whole constitutional reform of our enrollment in my opinion, we are

obligated to acknowledge those coming generations, Aanikoobijigan, the connection from the past to the future. It's our obligation that is taught to us, inherent in our values and beliefs.”

### **Define Lineal Descent**

- At the last TEC Meeting Kevin Dupuis asked what is lineal descent. We have to decide what the definition is.
- Nikki P. asked Have other Nations described it? For example look at the Cherokee and they have many people that without cultural traditions. They were able to relate to a census roll for membership.
- Sally F. stated that she talked to someone from a Connecticut tribe. muffled.
- Jolyn stated that it is a topic that we have to pursue more.
- Nikki P. we need to gather information We can't just take the views of just the us individuals here, we need to talk to our people to see what they have to say. If the vote goes through it does, if it doesn't it doesn't. It is the people's choice. We shouldn't push one topic over the other. We should give options, not just one choice.
- CarrieD A. Googled lineal descent is the direct descendants, child, grandchildren and so on to talk about lineal heirs, we have to understand what it means.
- Julie L. Looked at lineal descent from a legal website regarding human remains and repatriation. It states a succession of generations. Also, we must be careful about talking about inclusive and exclusive with children who are dealing with who they are. Then there is direct lineal descent which is a direct bloodline. Then there is a gray area about adoptions.
- Carol J. the definition proposed in the Alliance document is lineal descent means a descendant of a person in a direct line of blood relationship, starting with children, grandchildren, etc.
- Wayne D. Things to consider. If you look at the census as far back as 1850, there were about 50 men and 200 women in Sandy Lake. Also, consider our word for baby is Abinoojii, a spirit is coming. There is no blood there, but there is a connection. There is a spirit coming to have a human experience.
- Theresa: Definition of lineal descent at Red Cliff Chippewa used the 1934 Census and the 1886 Allotment.
- Cheryl assignment to work on it. Carrie D A. suggest the Educational Committee to provide input from the delegation.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Education-** Schedule 20 Educational Meetings Not ready to Schedule yet until we get the finance. TEC writing Secretarial Election this week. Muffled. There is 90-day deadline. About 100 days to get the meetings done. TEC must endorse the education to be presented. Carrie D A. offered to help.
- **Facilitation-**Will meet Friday.

- **Survey** – Who will lead this group? No action in months. Dissolve?
- **Drafting**-Working on governance Issues. Meet weekly, Tuesdays at 6 pm.
- **TEC Update** – No meeting. All delegates decided on recommendations.

Marcie urges the facilitation to get the Bush Grant in, ask for help, get busy, and get it done.

**Adjourn - Next meeting September 15, 2023.**

Host and meeting minutes: Grand Portage Delegate