

**Subject: Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Law**

**WHEREAS** Anishinabek First Nations have dealt with citizenship and other related issues since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS** the Anishinabek Chiefs in Assembly recognize jurisdiction over citizenship being an essential function of First Nation governments; and

**WHEREAS** Anishinabek First Nation jurisdiction regarding citizenship is a practice, custom, and tradition integral to our distinctive culture and as such it is an Aboriginal right; and

**WHEREAS** the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantees that all peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development; and

**WHEREAS** the determination of Indian status and membership arbitrarily set out in the Indian Act is contrary to the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of which Canada is a signatory to.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Chiefs in Assembly reject the Government of Canada's unilateral definition and control over the definition of "status Indian" and assert that our Aboriginal rights include jurisdiction of Anishinabek Nation citizenship, which rests solely with the Anishinabek Nation; and

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED** that the Anishinabek Chiefs in Assembly direct the Grand Council Chief to secure resources and prepare a draft citizenship law that could be used by member First Nations to determine their own citizenship in accordance with historical practice and in accordance with the rights guaranteed by the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

<b>Moved By:</b>	Chief James Robert Marsden, Alderville First Nation
<b>Seconded By:</b>	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation
<b>Status:</b>	Passed by Consensus

<b>In Favour:</b>	All
<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Abstentions:</b>	None

  
John Beaudage  
Grand Council Chief

  
Glen Hare  
Deputy Grand Council Chief