

CONSTITUTION
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF REMOTE COMMUNITIES

PREAMBLE:

We, the members of the National Assembly of Remote Communities, HEREBY RESOLVE THAT:

Further to the Mission Statement executed in November of 2021 and appended hereto, the members of the National Assembly of Remote Communities, in the spirit of a united voice on issues impacting remote Indigenous communities in Canada, hereby unite under an assembly of common interest.

The National Assembly of Remote Communities exists to serve as the advocacy voice for communities represented by its members, specifically in relation to issues of remoteness, including the increased costs of delivering social services in remote Indigenous communities.

The National Assembly of Remote Communities shall participate in the NARC-Canada Remoteness Table, as described in Part VII(A) of the Agreement-in-Principle on Long Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle, dated December 31, 2021 ("Agreement-in-Principle").

The National Assembly of Remote Communities may undertake other activities and participate in other initiatives to address issues of remoteness, as determined by the members from time to time.

The National Assembly of Remote Communities shall operate as a not-for-profit association until such time as it is dissolved and/or becomes an incorporated not-for-profit corporation.

THEREFORE, WE HEREBY MAKE, ENACT, and GIVE TO OURSELVES the following Constitution:

1.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Constitution is to create a framework agreement that binds and guides members of the National Assembly of Remote Communities (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "NARC").

2.0 GOVERNANCE:

This Constitution and its provisions shall have binding force on all members of NARC. By-laws (including regulations and policies) shall be enacted under this Constitution in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. The first By-law(s) shall be duly enacted at or after the first Annual General Meeting of NARC Members ("AGM") to be held on or before April 1, 2022.

2.1

NARC shall not be governed by non-members, nor shall any other persons take control of the governance of NARC or its administration or committees, except in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. If any By-law, resolution, action, inaction or other instrument of NARC is inconsistent with this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail unless the inconsistency can be justified or is required by

applicable law including Indigenous law and/or the laws of any Province to which a member is subject and/or the laws of Canada.

2.2

Unless the authority for any By-law, resolution, action, inaction, or other instrument of NARC can be traced to this Constitution and the powers herein, the same shall be null and void unless it is required by applicable law including Indigenous law and/or the laws of any Province to which a member is subject and/or the laws of Canada.

2.3

Nothing in this Constitution or any By-Law, resolution, action, inaction, or other instrument made under this Constitution diminishes in any way inherent and treaty rights or other existing legal rights and obligations of any member of the National Assembly of Remote Communities or of any First Nation that any member of the National Assembly of Remote Communities represents.

2.4

The name of the association shall be the "National Assembly of Remote Communities" or "NARC". The fiscal year of NARC shall be April 1 to March 31.

2.5

This Constitution may be cited as the "Constitution of the National Assembly of Remote Communities" or the "Constitution of NARC".

2.6

This Constitution shall come into force effective April 1, 2022.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

NARC shall serve as a collective advocacy body to address issues of remoteness that impact remote Indigenous communities in Canada, creating a common voice at the national level.

3.1

The Agreement-in-Principle recognizes the unique challenges and increased costs of delivering child and family services in remote communities. The Agreement-in-Principle provides for the establishment of a NARC-Canada Remoteness Table and a dedicated Remoteness Secretariat to develop a First Nations-sighted evidence-based statistical model to address, at the national level, the increased costs associated with remoteness. NARC shall participate in the NARC-Canada Remoteness Table for that purpose.

3.2

NARC shall consider undertaking other activities and participating in similar or other initiatives to address the increased costs associated with remoteness of delivering other social services, including but not limited to health, education, justice, and community safety in remote Indigenous communities across Canada.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

The membership of NARC is made up of the following First Nation Political Territorial Organizations who are also signatories to the NARC Mission Statement:

Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
Northwest Territories Assembly of First Nations;
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations;
Alberta Assembly of First Nations; and
Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak.

4.1

Membership in NARC shall be available only to Indigenous organizations who have an interest in achieving NARC's mission and purpose. Further criteria for membership and a process to admit members into the association shall be discussed at the first AGM as defined in this Constitution and set out in a By-law enacted at or after that meeting.

4.2

Each member shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend, and vote at all General Meetings of NARC Members. Voting procedures for such meetings shall be set out in the By-laws.

4.3

Termination, discipline, and removal of members may be considered at the first and any subsequent General Meeting of NARC Members, and in any event, provisions for same shall be set out in the By-laws.

5.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There shall be a Board of Directors that governs the affairs of the National Assembly of Remote Communities in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws. The Board of Directors shall be the regulatory, oversight, and advisory body of NARC and shall consist only of members of NARC.

5.1

The constituting members of NARC shall be the members of the first Board of Directors. The first Board of Directors shall be chaired by two (2) Interim Co-Chairs. Both Interim Co-Chairs shall be members of the first Board of Directors selected by the first Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board.

5.2

Administrative matters and organizational aspects of Board function including but not limited to composition, roles, quorum, notice of meetings, election procedures, and voting shall be discussed at the first AGM as defined in this Constitution and set out in a By-law enacted at or after that meeting.

6.0 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

No changes or amendments shall be made to this Constitution unless there is consensus among the constituting members and not less than two thirds (2/3) of the membership.

6.1

The By-laws of the association may be amended from time to time and as required, as set out in the By-laws, and shall be reviewed by the members at least once annually to ensure that they remain consistent with the objectives and requirements of NARC over time.

HEREBY ENACTED by the members of the National Assembly of Remote Communities on this 2nd day of June, 2022.



Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse
Nishnawbe Aski Nation
NARC Co-Chair



Vice-Chief David Pratt
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
NARC Co-Chair