

Governance Pilot Project: T'it'q'et Administration

The T'it'q'et administration secured funds to develop a Code of Ethics and Conduct as a guide for staff, Council, Committee and community member interactions with one another. The consultant responsible for developing the document met with the Elders Council, the Traditional Council, Chief and Council, Committees and administration staff. The project outcome is attuned to the traditional values of the T'it'q'et community.

The Code itself is based on a dream statement, a statement of excellence, and the constitution and traditional values and teachings of the T'it'q'et and P'eg'ig'lha Clan. The Seven Sacred Laws of health, happiness, generations, generosity, pity/compassion, power and quietness form the basis of T'it'q'et's Code of Ethics. These laws and the principles, outlined in the vision statement, provide a foundation for policies and actions that help maintain balance and harmony in all relationships. The word usage of the Code of Ethics and Conduct is similar in tone to the written teachings of many First Nation communities. Words such as respect, compassion, understanding, patience, wellness and balance are present throughout the Code and are used to develop effective guidelines for how the T'it'q'et community and its members relate to one another in a culturally appropriate manner. The differences in apparent, potential and real conflict of interest situations are defined to help ensure that confusion in conflict situations is minimized. An Oath of Office and Confidentiality was created as part of the project.

The Code has yet to be approved by community members. Once it is approved by the community, the Oath of Office will take effect.

Excerpted from *First Nations Governance Pilot Projects: Challenge and Innovation*. A Final Report Prepared for the National Centre for First Nations Governance by Carleton University Centre for Community Innovation. February 2005.