



ANISHINABEK NATION

E'DBENDAAGZIIG NAAKNIGWIN (Citizenship Law)

Accepted By Anishinabek Nation Grand Council – June 8, 2009



ANISHINABEK NATION DECLARATION ON E'DBENDAAGZIJIG

Debenjiged gii'saan Anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni mnidoo waadiziwin
Creator placed Anishinaabe on earth along with gift of spirituality.

Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin
Creator gave us sovereignty to govern ourselves.

Debenjiged kiimiingona E'Dbendaagzijig wi naaknigewag wi namaadziwag
We belong to the land and follow our own laws.

Debenjiged kiimiingona gshkewiziwin wii-mkwenmangidwaa E'Dbendaagzijig
We have the right to determine who our people are.

Dedbinwe gwa ggii-gkenmaanaanik E'Dbendaagzijig
Through our own governance principles and structures, we decide who belongs.

**Kina kowaabindaamin shkakmikong, nibi, noodin, shkode, miinwaa
kina bemaadziimak, minwaa ezhi-nawendaasying**
Together all of us we take care of each other, earth water air fire, and all our relations.

**Mshkogaabwitownaanh gaa-miingwewiziying wi naagdawendizowin,
wii-mnaadenmangid shkakmikwe, miinwaa E'Dbendaagzijig, e-kidoomgak
gaa-kidwaad Anishnaabek naaknigewining gaa-zhibiigaadegiba-niizhing
mdaaswaak-shi-zhaangswi**

We assert and exercise our inherent right of self-determination for the protection
of our lands, and our E'Dbendaagzijig as affirmed by the Anishinabek Nation
E'Dbendaagzijig Naaknigewin, 2009

*Approved by Anishinabek Nation Grand Council
June 4, 2025*



Anishinabek Nation

E'Dbendaagzijig Naaknigewin

(Citizenship Law)

Short Title

1. This law may be cited as the 'Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Law'.

Anishinabek Citizenship

2. Every citizen of an Anishinabek First Nation is an Anishinabek Nation citizen.
3. A person is entitled to be an Anishinabek Nation citizen provided that the person:
 - (a) can trace their desendancy through at least one parent to the original people of an Anishinabek First Nation; or
 - (b) has at least one parent who is a member currently registered with an Anishinabek First Nation; or
 - (c) the person can trace their desendancy through at least one parent to a status Indian who is registered or entitled to be registered with an Anishinabek First Nation.

Loss of Citizenship

4. A person ceases to be an Anishinabek Nation citizen if the person:
 - (a) who is at least eighteen years of age, provides written notice to the Board of Anishinabek Citizenship that they renounce their citizenship; or
 - (b) the Board of Anishinabek Citizenship determines, after appropriate notice to the affected person and consideration of all relevant information and documentation that a person was registered on erroneous or fraudulent grounds and would not have otherwise qualified as a citizen. Such a person shall be deemed to never have been a Citizen.
 - (c) the Anishinabek First Nation provides written notice of the removal of a citizen from their citizenship list.

Registrar

5. The Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Registrar shall be appointed by resolution of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council.
6. The Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Registrar shall:
 - (a) maintain the Anishinabek Nation citizenship list;
 - (b) receive and acknowledge receipt of applications from persons applying for citizenship;
 - (c) ensure that the applicant provides all necessary information and documentation before forwarding such application to the Board of Anishinabek citizenship;
 - (d) notify each applicant of the decision of the Board of Anishinabek citizenship;
 - (e) advise the applicant in writing of the appeal process if his/her application is not approved by the Board of Anishinabek citizenship; and
 - (f) place the name of the applicant on the Anishinabek Nation citizenship list if his/her application is approved by the Board of Anishinabek citizenship.

Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship

7. There shall be a Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship composed of four representatives. Each of the regions of the Anishinabek Nation shall, according to its own procedure, appoint one representative to sit on the Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship.
8. The term of the members of the Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship shall be two years. The members may be reappointed to the Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship.
9. The Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship shall:
 - (a) provide fair and confidential hearings of applications for Anishinabek Nation citizenship;
 - (b) publicize and provide information in respect of the eligibility process and requirements;

- (c) shall review and determine applications within three months of receiving the application;
 - (d) notifying the registrar in writing of its decisions;
 - (e) record all the minutes and motions and filing such with the registrar; and
 - (f) provide written reasons to any applicant whose application is not approved.
10. The Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship shall have the power to make regulations for the conduct of its meetings, proceedings and hearings.
11. The Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship may seek the advice of the Anishinabek Elders Council on any issue.

Certificate of Citizenship

12. Subject to any regulations made under paragraph 10, the Registrar shall issue a certificate of Anishinabek Nation citizenship to any person who has made application for Anishinabek Nation citizenship and whose application has been approved by the Board of Anishinabek Nation citizenship.

Anishinabek First Nation Citizenship Regulations

13. An Anishinabek First Nation may adopt and amend Anishinabek First Nation Citizenship regulations not inconsistent with Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Law.

Appeal

14. Any person whose has made application to the Board of Anishinabek Nation Citizenship shall have a right to appeal any decision made by the Board of Anishinabek Nation Citizenship.

ADDENDUM

ANISHINABEK NATION DECLARATION ON E'DBENDAAGZIJIG

1. We have been on this land and governed this land since time immemorial.
2. The treaty rights shall be protected and practiced by our E'Dbendaagzijig.
3. We will assert our Doodemaag system and adoption laws according to our kinships customs with key principle of inclusion and equality.
4. We will reinforce our traditional governance. Principles and structures.
5. We will continue to teach our children our teachings and traditional ways as Anishinabek to protect the seventh generation.
6. As Anishinaabe people we unite to address the changing landscapes of external government policies as it affects the Anishinabek Nation, our land rights, and our inherent rights.
7. We will continue to protect our spiritual laws as this is our connection to Creator and this is part of who we are.
8. Further the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)* reinforces our inherent right of self-determination: Article 3, 4, 8, 9, 33, 39, 42, 46.

Article 3

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 8

1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
 - (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

- (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
- (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
- (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

Article 9

Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

Article 33

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

Article 39

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

Article 42

The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.

Article 46

1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.
2. In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.
3. The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith.