

KITCHI-GAA-MING ANISHNABEK OGEMAAG

WHEREAS recognizing the advantages to collective action and because the Ojibway First Nation Communities extending throughout the Northwestern Ontario share the same cultural, geographical and regional likenesses and history, and have similar socio-economic and child welfare needs, they believe jurisdiction over their communities, children and families independent of external influence is crucial to their long-term community health as a Nation of people;

AND WHEREAS recognition of the inherent right to a child's culture, spirituality, and racial identity is the foundation of the well being to the communities of the Ojibway Nation;

AND WHEREAS it is the federal and provincial policy in Canada to recognize that services to children and their families should be provided in a manner that respects cultural, religious and regional differences;

AND WHEREAS it is the federal and provincial policy in Canada to recognize that Native people should provide their own child and family services;

AND WHEREAS the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag is a sovereign entity with the power and authority for self-governance over the Ojibway child and family;

AND WHEREAS by virtue of the fact that the federal and provincial government policies have recognized the Aboriginal peoples within Canada as having the inherent right to self-government, and pursuant to the Constitution Act, 1982 and the Statement of Political Relations, which together have recognized and maintained the doctrine of Indian Sovereignty, the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag enjoy a guarantee of perpetual integrity;

AND WHEREAS the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag have the authority and responsibility to enact laws which are intended to safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals and general welfare of the Nation by democratic means through governing, regulating, enforcing and adjudicating upon the best interest of the Ojibway child and family and to secure the advantage of local self-government for the Nation and our children;

AND WHEREAS the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag wish to administer child and family services to their communities consistent with the spirituality, culture and laws of the Ojibway community of people;

AND WHEREAS the greatest source of spiritual and cultural integrity is the willingness of the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag to take collective responsibility for the best interests of their children and families;

AND WHEREAS the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag desire to exercise inherent authority over internal affairs, as reliance upon federal, provincial and other resources, including the provincial child welfare justice system has adversely affected the quality of life within their Nation in both the past and present;

THEREFORE, THE KITCHI-GAA-MING ANISHNABEK OGEMAAG DECLARE THEIR INTENT,

TO, protect and advance the collective sovereign rights of the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag in Ojibway child care services by establishing, regulating and enforcing minimum community standards consistent with the enhancement, protection and promotion of the cultural and spiritual integrity of the Ojibway communities;

AND TO, establish Ojibway standards and laws that actively support and perpetuate traditional and cultural child care practices and to impose such standards and laws which ensure conformity for the protection of the children and families that are consistent with the spiritual, cultural and traditional practices of the Ojibway communities;

AND TO, ensure that all efforts among the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag are conducted fairly and honestly among one another with mutual respect for the dignity and integrity of each other;

AND TO, facilitate healthy and ethical exchange, debate and discussion between the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag having as its aim the creation of a climate of understanding and meeting of the minds towards effecting the protection of the children and families; the community public health and welfare; and, sovereignty of the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag in relation to child welfare matters;

AND TO, develop a process for the standards and laws of the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag to negotiate full recognition of their sovereignty and jurisdiction parallel to, and with paramountcy over the federal and provincial powers relating to Indian child welfare;

AND TO, commit themselves to work together in a mutually co-operative and respectful environment based upon certain beliefs and values to exercise inherent constitutional powers granted from each other over their own lands and people.

THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS

THAT, a union of the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag shall be established and known as the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag, consisting of:

- Michipicoten First Nation
- The Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation
- Pic Mobert First Nation
- Gull Bay First Nation
- Whitesand First Nation
- Long Lake #58 First Nation
- Ginoogaming First Nation
- Pays Plat First Nation
- Red Rock First Nation
- Rocky Bay First Nation
- Sand Point First Nation
- Lake Nipigon Ojibway First Nation
- Fort William First Nation


for the express purpose of negotiating the recognition of authority and absolute jurisdiction over child welfare matters and the administration of resources from the Provincial and Federal Governments to the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag regarding the citizens of the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag, regardless of residency.

AND AS AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR INTENT

The respective First Nations consisting of the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag shall participate in a traditional ceremony to be held on the 21st day of September, 1994, at the Fort William First Nation and shall attach a Band Council Resolution expressing their acceptance, desire, intent and commitment to the purpose of the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag for a period of three (3) years, or until such time as the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag shall determine, commencing on September 21, 1994.


By virtue of the authority vested in the Chief of the respective First Nation parties hereto, duly witnessed, they indicate their acceptance and commitment to the Kitchi-Gaa-Ming Anishnabek Ogemaag by their signature below,

MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION:




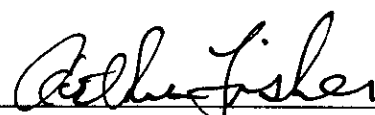
Chief Evelyn Stone

THE OJIBWAYS OF THE PIC RIVER FIRST NATION:



Chief Roy Michano





RED ROCK FIRST NATION:

Norma Fawcett
Chief Norma Fawcett

Caroline Pota

Loey Bain

ROCKY BAY FIRST NATION:

Chief Michael Esquega
Chief Michael Esquega

Samia Orshuk

Wigand

SAND POINT FIRST NATION:

Dan R. McGuire
Chief Dan McGuire

Elizabeth Gader

Annie McGuire

FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION:

Christi Pervais
Chief Christi Pervais

Mrs Marilyn McLaurin


January Allin

LAKE NIPIGON OJIBWAY FIRST NATION:


Bryan Brisard
Chief Bryan Brisard

Ute D'Amore

PIC MOBERT FIRST NATION:



Chief Howard Twance



Stacy McKel

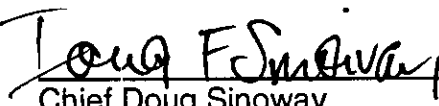


Roy Sabour

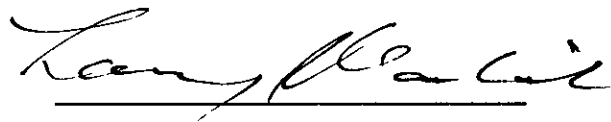
GULL BAY FIRST NATION:

Chief Oliver Poile

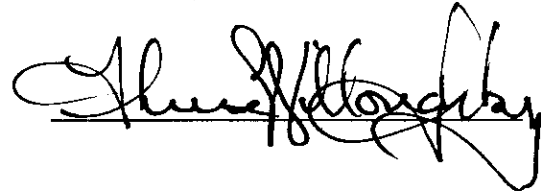
WHITESAND FIRST NATION:



Chief Doug Sinoway

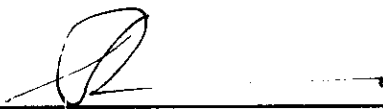


Tracy MacNeil





Sheryl Douglas

LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION:



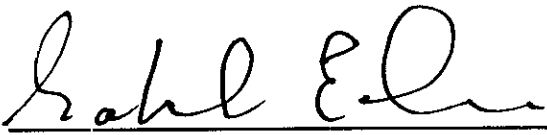
Chief Sidney Abraham





Pat Pat


GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION:



Chief Gabriel Echum



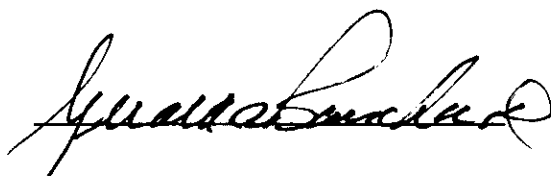
Bruce McEwen



Alex Fisher

PAYS PLAT FIRST NATION:

Chief Aime Bouchard




Gunderman



Therese McKel

AS WITNESSES IN SUPPORT THEREOF:

UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS



Grand Council Chief Joe Hare

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO



Regional Chief Gordon Peters

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



National Chief Ovide Mercredi