

Governance Pilot Project: Miawpukek First Nation

Through its governance project Miawpukek First Nation undertook to develop a financial management code compliant with *First Nations Governance Act* requirements. Concurrently they documented the code developmental process itself with the intention of providing an organizational and governance learning tool that could be applied in future governance-related endeavors undertaken by Miawpukek and other First Nations.

The development of the Financial Administration Code was led by a working committee comprising the First Nation's General Manager, the Director of Finance, office managers of three departments, a representative of Chief and Council, and a consultant. Community input was garnered through numerous committee meetings, community consultations, meetings with First Nation managers, and a strategy session of Chief and Council. A project brochure was created and distributed to all First Nation members to support communication throughout the code development process.

Miawpukek First Nation's Financial Administration Code delineates the organizational structure of the First Nation and clarifies the responsibilities of elected officials and key financial management staff and bodies. It also codifies policies in the areas of:

- revenues and expenditures;
- awarding of the contracts;
- conflict of interest,
- remuneration of elected officials;
- First Nation corporations;
- financial information disclosure;
- appeal and redress.

The Code includes an appeal mechanism, specifying a three step process of negotiation, mediation and arbitration. In terms of its financial administration policies, Miawpukek's Code is comprehensive and detailed. It ensures that policies and guidelines are in place that can address most, or all, of the day-to-day financial matters that arise from contemporary First Nation government business.

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