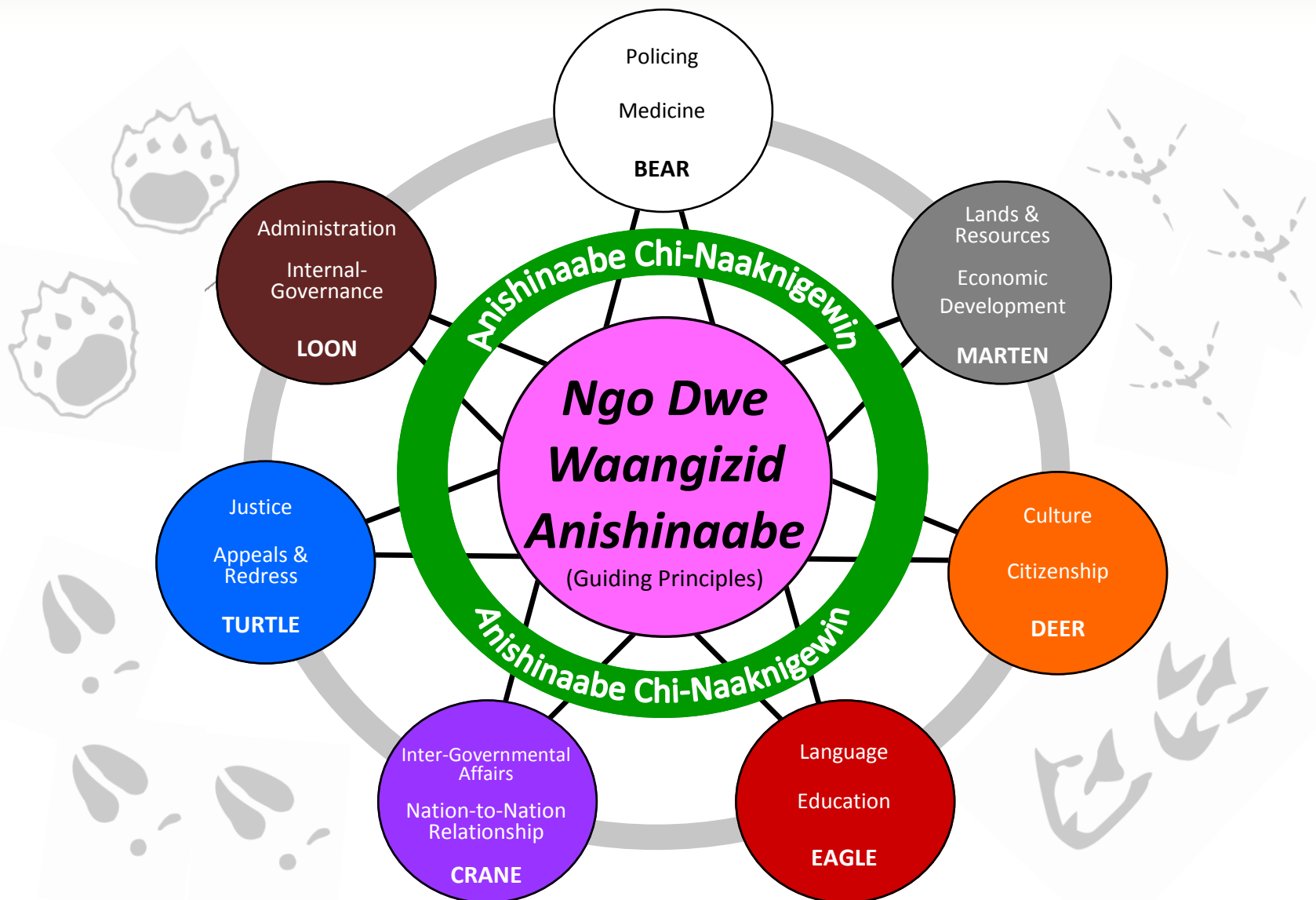


# How the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin forms a Traditional Government



## Anishinabek Nation Government as Traditional Government

As in all age-old societies, Anishinaabe society, B'Maadziwin, the 'Good Life,' is based on enduring principles which guide Anishinabek, the People. In the Anishinaabe world-view, these are the Seven Sacred Gifts given by the Creator:

*Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.*

The Gifts are represented by the Dodemaag or Clans. They are, in order from the Eastern direction, as follows:

*Deer (Love), Eagle (Truth), Crane (Respect), Turtle (Wisdom), Loon (Humility), Bear (Honesty), and Marten (Bravery).*

The Clan System of Government has within it all the roles and responsibilities required for peace, order, and good governance in Anishinaabe society.

All the Clans work together to maintain balance and equality, and to make the best decisions for the People.

In a modern-day context, these roles and responsibilities can be translated into functions of government.

## Traditional Government Today

Over the past 12 years, the input from Anishinaabe citizens has been consistent. A combination of the Nation model and Traditional model of government was seen as the best way forward, for the following reasons:

- The Traditional Clan System of Government has served the People well for thousands of years and it is culturally-appropriate. It is our Gift from the Creator and as such must set the foundation for Anishinaabe government.
- And the Nation model, including a written constitution, is required to conduct business and effectively meet the challenges of today.

The following diagram illustrates the relationship between the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin and the Anishinabek Nation Government.

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin, which is founded on Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe, establishes the law-making authorities of the Anishinabek Nation Government.

It also shows some possible functions of the Dodemaag and how these can work together to provide peace, order, and good governance for the Anishinabek Nation.