



## Citizenship Laws

NCFNG Governance Workshops

Developing citizenship laws are an act of self-determination. When a First Nation creates its own rules for identifying who is a citizen, it is taking a large step away from the control of the *Indian Act* and towards something of its own design. The development of citizenship laws is a significant step for First Nations in the implementation of self-governance and the creation of culturally relevant institutions to support nation rebuilding.

### benefits>

- Develop citizenship criteria that reflects your own culture and values.
- Include citizens of your Nation that are not recognized under *Indian Act* criteria for status.
- Take responsibility and control over a fundamental element of your own governance.
- This workshop is conveniently held in your community.

### objectives>

- Learn about the history and impact of having the Crown control your community identity and citizenship.
- Understand the process for developing and approving citizenship laws.
- Become familiar with the policy choices contained within citizenship laws.
- Review examples of First Nation citizenship laws.
- Review citizenship codes in light of relevant case law.
- Leave participants with practical tools, resources, and examples.

#### NCFNG Governance Workshops

> First Nations Leadership Essentials

> Citizen Engagement & Community Approval

> Community Visioning & Strategic Planning

> Territorial Rights

#### **Citizenship Laws**

> Leadership Selection

> Culture, Tradition & Effective Governance

> Introduction to Constitutions

> Law & Policy Development

> Youth & Emerging Leadership

participants of the Citizenship Laws Workshop might also consider these workshops:

- > Law & Policy Development
- > Citizen Engagement & Community Approval
- > Culture, Tradition & Effective Governance



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### questions & answers >

#### Who uses the Citizenship Laws workshop?

A First Nation who wants to take the first step towards developing citizenship laws. The workshop is beneficial for:

- Chief and Council
- Senior Managers
- Governance Project Coordinators
- Community Leaders
- Community Members

#### Why would your Nation take this workshop?

Citizens are the foundation of our Nations. They share language, creation stories, community history and family relationships. They hold collective memories. When First Nations take control over their own criteria for citizenship they are making intentional, political statements about their past, present and the possibilities of their future. Defining citizenship is a foundational aspect of nation rebuilding.

#### What will you and your Nation learn?

You will learn what citizenship laws are and why they are important. Participants will discuss the opportunity and challenges for developing citizenship laws for their First Nation. Real life examples of citizenship laws will be reviewed. Finally, participants will learn the process for developing citizenship laws and asking your community to approve the law.

#### Who delivers this workshop?

The workshop is delivered by aboriginal facilitators that have the knowledge and experience of First Nation communities, history, and law. They have been trained to use innovative facilitation techniques to communicate the key concepts to a diverse audience. All material used in the workshop is grounded in our legal, academic and community-based research for restoring First Nations.

#### How long does it take?

This workshop is delivered over two full days.

#### Where are sessions held?

This workshop takes place in your community.

What  
Participants are  
saying about our  
Workshops

“All the presenters were good, very adaptable and respectful of the community values.”

“Clear, concise points with excellent examples.”



NATIONAL CENTRE for FIRST NATIONS GOVERNANCE  
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The Centre is the leader in delivering nation rebuilding services to First Nations in Canada. We are a non-profit, independent organization governed and staffed by Aboriginal professionals.