

**Key Articles of a Constitution
(10 Elements)
(Model based on Maa-Nult Treaty Examples)**

1. Preamble

- Declaration of identity, rights and values; describes what makes the First Nations unique
- Describes in general the people, and the territory/area of jurisdiction
- We, the people....

2. Individual Rights and Freedoms

- Describes and protects the rights of individuals in the community
- Describes citizenship and membership

3. Government Structure

- Describes the institutions of government, their powers and mandates
- May have one or more branches (i.e. a legislative branch, an executive branch, a judicial branch, a peoples assembly) or committees
- Describes election process and development of an Elections Act

4. Legislative Authority

- Describes the laws and law making process

5. The Land System

- Describes rights of individual citizens and Nation to lands
- Describes the power of the legislative authority to administer, regulate, expropriate and grant interests

6. Financial Administration and Accountability

- Describes financial administration laws
- Describes budget and auditing process
- May establish a Committee on Finance and rules of procedures

7. Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest

- Describes code of conduct and conflict of interest guidelines of elected and non-elected representatives, and all employees of the Nation

8. Dispute Resolution

- Describes dispute resolution laws, processes and procedures

9. Approval/Ratification of Constitution

- Describes process for ratification of the constitution

10. Constitutional Amendments

- Describes the process to amend the constitution