

Resolution of the Dene Nation Assembly

Resolution # 9

**Re: Constitutional Reform - Dene Elders Council; Dene Youth Council;
Dene Women's Advisory Council**

Whereas the Dene National Chief was elected on a mandate to reform the Constitution and By-laws of the Dene Nation; and

Whereas the Dene National Chief appointed a Constitutional Reform Commission (CRC), which includes both a Chiefs Working Group and a technical group; and

Whereas the CRC conducted consultations with Dene leaders and communities while developing an amended Constitution and By-law for the Dene Nation; and

Whereas the Dene Nation will benefit from giving more opportunity to hear the voices of our Elders, women and youth; and

Whereas the provisions of the proposed amended Constitution and By-laws represent a better and more accurate description of the mandate, objectives and structure of the Dene Nation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The following provisions of the existing Constitution and By-law are hereby repealed:
 - 3.2 One elder from each Dene Territory shall be a member of the Dene Nation Elders Council, which shall operate according to Dene law and traditions and will advise the Dene on all issues concerning Denendeh. Notwithstanding the requirement to appoint a proxy under these By – Laws, an elder may informally delegate another elder to attend meetings and vote in his or her stead.
 - 4.1 The Executive of the Dene Nation shall consist of the Dene National Chief, one Dene Citizen representing each Territory/Region and an Elder chosen by the Elders Council.

2. The following provisions are hereby added to the Constitution of the Dene Nation:

7.0 DENE ELDERS COUNCIL (DEC)

- 7.1 Each Dene Territory will appoint an Elder and an Alternate Elder to the DEC, for a term of two years, with the appointments striving to reflect gender balance and different communities. The Independent Dene Communities will also appoint an Elder and an Alternate to the DEC on their behalf. The Alternate Elders will only attend DEC meetings when the Elders for whom they are appointed as Alternates cannot attend.
- 7.2 If a Dene Territory does not appoint an Elder or Alternate Elder, the National Chief may appoint an Elder from that Territory to serve on the DEC until the Territory appoints their Elder.
- 7.3 The DEC will provide guidance and recommendations to the Executive Committee and participate in Assemblies and Executive Committee meetings in an advisory capacity. The Elders will in particular give advice related to the principles outlined in the preamble of this Constitution.
- 7.4 The Dene National Chief shall appoint one Resident Dene Elder, and one Alternate Resident Dene Elder to act in the absence of the Resident Dene Elder, for his/her term in office. The Resident Dene Elder will provide advice in order to assist, guide and support the Dene National Chief during his or her term in office.
- 7.5 The Resident Elder shall Chair the DEC and liaise between the DEC and staff to carry out necessary tasks consistent with direction from DEC.

8.0 DENE YOUTH COUNCIL (DYC)

- 8.1 The Youth of each Dene Territory will choose a Youth delegate and an alternate, from different Dene Communities, with appointments reflecting gender balance, to the Dene Youth Council. The Youth of the Independent Dene Communities will also appoint a Youth delegate and an alternate to the DYC. The delegates and their alternates will serve terms of one year and the alternates will only attend DYC meetings when the Youth for whom they are appointed as alternates cannot attend.

- 8.2 If the Youth of a Dene Territory do not have the capacity to collectively choose Youth delegates to represent them, the Grand Chief of that Territory may appoint Youth from that Territory to serve on the DYC until the Territory's Youth choose their own representatives.
- 8.3 The DYC will provide guidance and recommendations to the Leadership, Executive Committee and Dene National Chief, and will participate in Assemblies and Leadership and Executive Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

9.0 DENE WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (DWAC)

- 9.1 The women of each Dene Territory will appoint a delegate and an alternate, from two different Dene Communities, to the Dene Women's Advisory Council. The women of the Independent Dene Communities will also appoint a delegate and an alternate to the DWAC. The delegates and their alternates will serve terms of four years and the alternates will only attend DWAC meetings when the delegates for whom they are appointed as alternates cannot attend.
- 9.2 If the women of a Dene Territory do not have the capacity to collectively choose a delegate and alternate to represent them, the Grand Chief of that Territory may appoint a Dene woman from that Territory to serve on the DWAC until the Territory's women choose their own representatives.
- 9.3 The DWAC will provide guidance and recommendations to the Leadership, Executive Committee and Dene National Chief, and will participate in Assemblies and Leadership and Executive Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

3. And the following provisions of the proposed By-Law are hereby adopted:

8.0 DENE ELDERS COUNCIL (DEC), DENE WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (DWAC) and DENE YOUTH COUNCIL (DYC)

- 8.1 Members of the DEC, DWAC and DYC are subject to the Dene Nation's policies, guidelines and procedures.
- 8.2 The Executive will, in consultation with representatives of Dene Elders, women and youth, develop and implement terms of reference for the operation of the DEC,

DWAC and DYC.

Moved: Chief Phillip Blake

Seconded: Chief Wanda Pascal

Date: March 31, Inuvik