



CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION

GCHI-NAAKNIGEWIN

We are the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation. Curve Lake First Nation was called Oshkigmong by our ancestors. We are a part of the Anishinaabe Nation.

Since time immemorial we benefited from all of Turtle Island and its resources. Our traditional territory extends well beyond Oshkigmong.

Our traditional way of life, language, culture, teachings, roles and responsibilities given to us by the Creator determine who we are and provides the foundation of our knowledge, and beliefs. These teachings will guide us moving forward:

Respect Honesty Humility Bravery Wisdom Truth Love

All creation is sacred and sustains us.

Our children are our sacred gifts and their well-being is a primary responsibility.

We affirm our rights and responsibilities to the land, water, culture, language and traditions of those before us, those of us today and those to come in the future.

We respect all peoples.

Through a sharing of responsibilities and accountabilities, this Gchi-Naaknigewin of the Michi Sagig of Curve Lake First Nation represents a unified foundation upon which we confirm nationhood - now and forever strong, healthy, safe, and prosperous.

SUPREME LAW

This Gchi-Naaknigewin is the Supreme Law of the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake and shall prevail in the event of a conflict or inconsistency with any other law or regulation.

PURPOSE

1. The *Curve Lake First Nation Gchi-Naaknigewin* confirms, in a modern context, the values under which the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation choose to be governed.

MICHI SAAGIG ANISHINAABE OF CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION

2. Curve Lake First Nation has the exclusive right to determine who are Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation.

LANGUAGE OF CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION

3. Anishinaabemowin is the traditional language of Curve Lake First Nation.

JURISDICTION

4. Council shall have the authority to make and amend laws, regulations, policies and procedures on matters affecting Curve Lake First Nation.
5. All laws and by-laws pre-existing this Gchi-Naaknigewin shall remain in force and effect.

LAWMAKING

6. The following must be ratified by the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation:
 - (1) This Gchi-Naaknigewin;
 - (2) Citizen (“E-dbendaazijig”) Code/Law;
 - (3) Matrimonial Real Property Code/Law;
 - (4) Leadership Selection Code/Law;
 - (5) Land Management Code/Law;
 - (6) Financial Management Code/Law;
 - (7) Residency Code/Law
 - (8) Approval to sign a Treaty;
 - (9) Approval to settle claims; and
 - (10) Any other matter deemed to require a community vote.
7. In relation to 6(1)-6(10) the Michi Saagig law-making processes shall afford all Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation the opportunity to be informed of issues and to further explore these issues with Council
8. All laws of Curve Lake First Nation shall be harmonized and consistent with this Gchi-Naaknigewin.
9. For greater certainty, all federal and provincial laws shall operate concurrently and shall continue in force until displaced by a Curve Lake First Nation law.

10. All Curve Lake First Nation laws must be officially ratified by the Chief and Council, including those laws that require ratification by the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation.

LAWS IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCIES

11. Council shall have the authority to enact a law, if in its opinion, such law is needed urgently in the interest of public health and safety. Any law passed under this authority shall only remain in effect until the emergency has been properly dealt with and the law rescinded by Council or a permanent law is passed and enacted.

ACCESS TO LAWS

12. All Curve Lake First Nation laws shall be entered in a Law Registry which shall be available to the public.

GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

13. Council shall have the authority to engage in Government to Government relations.

REASONABLE LIMITS

14. This Gchi-Naaknigewin guarantees the rights and freedoms set out subject only to such reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified to protect the collective interests of the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation and which can be justified in a free and democratic society.

INHERENT AND TREATY RIGHTS

15. Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation shall have the right to exercise inherent and treaty rights held collectively including safe and sustainable harvesting.

LEADERSHIP

16. The Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation shall select their leadership including a Chief and Councillors through a vote.

17. Leadership shall be Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation.

18. The number of Councillors, eligibility for candidacy for the positions of Chief and Councillor, eligibility to vote and the selection process shall be in accordance with the Curve Lake First Nation Leadership Selection Code.

19. The Chief and Councillors, as a whole, shall constitute 'the Council'. Council shall be accountable to the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation.

20. Council has the governance authority to create laws and policies for the First Nation. Delegation of any leadership authority shall be by way of an approved motion of Council.

TREATY AUTHORITY

21. Council and its delegates are the sole authority to negotiate any and all treaty matters and/or claims on behalf of the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation.

LANDS AND LAND MANAGEMENT

22. Council shall have the authority to manage all lands held for the use and benefit of Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

23. Council shall have the authority to establish a Curve Lake First Nation dispute resolution mechanism or, through agreement, affiliate with any other dispute resolution body.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTIONS

24. Council shall have the authority to create and revoke institutions in accordance with its laws.

COMPLIANCE

25. The Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation and all who enter Curve Lake First Nation territory shall abide by and respect this Gchi-Naaknigewin and all applicable laws.

COMMUNITY APPROVAL

26. This Gchi-Naaknigewin has been approved by the Michi Saagig of Curve Lake First Nation in accordance with the Community Approval Vote Process Guidelines.

27. Amendment to the Gchi-Naaknigewin shall be done according to the Community Approval Vote Process Guidelines.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____.

Curve Lake First Nation

RATIFICATION

This Gchi-naaknigewin was ratified during a duly convened meeting of the Curve Lake First Nation Council held on ____

Chief Emily Whetung

Councillor Laurie Hockaday

Councillor Jeffrey Jacobs

Councillor Crystal Cummings

Councillor Sean Conway

Councillor Arnold Taylor

Councillor Deborah Jacobs

Councillor Saga Williams

Councillor Nodin Knott