

ANISHINABEK GRAND COUNCIL DECISIONS REGARDING THEIR NATION

July 28 - 30, 1981

1. The band as a community is the basic social and political unit of the nation.
2. The Chief and Council of the band are the first level of government. They draw their existence and authority from the people of the band, not from any other power or legislation.
3. The Grand Council is the lawmakers of the nation. It is composed of two representatives of each band. One of those representatives should be the Chief, though the appointment of representatives to the Grand Council is a matter internal to each band.

There shall also be four Grand Chiefs who are chosen by the representatives of each of the four regions. The Grand Chiefs shall be members of the Grand Council.

There shall also be one Grand Council Chief who shall be chosen by the Grand Council, and shall be a member of the Grand Council.

There shall also be eight elders who shall monitor the discussions of the Grand Council, and shall help the Grand Council work toward agreement and unity. There shall be two such elders from each of the four regions.

4. The Grand Council shall reach its decisions by consensus. A question to be placed before the Grand Council shall be stated by the elders or their spokesman. The question shall then be discussed in the council of each region, with the Grand Chief of that region noting agreement or disagreement and helping to find agreement. Each region shall then state its opinion to the Grand Council, and the elders shall state whether they see agreement. If each of the regional councils agrees with the position of the Grand Council as stated by the elders, the Grand Council may proceed to other matters.
5. When the Grand Council is not in session, the Executive Council, composed of the Grand Chiefs and the Grand Council Chief, shall act as the spokesman for the nation on matters which the Grand Council authorizes them to speak, and as agents for the nation in matters which the Grand Council authorizes them to act upon.

6. The present staff of the Union of Ontario Indians shall act as the civil service of the Grand Council.
7. The Anishinabek have two levels of government: the Band Council and the Grand Council. While it is clear that the Grand Council shall deal with matters of a national nature while the band councils shall deal with local questions, it is not clear exactly how the powers of government are to be divided between the two levels. The Grand Council decided to consider which of the powers of government should be exclusive to each level, which powers are to be shared, and how sharing should take place, at their regional councils.