



**AN ACT RESPECTING THE
SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN CULTURAL
CENTRE
OF THE FEDERATION OF
SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS**

16 February 2012

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**AN ACT RESPECTING THE SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE OF THE
FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS**

PREAMBLE

- WHEREAS** our Dakota, Dene, Nakawē, Nakota, Swampy Cree, Lakota, Plains Cree, Woodland Cree languages and cultures are a gift from the Creator and as such is the relationship we have with all of creation;
- WHEREAS** our commitment to our languages and cultures as Dakota, Dene, Nakawē, Nakota, Swampy Cree, Lakota, Plains Cree, Woodland Cree Peoples unite us through common objectives to preserve, maintain and pass on our languages and cultures from generation to generation;
- WHEREAS** our Dakota, Dene, Nakawē, Nakota, Swampy Cree, Lakota, Plains Cree, Woodland Cree histories and our present being are foundational to our collective Indigenous knowledge;
- WHEREAS** First Nations governments assert our inherent and Treaty right to govern ourselves according to our laws, traditions, customs, practices, protocols and governance processes in our ancestral lands;
- WHEREAS** First Nations Peoples have been placed on Mother Earth by the Creator as stewards of our ancestral lands and maintain a responsibility to protect and preserve First Nations' sacred, historic and traditional sites;
- WHEREAS** First Nations Peoples maintain ownership of our cultural and sacred objects that preserve and maintain Indigenous knowledge and historical importance where ever these objects may be;
- WHEREAS** Treaty is a sacred covenant that was entered into to secure a positive future for generations to come, ensuring the means to survival and stability;
- WHEREAS** Treaty reinforces the ongoing inherent right to self determination and the preservation of all First Nations ways of life;
- WHEREAS** the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples asserts Indigenous Peoples' right to self determination and states that "Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State"¹;

¹ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 61/295 on 13 September 2007, Article 5

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of First Nations, through our organizations, to articulate the basis upon which we will collectively work together to ensure our inherent and Treaty rights are honoured, implemented and sustained;

WHEREAS the First Nations signatories to the FSIN *Convention*, April 16, 1982, agreed to join and unite in a common front to protect and preserve First Nations' Treaty rights and our political, economic, social, language and cultural institutions; and

WHEREAS the Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted the Treaty Implementation Principles on May 29, 2007, to guide the FSIN in discussions with the Crown and in dealings with the federal and provincial governments on Treaty and Treaty-related matters.

PRINCIPLES

- i. Our rights to language and culture are protected and guaranteed as articulated in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- ii. Our rights to use and promote our own languages and our Indigenous knowledge is protected and supported by this Act.
- iii. Our rights to teach and transmit inter-generationally our languages and cultures through our education systems and institutions are affirmed through this Act.
- iv. First Nations' languages and Indigenous knowledge are our way of knowing who we are and is an essential attribute of sovereignty, cohesion, identification, communication, creative expression and connection to our ancestral lands.
- v. First Nations respect and acknowledge the diversity of the Dakota, Dene, Nakawē, Nakota, Swampy Cree, Lakota, Plains Cree, Woodland Cree Peoples.
- vi. Meaningful engagement of First Nations language speakers and cultural knowledge keepers is required to ensure we have equal opportunities to obtain Indigenous knowledge education as a life-long learning process.

PART I

Short Title and Definitions

SHORT TITLE

1. This Act may be cited as the *Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre Act*.

DEFINITIONS

2. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations *Interpretation Act* shall apply to this Act unless otherwise specified herein.
3. In this Act:
 - (a) "Appointing Authority" means those bodies who appoint the Board members;

- (b) “Board” means the Board of Governors of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre;
- (c) “Board Member” means a Chief, Councillor or Headman of a First Nation signatory to the FSIN *Convention Act* appointed by the Tribal, Agency, or Grand Council and Independent First Nations as a group;
- (d) “Commission” means the Education and Training Commission;
- (e) “Cultural Centre” means the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC);
- (f) “Elders Council” means the Elders Advisory Council of the Cultural Centre;
- (g) “Proxy Representative” means an individual authorized to act on behalf of a Board member;
- (h) “language(s)” means the Indigenous languages of the Dakota, Dene, Nakawē, Nakota, Swampy Cree, Lakota, Plains Cree, Woodland Cree Peoples; and
- (i) “Elder” means in the First Nations’ languages Hun k̄ayaḡi, Wa piya Wicasta, Pe suta Wi casta, Wi cah ca (Dakota), Ttheri dené (Dene), Kihci-anisinapē, kehteyak (Nakawē), Tan ga bek (Nakota), kētēhiya (Swampy Cree), Wakán ki (Lakota), kēhtē-aya (Plains Cree) and kihṡi-aya (Woodland Cree).

PART II Purpose

PURPOSE

4. The purpose of this Act is to establish:
 - (a) The Board of Governors for the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre pursuant to this Act and is subject to the FSIN *Convention*, the *FSIN Convention Act*;
 - (b) the authority and responsibilities of the Board;
 - (c) the processes under which the Cultural Centre will conduct its business; and
 - (d) the parameters, policies and standards upon which self-determination with respect to language and cultural promotion, protection, preservation and revitalization for the Dakota, Dene, Nakawē, Nakota, Swampy Cree, Lakota, Plains Cree, Woodland Cree will be pursued by the Cultural Centre.

PART III Authority and Responsibility

AUTHORITY

5. The authority of the Board is subject to the FSIN *Convention* and the *FSIN Convention Act*.

6. The authority of the Cultural Centre is to:
- (a) uphold, advocate and assert the First Nations' Inherent and Treaty right to language and culture;
 - (b) assert First Nations jurisdiction with regard to language and culture;
 - (c) assert First Nations jurisdiction over our Treaty, sacred, historical and traditional sites;
 - (d) secure the required resources to support ongoing development for the protection and implementation of the First Nations' Inherent and Treaty Rights to languages and cultures;
 - (e) assist member First Nations in their authority, to develop and establish laws for the protection, promotion and implementation of the Inherent and Treaty Rights to languages and cultures, which will be consistent with First Nations written and unwritten laws, customs, traditions, values, practices and protocols;
 - (f) establish any institutions, corporate entities, working groups or committees to assist in undertaking its authority and responsibilities;
 - (g) approve fiscal arrangements and/or working relationships with governments and/or other entities; and
 - (h) review the budgets and approve the strategic direction for the Cultural Centre.

APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

7. The Board shall have the authority to appoint the President of the Cultural Centre and to prescribe the tenure of office, duties and terms of conditions of the President's employment.

RESPONSIBILITIES

8. The responsibilities of the Board shall be, but not be limited to:
- (a) taking a lead role in the protection, promotion and implementation of the First Nations' Inherent and Treaty Rights to languages and cultures;
 - (b) ensuring that First Nations' Inherent rights, Treaty rights and our rights derived from First Nation legislation with regard to language and culture are respected and recognized;
 - (c) ensuring that First Nations' Treaty, sacred, historical and traditional sites are respected and protected;
 - (d) ensuring the Treaty Implementation Principles (Appendix A) are acknowledged in all language and cultural development;

- (e) respecting the authority and intent of the *Education and Training Commission Act*;
- (f) providing a status report at all duly convened meetings of the Commission;
- (g) acting as a unit representing, serving and acting in the collective interests of the member First Nation governments and their citizens;
- (h) promoting First Nations' governance principles that include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) Mutual Recognition in that First Nations will acknowledge and respect each others' rights, laws and institutions, and will cooperate for mutual benefit;
 - (ii) Reciprocity whereby First Nations will ensure that legislation and policies enacted by any one government will recognize the jurisdiction and rights of the other, where appropriate;
 - (iii) Respect that will encompass good relations between and among the governments, recognizing diversity and encouraging the free and open exchange of views;
 - (iv) Sharing, through First Nations government relationships that carry with it both benefits and responsibilities, that provide access to equal opportunities, reduces disparities and provide comparable services to all citizens;
 - (v) Accountability processes that will ensure transparency, disclosure and redress are incorporated into the First Nations government relationships; and
 - (vi) Certainty about the obligations, rights and responsibilities of each government, along with the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances;
- (i) assisting in the development and implementation of processes which will serve member First Nations' governments;
- (j) reviewing, analyzing and presenting recommendations to the Chiefs-in-Assembly where the activities of other governments and entities impact on the First Nations' Inherent and Treaty Right to language and culture;
- (k) providing a forum to advance language and cultural issues to the attention of the elected First Nations leadership;
- (l) undertaking strategic planning for language and cultural rights;
- (m) working with any institutional or corporate entities established by the Chiefs-in-Assembly that are mandated with promoting and/or supporting language and cultural development;
- (n) ensuring the resolutions presented to the Chiefs-in-Assembly respect the priorities, funding, programming and/or services mandated to and provided by First Nations, Tribal Councils, FSIN Institutions and/or corporate entities;

- (o) coordinating and cooperating with Commissions of the FSIN, activities which have broad impact on language rights and cultural development;
- (p) ensuring consultation with member First Nations is consistent with all First Nations laws and the FSIN *Consultation Policy and Guidelines*;
- (q) providing direction to the FSIN Executive Member responsible for the Cultural Centre portfolio on Treaty, jurisdiction, self-determination and governance matters; and
- (r) making appointments to relevant entities which are external to the Cultural Centre's governance and organizational structure.

PART IV

Board Composition, Quorum and Voting and Individual Action Void

BOARD COMPOSITION

9. The Board shall consist of fifteen (15) members appointed in the following manner:
- (a) one (1) member will be appointed by the Tribal, Agency and Grand Councils who shall have full voting privileges;
 - (b) one (1) member from the Independent First Nations as a group who shall have full voting privileges;
 - (c) one (1) member from the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission as appointed by the Saskatchewan Women's Commission who shall have full voting privileges;
 - (d) non-voting members of the Board shall be:
 - (i) one (1) member from the FSIN Executive as appointed by the Chief of the FSIN;
 - (ii) One (1) member from the Senate of the FSIN as appointed by the Senate;
 - (iii) One (1) member from the SICC Elders Advisory Council as appointed by the SICC Elders Advisory Council; and
 - (e) The Chief of the FSIN shall be an ex-officio member of the Board.

QUORUM AND VOTING

10. A quorum of the Board shall be fifty-percent plus one (50% + 1) of its voting members.
11. Decisions made by a majority of the voting members present at a duly convened meeting of the Board, at which a quorum is present, shall bind all members of the Board.

INDIVIDUAL ACTION VOID

12. Board Members shall act as a unit and any decision or action by an individual member, without the prior approval by a majority of Board Members at a duly convened meeting of the Board, shall be null and void.

PART V

Appointments, Alternates/Proxies and Term of Office

APPOINTMENTS BY TRIBAL, AGENCY AND GRAND COUNCILS AND INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS

13. The Tribal, Agency and Grand Councils and Independent First Nations as a group shall:
 - (a) appoint their Board Member to the Board of the Cultural Centre; and
 - (b) Identify an alternate Board Member to the Board of the Cultural Centre.
14. A Board Member appointed by a Tribal, Agency and Grand Councils and the Independent First Nations as a group, hereinafter referred to as the Appointing Authority, must be a Chief, Councillor or Headman of a First Nation that is signatory to the *FSIN Convention*.
15. An Alternate Board Member or Proxy must be:
 - (a) Chief or Councillor/Headman; or
 - (b) A Tribal, Agency or Grand Council individual elected to the position of Grand Chief, Vice Chief, Tribal Chief, Tribal Chair or an individual appointed to a political leadership position within the Tribal, Agency or Grand Council.
16. A newly elected Chief will be deemed to have replaced the former Chief on the Board until the Cultural Centre and the Office of the Legislative Assembly is otherwise notified by the Appointing Authority.

ALTERNATE/PROXY APPOINTMENT PROCESS

17. The alternate Board Member shall be notified by the Cultural Centre in the event that the Board Member is not available for a Board meeting.
18. Where both the Board Member and the alternate Board Member are not available for a Board meeting, the Tribal, Agency or Grand Council appointed representative shall be requested by the Cultural Centre to designate a Proxy Representative, for that Board meeting only, by providing a proxy letter to the Cultural Centre prior to the start of the meeting.
19. Where both the Board Member and the alternate Board Member, representing the Independent First Nations as a group, are not available for a Board meeting, the Board Member shall be requested by the Cultural Centre to designate a Proxy Representative, for that Board meeting only, by providing a proxy letter to the Cultural Centre prior to the start of the meeting.

20. The Appointing Authority shall inform the Cultural Centre and the FSIN Office of the Legislative Assembly in writing of its appointment or changes in its appointment.

TERM OF OFFICE

21. The Appointing Authority shall determine the term of appointment of its Board Member and Alternate Board Member.

PART VI Duties and Obligations of a Board Member

DUTIES OF A BOARD MEMBER

22. A Board Member shall:

- (a) faithfully pursue the mission of the FSIN *Convention*;
- (b) adhere to FSIN and Cultural Centre legislation and policies;
- (c) undertake his/her responsibilities as outlined in this Act;
- (d) discuss and debate all matters in a constructive and objective manner;
- (e) uphold his/her obligations as outlined in section 23;
- (f) attend all duly convened meetings of the Board;
- (g) provide a written report to his/her respective Appointing Authority and/or constituents on the work of the Cultural Centre;
- (h) participate, as required, in those entities established pursuant to sub-section 6(f);
and
- (i) participate, as required, in appointments made pursuant to sub-section 8(r).

OBLIGATIONS OF A BOARD MEMBER

23. A Board Member shall:

- (a) respect the Chiefs-in-Assembly, the FSIN and the Cultural Centre governance processes, protocols, customs and traditions in a positive, consistent and culturally appropriate manner;
- (b) adhere to the jurisdictional authorities recognized under the FSIN *Convention*;
- (c) maintain the language, cultural, moral and political integrity, confidence and dignity of the FSIN and Cultural Centre at all times;

- (d) devote time, thought and study to the responsibilities of a Board Member necessary to render effective, credible service;
- (e) focus efforts on the authority and responsibilities of the Board of the Cultural Centre;
- (f) understand that the financial expenditures of the Cultural Centre is a public trust and thereby endeavour to ensure that all financial resources are expended efficiently, economically, and for the collective interest of all member First Nations;
- (g) ensure full, respectful, considerate and open discussion in all matters with other members of the Board, and share information of which they should be concerned and informed;
- (h) maintain the confidential business of the Cultural Centre; and
- (i) refrain from making disparaging remarks about other members of the Board, or about issues before its purview, in or out of Board meetings.

PART VII Code of Ethics

CODE OF ETHICS

24. Board Members shall adhere to the Code of Ethics to uphold Inherent and Treaty Responsibilities, Cultural Integrity, Moral and Ethical Behavior, Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance as outlined:

Inherent and Treaty Responsibilities

- (a) promote and protect the fundamental rights of all First Nations citizens, including their Inherent and Treaty Rights; and
- (b) implement the Inherent and Treaty mandates as directed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Cultural Integrity

- (c) be mindful and respectful of the diverse cultures of the Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakawē, Nakota, Plains Cree, Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree;
- (d) respect the spiritual understandings of the First Nations cultural practices, traditions and protocols;
- (e) preserve, promote and protect Indigenous cultures, languages, and Indigenous knowledge; and
- (f) pursue and promote the inter-generational transmission of First Nations languages and cultures.

Moral and Ethical Behavior

- (g) uphold and maintain the moral integrity, honour and dignity of the FSIN and Cultural Centre at all times;
- (h) exercise the care, diligence and skill as required of a Board Member in fulfilling his/her obligations;
- (i) maintain and protect all confidential matters of the Board; and
- (j) disclose any situation, matter, outside employment or interest where he/she may have a conflict of interest or the potential for a conflict of interest.

Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance

- (k) act as a unit representing, serving and acting in the best interests of the First Nations and their citizens;
- (l) pursue and utilize the resources to meet the Inherent and Treaty mandate and strategic direction of the Board;
- (m) demonstrate and promote respect, co-operation and open communication with the Board and invited guests at all times;
- (n) be transparent and accountable to the Chiefs-in-Assembly and the member First Nations;
- (o) report to their respective appointing authority on the decisions and work the Cultural Centre is undertaking;
- (p) respect and adhere to the FSIN *Convention* and all other legislation of the Chiefs-in-Assembly and Cultural Centre;
- (q) promote and practice cohesiveness, collective decision-making, collaboration, good relations, kinship and a team approach with and among the Board; and
- (r) attend all meetings of the Board of the Cultural Centre on time and for the duration of the meeting.

PART VIII

Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

- 25. The Board shall, from among its members, appoint:
 - (a) a Chairperson; and
 - (b) a Vice-Chairperson.
- 26. Where the Chairperson is absent or unable to act or the office of the Chairperson is vacant, the Vice-Chairperson may exercise all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson.

27. The duties of the Board Chairperson shall be outlined in the Regulations Respecting Meetings of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre.

**PART IX
Duties of an Elder**

DUTIES OF AN ELDER

28. An Elder shall:
- (a) share and render First Nations ceremonial protocols and prayers for the Board meetings and gatherings;
 - (b) provide guidance and assistance on matters related to spiritual laws and values, cultural practices and ceremonial protocols;
 - (c) provide advice and teachings related to Indigenous knowledge, heritage and histories;
 - (d) share teachings on traditional governance, leadership and guidance on First Nations laws;
 - (e) share teachings and knowledge on the spiritual foundations of Inherent rights and Treaty rights; and
 - (f) remain a neutral, non-voting member of the Board of the Cultural Centre.

**PART X
Duties of a Senator**

DUTIES OF A SENATOR

29. A Senator shall:
- (a) provide advice and assistance on matters related to Inherent, Treaty and Constitutional rights;
 - (b) remain a neutral, non-voting member of the Board of the Cultural Centre; and
 - (c) abide by his/her responsibilities as outlined in the FSIN Senate Act.

**PART XI
Vacating, Vacancies and Suspension of Board Activities**

VACATING OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP

30. A person ceases to be a member of the Board when:
- (a) he/she is convicted of an indictable offense;

- (b) he/she is absent from three (3) consecutive Board meetings;
- (c) the Appointing Authority notifies the Cultural Centre and the FSIN Office of the Legislative Assembly of a reappointment;
- (d) his/her First Nation ceases to be a signatory to the *FSIN Convention*;
- (e) the Appointing Authority ceases to be a member of the FSIN; or
- (f) he/she ceases to be:
 - (i) an elected representative of a First Nation that is signatory to the *FSIN Convention*;
 - (ii) a representative elected or appointed to a political leadership position within the Tribal, Agency or Grand Council;
 - (iii) a member of the First Nations Women's Commission;
 - (iv) a member of the SICC Elders Advisory Council;
 - (v) a member of the Senate; or
 - (vi) a member of the FSIN Executive.

VACANCIES

31. A vacancy on the Board shall be filled by the appropriate Appointing Authority.

SUSPENSION OF BOARD ACTIVITIES

32. Where the vacancies in the number of voting Board Members exceeds quorum, the activities of the Board shall be suspended until such time as the number of seats occupied by voting Board Members meets quorum.

PART XII Remuneration

REMUNERATION

33. Subject to the *Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre Financial Policies*, a Board Member may be paid travel expenses or other remuneration while undertaking approved Board business.

PART XIII Action Against the Board

ACTION AGAINST THE BOARD

34. No action shall be brought against the Board or any member of the Board for anything done in the performance of their authority or responsibilities pursuant to this Act.

PART XIV

External Entities, Board Committees/Steering Committees and Listing of Entities

EXTERNAL ENTITIES

35. The Board may make appointments to entities, such as working boards or groups external to the Cultural Centre governance and organizational structure as outlined in sub-section 8(r) where such appointments shall be required to:
- (a) provide the terms of reference to the Board;
 - (b) uphold the Code of Ethics;
 - (c) provide ongoing status reports to the Board;
 - (d) be accountable to the Board and Chiefs-in-Assembly; and
 - (e) take broad policy direction from the Board.

BOARD COMMITTEES/STEERING COMMITTEES

36. A committee or steering committee established by the Board must have a Terms of Reference approved by the Board, which shall include, but not limited to:
- (a) composition;
 - (b) mandate; and
 - (c) term.

LISTING OF ENTITIES

37. An entity identified in sections 35 and 36 shall be included on a list attached to this Act as Appendix C.

PART XV General

REGULATIONS

38. For the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Act according to their intent, the Board may make regulations with respect to:
- (a) the calling of its meetings and the conduct of its business;
 - (b) any matter that is required or authorized by this Act; and
 - (c) any matter that the Board considers necessary or applicable.
39. Every regulation made under section 38 has the force of law, providing it is consistent with this Act.

40. A copy of a regulation, established according to section 38 shall be maintained by the Cultural Centre and filed with the FSIN Office of the Legislative Assembly.

INTERPRETATION IN THE EVENT OF DISPUTE

41. Where consensus cannot be reached in a dispute or conflict arising from the interpretation of any term, condition, word or procedure in this Act and/or the implementation of this Act, the matter will be addressed through one or all of the following processes:
- (a) the FSIN Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall facilitate a focused discussion with the Parties involved in the dispute or disagreement to attempt to reach consensus on the issue;
 - (b) if consensus cannot be reached, the FSIN Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall:
 - (i) call a meeting of the Legislative Review Committee to develop technical recommendations on the resolution of the dispute or disagreement; and
 - (ii) request legal opinion.
 - (c) The technical recommendations and legal opinion shall be submitted to the Elders Council for review and possible determination of the dispute or disagreement;
 - (d) If the Parties disagree with the resolution reached by the Elders Council, the technical recommendations, the legal opinion and the recommendations from the Elders Council shall be submitted to the Joint Executive Council and Indian Government Commission for review and further determination of recommendations and/or approval of recommendations; and/or
 - (e) The recommendations from the Legislative Review Committee, the legal opinion, the recommendations from the Elders Council and the Joint Executive Council and Indian Government Commission shall be submitted to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for a decision that shall be final and binding on all parties.

AMENDMENT

42. An amendment to enacted legislation shall be reviewed by the Board of the Cultural Centre, the Commission, and the FSIN Clerk of the Legislative Assembly prior to being presented to the Chiefs-in-Assembly.
43. This Act may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Chiefs-in-Assembly.
44. An amendment to this Act shall be in force immediately upon ratification by resolution of the Chiefs-in-Assembly, unless otherwise specified in the resolution.

PAYMENT OF TAXATION

45. Based on the authority of and the understanding of Treaty with the Crown, and the Sovereignty of First Nations Governments, the Board and the Cultural Centre and its program activities shall not be liable to any form of taxation by any Government other than First Nations Governments.

COMING INTO FORCE

46. This Act came into force on March 9, 2010.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Treaty Implementation Principles

Vision

Our vision is that we will live on the land, as we have always, where our Peoples will be self-determining and economically independent, where we will walk in health and happiness with strength, unity, balance and according to our oral traditions as sovereign Nations, as bestowed by the Creator and as affirmed by the Treaty.

Mission

Our mission in fulfilling our Treaty is that our governments and institutions will serve and benefit every citizen of every First Nation in a fair and just manner, based on our distinct culture, laws and customs, according to the Spirit and Intent of Treaty.

Treaty-making

- 10 – Canada has an on-going obligation to fulfill the Treaty according to the Spirit and Intent.
- 9 – The Spirit and Intent of the Treaty relationship is more valid than the written text and will last “as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and the grass grows.”
- 8 – Our Treaty has International Stature.
- 7 – Our sovereignty will continue forever and will continue to define our nationhood forever.
- 6 – First Nations and the Crown affirmed each other’s sovereignty in the Treaty process.

1763

5 – The Royal Proclamation of 1763 affirmed our sovereignty, institutionalized the Treaty-making process and made our consent a condition before our lands and resources could be alienated.

1492

Origins (Centuries before colonization)

- 4 – Our sovereignty enabled us to enter Treaty and other political accords with other nations.
- 3 – We, the First Nations, have always made our own laws, institutions and jurisdiction which reflects our culture, values and languages.
- 2 – We, the First Nations occupied North America as sovereign nations long before other people came to our shores.

1 – We, the First Nations come from Mother Earth, and this determines our relationship with nature, our role as stewards of this land, and all forms of life and our sovereignty.

Creation

Pimachihowin (making a living)

Land as a foundation providing a source of livelihood and a continuing holistic relationship.

S O V E R E I G N T Y

Treaty Implementation Principles - Saskatchewan

Description of the Tree

The description and explanation of sovereignty is a difficult task especially when one considers the various elements that must be taken into consideration. It is understood that there are various degrees of sovereignty which impact and describe nationhood.

The First Nations of Saskatchewan believe that sovereignty emanates and has its connection to the Creator and all the components of Mother Earth. The Elders have always told us that sovereignty and nationhood are intimately linked and present in our everyday lives. The elements of sovereignty and nationhood define who we are, how we live and how we govern as First Nations people. These values are present in everything we do.

First Nations people have historically communicated through the use of symbols, pictures and the use of animate objects. In the present day, visual means of communication is still a useful way to illustrate and explain ideas. For that reason, a tree diagram is used to describe sovereignty and nationhood and to make the connections to our Treaty. The use of a tree visually traces the flow and direction of sovereignty. The trunk of the tree represents sovereignty which has its roots in “Mother Earth” and includes the trees, plant life, rocks and all the animals. The tree becomes exposed to “*keesic*” which includes the sun, air, sky, wind and water. “*Pimachihowin*” or making a living results from the interaction of “Mother Earth” and “*keesic*”. The sap present in the trunk and resulting branches flows upward and is forever present in the branches as the tree matures.

The symbolism of the tree represents growth that begins in Mother Earth. From the earth, the tree flows upwards above the ground and towards the heavens connecting us to the Creator. This upward direction forms the basis for our “vision” as First Nations people. We have a duty to be true to our vision. This requires that we be guided by the principles imbedded in our vision as we progress towards our goals and aspirations.

The ten sovereign Treaty Principles that are identified in the attached Tree depict Treaty Implementation. The first four sovereignty principles illustrated, emanate from our origins as First Nations’ people from Creation onward. Moreover, our sovereignty was recognized with the first European contact in the 1763 Royal Proclamation. Additionally further support for First Nation’s sovereignty is affirmed by our elders. They state that after 1763 the Crown confirmed our sovereignty by the principles used for Treaty-making. This sovereign status existed thousands of years before both the Royal Proclamation and subsequent negotiation of Treaty. Our elders advise us that we must never lose sight of our sovereign Treaty principles when we contemplate and plan for the future of our people. The future of our people demands that self-directed principles, that are reflected in Treaty-making, are front and center.

SICC BOARD OF GOVERNORS COMPOSITION

FSIN Executive Member (appointed by the Chief – non voting)		1
Senate Member (non voting)		1
SICC Elders Advisory Council (non voting)		1
Chief of the FSIN		Ex-officio
Tribal/Grand Agency Council	Votes	Representatives
SASK FIRST NATION WOMEN'S COMMISSION	voting	1
AGENCY	voting	1
BATTLEFORDS	voting	1
BATTLEFORDS AGENCY TRIBAL CHIEFS	voting	1
FHQ	voting	1
MEADOW LAKE	voting	1
PRINCE ALBERT	voting	1
SASKATOON	voting	1
SOUTHEAST	voting	1
TOUCHWOOD	voting	1
YORKTON	voting	1
INDEPENDENT	voting	1
TOTALS	12 voting 3 non voting	15

LISTING OF ENTITIES

