

# **TREATY OF THE ARCTIC ATHABASKAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS the Athabaskan peoples residing in Arctic United States and Canada, as represented by the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Healy Lake Traditional Council (Mendas Cha~Ag), Steven Village Tribal Government, Northway Tribal Council, Council of Yukon First Nations, Dene Nation, and Métis Nation-Northwest Territories, aware of their respective and mutual interests and responsibilities in preserving and protecting the northern environmental ecosystem, do hereby adopt these treaty articles.

## **Article 1 Formation of Council**

- 1.1 The Arctic Athabaskan Council is hereby formed as a treaty organization ("Treaty Organization") of Athabaskan peoples resident in Arctic North America.
- 1.2 The name of the Treaty Organization shall be Arctic Athabaskan Council.
- 1.3 The objects of the Treaty Organization are to:
  - 1.3.1 foster a greater understanding of the common heritage of all Athabaskan peoples of Arctic North America; and
  - 1.3.2 represent Athabaskan peoples of Arctic North America as a permanent participant in the Arctic Council.

## **Article 2 Member Governments**

- 2.1 The founding members of the Treaty Organization are those indigenous governments that have subscribed to these articles.
- 2.2 Additional indigenous governments representing constituencies with a majority of peoples of Athabaskan descent resident in Arctic North America may be admitted to membership in accordance with article 7.2.

## **Article 3 Representatives**

- 3.1 Each member government may, by its own internal procedure, appoint one individual to serve as a representative of the Treaty Organization and an alternate to attend meetings and act as a representative when the representative it has appointed is unable to attend a meeting.
- 3.2 Each member government may remove and replace the individuals it has appointed to serve as representative and as alternate.
- 3.3 Any resignation, notice of appointment, removal or replacement must be given in writing to the Principal Office.

#### **Article 4 Representatives Duties and Powers**

- 4.1 A representative shall act in the best interests of the Treaty Organization and not take part in a decision where his or her personal interest is in conflict with his or her duty to the Treaty Organization.
- 4.2 The representatives shall have the power and authority to manage the business and internal affairs of the Treaty Organization.
- 4.3 The representatives shall appoint a representative to the office of Chairperson and may, in their discretion, establish other offices, assign duties to such offices and appoint individuals to fill those offices.
- 4.4 The office of Chairperson shall rotate among representatives with the intent that all representatives will have an opportunity to fill that office.
- 4.5 The representatives may, in their discretion, establish committees and their terms of reference.
- 4.6 The provisions of these articles are without prejudice to the inherent rights of member governments of indigenous peoples to conduct and manage their own business and affairs; nothing herein shall take away from the rights of member governments or the people they represent.

#### **Article 5 Meetings**

- 5.1 Meetings of the representatives shall be held around the time of each meeting of the Officials and/or Ministers of the Arctic Council, with the time and place to be specified by the Chairperson. Other meetings may be held from time to time at the call of the Chairperson or a majority of representatives.
- 5.2 Notice of meetings shall be given to representatives in person, by telephone, facsimile, or email, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or in writing properly addressed and mailed at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.
- 5.3 Meetings may also be held by telephone conference call at the discretion of the Chairperson or by agreement of a majority of the representatives. Representatives on the conference call are considered present at the meeting.
- 5.4 A majority of the representatives, representing both United States and Canada, present at a duly called meeting, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If no quorum is established, the representatives present may adjourn the meeting without further notice. Once a quorum has been established, the representatives may transact any business.

- 5.5 All decisions of the representatives shall, if possible, be made by consensus of representatives present at a meeting. If the Chairperson determines that all reasonable efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, then the matter may be decided by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the representatives present at the meeting.
- 5.6 In the event of a vote, each representative present at a meeting, in person or by telephone, shall have one vote.
- 5.7 In lieu of meeting, representatives may transact business by unanimous consent in writing and the same shall form part of the minutes.
- 5.8 Unless otherwise established by a resolution of the representatives, representatives shall not receive salaries, wages, or bonuses from the Treaty Organization for their services, but may be paid an honorarium, or per diem and the actual expenses of attending meetings or other functions on behalf of the Treaty Organization, to the extent that the member governments that appointed them or some other entity does not pay such expenses. The amount or manner of such payments shall be set by a representatives' resolution.
- 5.9 Subject to these articles, the representatives may establish their own rules of procedure.

## **Article 6 Offices and Records**

- 6.1 The Treaty Organization shall have a Principal Office located at a permanent site.
- 6.2 The representatives shall establish the location of the Principal Office.
- 6.3 A copy of all records of the Treaty Organization shall be kept at the Principal Office and be open to inspection by representatives. Records shall include a register of members, register of representatives, minutes of meetings, and copies of all notices..
- 6.4 Representatives may, in their sole discretion, delegate responsibility for internal administration and communication to a person or legal entity located at the Principal Office.

## **Article 7 Amendment, Admission and Withdrawal**

- 7.1 These articles may be amended from time to time by consensus of the representatives present at any meeting of representatives, provided that notice of the text of the proposed amendment is given to each representative at least 30 days before the meeting.

- 7.2 An applicant which meets the criteria in article 2.2 will be admitted as a member government of the Treaty Organization if the application is approved by consensus of the representatives present at a meeting, provided that notice of the application must be given to each representative at least 30 days before the meeting.
- 7.3 A decision under article 7.1 or 7.2 shall always be made by consensus and not by vote.
- 7.4 A member government may withdraw from the Treaty Organization by written notice to the Principal Office.

SUBSCRIBED TO by the undersigned founding member governments at Burwash Landing, Yukon Territory (LU` = `AN MAN KEYI, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2000.

CHICKALOON VILLAGE TRADITIONAL (NAY'DINI' AA NA)  
COUNCIL

BY: Chief Gary Harrison

  
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HEALY LAKE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL (MENDAS CHA-AG)

BY: 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Patrick Saylor

  
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STEVENS VILLAGE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

BY: 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Randy Mayo

  
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NORTHWAY TRIBAL COUNCIL

BY: 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Gerald Albert

  
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COUNCIL OF YUKON FIRST NATIONS

BY: Grand Chief Ed Schultz

  
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DENE NATION

BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

  
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MÉTIS NATION-NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

BY: President George Moran

  
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