

Introduction

The Mississauga Nation consists of six communities:

- Alderville First Nation**
- Curve Lake First Nation**
- Hiawatha First Nation**
- Mississauga First Nation**
- Mississauga of the Credit First Nation**
- Mississauga Scugog Island First Nation**

The Mississaugas began meeting in 2014 with the intention of reconnecting as a Nation. The focus of the collective is to build Mississauga Nation by sharing a common vision and working together toward common goals and to speak with a unified voice. As a Nation, we have a shared history and strong family connections; brothers, sisters, aunts, Grandparents, Elders and more are joining together to rejuvenate the past and work towards our future.

Vision

Through our collective efforts we, the Mississaugas, walk together as one nation ensuring our shared history, culture, language and values remain strong, resilient and protected for us and those yet to be born. (draft 2017)

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“SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD, SHARE STORIES— BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS”





HISTORY

The Mississauga Nation(MN) hold a number of different narratives of the legacies of migration, relationships, and interactions with Canada that have led us to the present, but it is clear, the Mississaugas are a distinct part of the Anishinabek Nation. Our

history is tied to the Great Lakes area; intimately tied to the waterways and abundant harvest. We are part of the One Dish One Spoon Treaty with the Haudenosaunee people.

(G/N)doo-Naaganinaa

The belt was in a form of dish or bowl in the center, which the Chiefs said represents that the Ojibwas and Six Nations were all to eat out of the same dish, that is, to have all game the same common. In the center of the bowl were a few white wampum, which represented the beaver's tail, the favourite dish of the Ojibwas.

ACTIVITIES

Our communities have been working collectively since 2014 through the Mississauga Nation Chiefs, the Mississauga Nation Coordinators Working Group and MN Economic Development Office. These groups have used their time and effort to coordinate meetings, do research make recommendations, and plan Nation building.

RELATIONSHIP ACCORD

The Mississauga Relationship Accord as signed on October 29, 2016 by the six Mississauga Chiefs. These six Mississauga Nations are Anishinaabe peoples and constitute a Nation by virtue of their creation, their shared histories, language, culture, values, traditions, beliefs and aspirations. Through the signing of the Accord, the signatories agreed to work in a collaborative and inclusive way on a range of issues and initiatives of common interest or concern among the parties. Dialogue between the Mississauga Nations began in 2015 when they came together to discuss areas of mutual interest. These informal discussions and meetings resulted in the First Nations agreeing there were areas of mutual interest that were important to the Leadership of each community.

Areas of mutual interest are outlined below and form the basis of communal activities that have been undertaken by the member Nations. The purpose of Mississauga Relationship Accord is to modernize, elaborate and strengthen our relations based on respect, responsibility, and renewal, through:

- ◆ Ceremonial affirmation of our mutual intentions;
- ◆ Setting out and confirming our kinship;
- ◆ Identifying our territories and addressing shared territory boundaries and governance;
- ◆ Codifying our traditional laws and practices;
- ◆ Informing external governments & development proponents of our common interests & intentions; and
- ◆ Acting in a unified manner.



NAAKINAGEWIN PROJECT


ANISHINAABE GOVERNANCE & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Consultation in Mississauga First Nation Gathering in Peterborough

The Working Group has already undertaken one collective project; the Naakinagewin Project (Mississauga Nations Revitalizing Indigenous Legal Systems). The Naakinagewin Project was conceived to revitalize governance structures and dispute resolution mechanisms. The main goals of the project were:

- Reclamation of Mississauga Legal Knowledge
- Integration of Legal knowledge into Institutional Practices
- Increased Cooperation of Mississauga Nations

Community meetings were held in each of the member Nations as well as a regional session involving all communities. The project was led by Laura Mayer, Jeffrey Jacobs, and Sharon Venne; who were present and facilitated each meeting. The facilitators made sure that at each community meeting gathered information that could be consolidated into a common set of conclusions. The final report included recommendations for a number of measures to promote Anishinaabe governance and dispute resolution.

<p><u>Community recommendations included:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Revitalize Anishinaabe Law ◆ Build Traditional Government structures ◆ Respect the Authority of the Grassroots ◆ Revive Mississauga Nationhood ◆ Renewal of Anishinaabe Leadership ◆ Empower community social development ◆ Prevention is the key to Anishinaabe Justice ◆ Anishinaabe Justice 	<p><u>Recommended next steps included:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Project Based Research ◆ Transitional Plans ◆ Community Health centered activities ◆ Reporting and Communication at the community level 
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MN WORKING GROUPS

The Mississauga Nations formed two official working groups to carry out various tasks of common interests.

The Mississauga Nation Economic Development Officer Collective (EDO Collective) Working Group has a mandate to develop united economic development recommendations for the Mississauga Nation.

Leadership also appointed a coordinator to represent each Nation and act as the organizing body to move the member Nations forward on their areas of mutual interest. These coordinators formed the Mississauga Nations Working Group (MNCWG), approved by the Mississauga leadership on July 18, 2017.

The mandate of the Working Group is to develop united recommendations and, if needed, policy for the Mississauga Nations. The Working Group agreed to formalize a regular meeting schedule, with the meetings to be hosted within the traditional territory of one of the member Nations.



VISION

Running concurrently with the Naakinagewin Project was progress on the development of the Mississauga Nation. In collaboration with each other, the leadership has proposed the following sections of Governance for a revitalized Mississauga Nation.

A streamlined 5-section plan will be flexibility, community accountability, and avoid a top-heavy structure that has plagued some other Indigenous organizations.

PURPOSE

Why is the Nation building important to us?



CULTURE

Culture and language are the foundation of the Nation and permeates all that we do and accomplish



JUSTICE

Pursue the revitalization of Mississauga Governance Structures and Dispute Resolution Systems



RESOURCES

Protecting the Land, but also facilitating sustainable development to enrich the Nation



ADVOCACY

Advancing the interests of the Mississauga Nation



ADMINISTRATION

Enable Mississauga Nation activities with policies, finances, and support

First Nations in Canada have been operating under the Indian Act for over 150 years. To reclaim sovereignty beyond the Indian Act there is a need for First Nations or groups of First Nations who share the same language, traditions, history, culture and beliefs to come together and rebuild their Nation. First Nations across Canada find themselves at different levels of readiness to make the decisions necessary to re-establish themselves as autonomous Nations with their own form of governance.

The Mississauga Nation operating under the Mississauga Relationship Accord to continue their work and collective efforts on revitalizing the Mississauga Nation. Anishinaabe and Mississauga ways of know and being can inform our return to a form of traditional governance that revitalizes Nationhood. The purpose of this proposal is to continue with the process of revitalizing the Mississauga Nation into a modern iteration that represents the interests of the member Nations.

The program funding will promote – amount other things – the re-establishment of Indigenous Nations.

The Mississauga Relationship Accord and the represented First Nations meet the critical elements required of the Nation Rebuilding Program. Their decision to revitalize the Mississauga Nation was put in motion years before the Nation Rebuilding Program was established and this program represents the perfect vehicle to breathe continued and renewed life into the MN re-establishing itself. One guiding principle of the Accord states “This Accord does not limit or affect the mandate or ability of any signatory to pursue their respective political mandates provided by their citizens”. This remains a critical idea as the Mississauga Nation develops its vision and mandate which represents all of the member Nations. Most of the Nations signatory to this Accord are also pursuing governance models for their own territories which must be taken into consideration in the strategic plan that the Mississauga Nation will develop. The Mississauga Nation governance model will focus on the collective and will be linked to the various governance models that will emerge in the future from the individual Nations of the Accord. With this in mind, the governance model for the Mississaugas Nation will be a streamlined five-section plan that will allow flexibility, community accountability and avoid a top-heavy structure that has plagued some Indigenous organizations. By taking this approach, the Mississauga Nation will develop a governance structure that represents their collective approach to Nationhood while allowing each Nation to develop their own model of governance to serve their citizen’s needs. The final portion of the Accord that impacts the purpose of this proposal for the Nation Rebuilding Program is the ‘Ongoing Process of Dialogue and Relationship Building”:

- ◆ The development of an approach and response to potential resources development or other development projects which may have a cumulative and common effect on the parties;
- ◆ Facilitating Elder, Youth relations and knowledge sharing;
- ◆ The pursuit of common positions on Treaty matters;
- ◆ Addressing land and resource matters;
- ◆ Facilitating annual Mississauga gatherings; and
- ◆ Generally, to work together on issues to advance the interests of the parties in local, regional and national forums and processes.



What is the definition of a Nation?

A Nation is:

A large aggregate of people united by common descent, history, culture or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory.

With all these factors in mind this proposal from the Mississauga Nation to the Nation Rebuilding Program will focus on the implementation of the principles recorded in the Accord. There will be nation-to-nation dialogue taking place throughout the process. There will also be a need to develop capacity over time within the Mississauga Nation to implement the proposed governance structure with a goal in mind to have all key positions staffed by people from within

Coordinated Action

The basic structure for implementing the intentions and commitments of this agreement will be based on:

- Greater coordination of relevant personnel among the parties;
- Information sharing; and
- Seasonal meetings or as required for the Leadership

CHECK OUT FACE BOOK:

MISSISSAUGA NATION—INFORMATION PAGE

Mississauga Nation

It is not a means to an end it is our means to the future
It is not about financial growth, it is not about political clout

These things will come as they must
But nationhood is about whom we are, who our children are

It is the recognition that we were and are a nation unto ourselves
Our nation stems from our shared history, culture, language and values

First and foremost we are brothers and sisters, families
No boundaries of land or government tactics have ever stopped me
from being your brother

We have been apart for some time, but no more
It is not right to keep our families, our communities apart

So we will walk together, we will rejuvenate our nation
We will take the first step to the past, a past that will ensure our future

Our first step must be one of education, education of our shared history
Our elders can provide this knowledge

We must walk before we run, we must remember and teach
But we must not wait, our people want this, our children need this

All of our internal issues all our external issues will be resolved in time
Our fights will be many, but we will win, for we must
Nationhood is not a means to an end It is the path to our people's
future

Chief R. Stacey Laforme

Mississauga Nation Coordinators Working Group:

Alderville—Jesse Johnson
Curve Lake-Kaitlin Hill
Hiawatha-Christ Howard
Mississauga-Shelia Niganobe
Mississauga of the Credit-Caitlin LaForme
Mississauga Scugog Island-Colleen Kennedy

Laura Mayer, MFN—proposal writer/facilitator

MN Economic Development Office Working Group

Alderville-Reese Simpson
Curve Lake-Katie Young-Haddlesy
Hiawatha-Sharon Wilshaw
Mississauga-Paul Berney
Mississauga of the Credit-Nick Hogewoning
Mississauga Scugog Island-Colleen Kennedy

