



Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee Terms of Reference

*Approved January 12, 2016
Amended February 2, 2016
C&C Approved February 10, 2016*

1 INTRODUCTION

The Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee is a committed group of volunteers, council members and staff, acting as advisers for Chief and Council regarding the process for law-making and support decision-making pertaining to Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin.

In the times of our ancestors, our Peoples followed and lived according to the Natural World and Natural Laws of Creation, with the understanding that Anishinaabe Naakinagewin regulated social behaviors, initiated cultural lifestyles and imparted knowledge through the generations. This knowledge passed down through stories, ceremonies and living a traditional way of life.

Revitalizing our Anishinaabe Naakinagewin is critical to living Mino-Bimaadziwin, promoting a healthy community. Not only must we revitalize our legal order, but the Chi-Naakinagewin Committee is committed to rebuilding and reinstating our culture and way of life for our members.

We are exercising our inherent right to self-government by identifying accountability practices and developing a respectful foundation based on Anishinaabe Naakinagewin. Our law making process continues to protect and preserve lands, language, and traditions within Misswezahging Territory.

Our constitution was ratified on March 9th, 2015.

2 ACCOUNTABILITY

The Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee is directly accountable to Chief and Council through submission of monthly minutes.

- Members of the committee will promote a socially and culturally healthy community where individuals have the opportunity to prosper and achieve their full potential spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically through generous and unselfish support for one another, which pursuing balance and harmony within, with each other and with Mother Earth.
- Members of the committee are accountable and responsible to the Members of Misswezahging First Nation and to the future 7 Generations.
- Members of the Committee values the belief that Respect is to be shown to all First Nation Members and others.
- Members of the committee will remain objective and treat each other as equals
- Traditional knowledge is determined by a First Nation's land, environment, region, culture and language as a collective.

3 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE NATURAL LAW

- The natural law and the traditional knowledge of the Misswezahging has been practiced since time immemorial.
- Traditional Knowledge is to take only what you need, give thanks for all that what taken from the earth. We must follow the teachings of the 7 Grandfathers to practice compassion for human relations, animals, and environment as all things are related and interconnected.
- Natural law is in the preservation of the land and resources, which are the foundation for the next 7 Generations.

4 GOALS

The Goals of the Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee are:

- To implement and communicate a community driven process that provides strong membership voice into all matters affecting Misswezahging First Nation Government.
- To continue addressing community issues and concerns regarding the Chi-Naakinagewin.
- To engage with MFN Members to support their right to participate in the public law-making processes of Mississauga First Nation.

- To lobby for and secure adequate resources, (human, natural, physical, and financial) for the continuous growth of the community, land base and different levels of the Chi-Naakinagewin.

5 MEMBERSHIP

a. Committee Members

- 6 MFN Band Members
 - 2 Elder/Youth
 - 4 Alternates
 - Chi-Naakinagewin (non-vote)
 - Chief/Councillor (portfolio holder) (tie vote)
- i. The quorum of the Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee is 5 voting members.
 - ii. Committee members who miss 3 consecutive meetings without valid notification are not recognized as active committee members. The seat will then be assumed vacant and a replacement will be actively recruited.

b. Resource (non-vote)

- i. Chi-Naakinagewin Manager
- ii. Other MFN Technical Staff

6 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community members who are not part of the Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee attend any regularly scheduled committee meeting. If there are specific concerns, that concern should be submitted in writing along with a proposed recommendation or resolution

Community members can address their concerns to either:

- Chi-Naakinagewin Manager
- The Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee
- Chief/Councillor with Portfolio for the Committee

7 TERM

The committee dissolves at the same time Chief and Council's term ends. New committees are formed after each Chief and Council election.

8 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Committee Members

- First and foremost provide information to and engage with Mississauga Band Members.
- To act as an advisory to Chief and Council on Chi-Naakinagewin related issues.
- To make informed recommendations to Chief and Council.
- To draft motions for consideration and approval of Chief and Council.
- To recommend draft and amended laws to Chief and Council.
- To act as a forum for community members to access information.
- To assist in organizing committee sponsored events.
- To actively participate in all committee meetings and committee sponsored events.
- To review, revise and implement objectives each new term to meet the goals of the committee.

Chairperson: Chief/Council with Portfolio

- To chair the meetings, to keep order and continuance
- Ensures quorum
- Sets agenda for the meetings in consultation with Chi-Naakinagewin Program Managers/Directors
- Ensures members declare conflict of interest when applicable
- Is allowed to vote only in the event of a tie
- Asks for comments/input from all committee members and/or community members in attendance
- Records all votes (in favour, opposed, absententions)
- Is the official signing authority on committee correspondence
- Represent Council at meetings and activities of the committee
- Report to Council on activities of the committee

Chi-Naaknigewin Manager

- Is a resource and advisor to the committee
- Supports committee recommendations
- Reports on activities in the Chi-Naakinagewin Department
- Develops and reviews policies in cooperation with the committee
- Ensures appropriate information is available to the committee for motions and/or recommendations
- Ensures appropriate committee funds, if available, are flowed from the budget to the committee
- Is NOT allowed to vote

9 MEETING DATES

The Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00pm.

If members wish to teleconference or video conference, the Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee will ensure those member will be included in the meeting and voting.

Emergency meetings may be called as required.

10 AGENDA

The agenda of the Misswezahging Chi-Naakinagewin Committee meeting is as follows:

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Business Arising
6. New Business
7. Reports
8. Date of Next Meeting
9. Adjournment

11 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee must declare Conflict of Interest on issues that affect their immediate family. Immediate family includes: mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, spouse or any other person residing in the committee member's household.

The person declaring conflict of interest must remove themselves from the room. They do not become actively involved in any discussions or decisions when conflict of interest is declared.

Any committee member may raise any potential conflict of interest for discussion.