



Introduction to Constitutions

NCFNG Governance Workshops

The development of a constitution is a fundamental step in the process of nation rebuilding. First Nations governed for thousands of years with principles, laws, rights, and responsibilities that were clearly defined and understood by all. For a First Nation to truly establish effective self-governance today, it must fulfill the basic elements of a constitution. The development of a constitution is a significant step for First Nations in the implementation of self government, the assertion of aboriginal title, and the fulfilment of aboriginal and treaty rights.

benefits>

- Share ideas on what a constitution is and why it is important.
- Assess the support and capacity within your First Nation for developing a constitution.
- This workshop is conveniently held in your community.

objectives>

- Identify the challenges and opportunities that your First Nation might have in developing a constitution.
- Understand the basic elements of all constitutions.
- Review examples of First Nation constitutions.
- Leave participants with practical tools, resources, and examples.

NCFNG Governance Workshops

- > First Nations Leadership Essentials
- > Citizen Engagement & Community Approval
- > Community Visioning & Strategic Planning
- > Territorial Rights
- > Citizenship Laws
- > Leadership Selection
- > Culture, Tradition & Effective Governance
- > Introduction to Constitutions**
- > Law & Policy Development
- > Youth & Emerging Leadership

participants of the Introduction to Constitutions Workshop might also consider these workshops:

- > Community Visioning & Strategic Planning
- > Culture, Tradition & Effective Governance
- > Law & Policy Development



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questions & answers >

What
Participants are
saying about our
Workshops

“All the presenters were good, very adaptable and respectful of the community values.”

“The experience has been invaluable and will assist in other work beyond constitutional development.”

“Good resource material and a wealth of collective knowledge to draw from.”

“The facilitation skills, tools that the staff used were second to none.”

Who uses the Introduction to Constitutions workshop?

A First Nation who wants to take the first step towards developing a constitution. The workshop is beneficial for:

- Chief and Council
- Senior Managers
- Governance Project Coordinators
- Community Members
- Community Leaders

Why would your Nation take this workshop?

A constitution is an expression of self-determination. It supports economic development. It can protect culture, language, and values. It supports more effective decision-making, helping First Nations to get things done. A constitution is the guiding law of the land and a way to restore your Nation. The workshop can be delivered so that leaders and community members learn together and share ideas on developing a constitution for their First Nation.

What will you and your Nation learn?

You will learn what a constitution is and why it is important. Participants will discuss the opportunity and challenges of developing a constitution for their First Nation. Real life examples of First Nation constitutions will be reviewed. Finally, participants learn that a constitution must reflect their own culture if they want to achieve their vision for the future of their Nation.

Who delivers this workshop?

The workshop is delivered by aboriginal facilitators that have the knowledge and experience of First Nation communities, history, and law. They have been trained to use innovative facilitation techniques to communicate the key concepts to a diverse audience. All material used in the workshop is grounded in our legal, academic and community-based research for restoring First Nations.

How long does it take?

This workshop is delivered over two full days.

Where are sessions held?

This workshop takes place in your community.



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