

## **NBAPC Youth Council**

### **Constitution and By-Laws**

Introduction
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The Mission of the NBAPC-Youth Council is to represent, promote, advocate, empower, protect and educate, off-reserve, Aboriginal youth of New Brunswick; and further, to encourage unity and the growth of the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual well being of oneself, family and community.

Our Vision is to engage young people and to inspire, motivate, and empower Aboriginal youth to participate and be actively involved in the decisions that shape their lives, families, communities and our nations; and to promote healthy lifestyles by incorporating our traditions, cultures, spirituality and language.

To ensure the voices of Aboriginal youth is heard, a Provincial Youth Representative is elected and is given a direct voice into the NBAPC through a position on the Board of Directors via the Constitution and By-laws.

The NBAPC Youth Council provides Aboriginal youth with an integrated platform to participate in issues that affect them individually and collectively. The NBAPC-YC will be comprised of one Aboriginal youth from each of the seven Zones, and a Provincial Youth Representative, with ongoing coordination and support from the NBAPC.

The NBAPC-YC will be engaged in a manner consistent with the guiding principles of the NBAPC. These principles, as well as the Constitution and By Laws, include commitments to transparency, cooperation, equality of parties in the process, mutual respect for positions and mandates, and recognition of other multilateral processes.

### Mandate

- o To facilitate and develop leadership skills of Aboriginal youth and to enhance and encourage their capacity.
- o To raise awareness about issues concerning Aboriginal youth
- o To be a political, non-partisan voice for Aboriginal youth, provincially, and nationally.
- o To strengthen, advocate, undertake and support political, social, economic, cultural and community initiatives for Aboriginal youth.
- o To encourage the development and establishment of infrastructure and programs/services directed at social, cultural and community needs of Aboriginal youth.
- o To create and provide opportunities that create positive change for Aboriginal Youth and their communities through empowerment, education, culture and training.

### Objectives

- 1 Enhance and encourage involvement of Aboriginal youth in New Brunswick and in their communities.
- 2 Where possible, provide opportunities for Aboriginal youth to have positive interactions with new people in a safe and supportive environment.
- 3 Enable Aboriginal youth to provide direct input into issues, programs and initiatives involving them and/or their futures.
- 4 A mechanism for youth to affect proactive changes in their lives and the lives of their communities.

### Codes of Conduct

All Youth Council Members are to:

- 1 Attend all NBAPC-YC meetings and other meetings as assigned.
- 2 Report back to the Youth Council when attending meetings on the Council's behalf.
- 3 Report back to their Community Local, Zones and youth assemblies on Youth Council activities.
- 4 Adhere to all Rules and Responsibilities as outlined in this document as well as the NBAPC Constitution and By-Laws.
- 5 Refrain from drug, alcohol, and substance abuse during all youth functions.
- 6 Operate in a professional and responsible manner
- 7 Work in the best interests of all off reserve Aboriginal youth

Members in violation of this code may face immediate removal from the NBAPC-YC

## MEMBERSHIP

- 1 A youth Representative from each of the seven Zones
- 2 1 Provincial Youth Representative elected from Youth Annual Assembly (19 years of age)
- 3 13-30 years of age

## SELECTION PROCESS

### Provincial Youth Representative Selection

- 1 Elected at the Youth Annual General Meeting.
- 2 Provincial Youth Representative must be of the age of majority (19).
- 3 In the event no Provincial Youth Representative is in place, the registered youth delegates at the NBAPC AGM must elect a youth to fill the position.

### Zone Youth Representative Selection

- 1 Elected through their respective Zone or by appointment if youth council is not in place.
- 2 An alternate is required in the event that the Zone Youth Representative is unavailable or unable to complete his/her term.

### Terms of Office

1. The Zone Youth Representatives, and Provincial Youth Representative's term of office will be two years
2. These terms with exception to the Provincial Youth Representative will be staggered in the form of: Zones 1,3, 5 & 7 will be elected each odd year such as 2003, 2005 and so on, Zones 2, 4, & 6 will be elected each even year such as 2004, 2006 and so on.

### Removal, Replacement and Alternates

Youth Council Members shall be subject to the possible removal for such reasons as, but not limited to:

- 1 Negligence.
- 2 Failure to perform duties and/or responsibilities as prescribed.
- 3 Jeopardizing the welfare and integrity of the youth council.
- 4 Breaking the Codes of Conduct.
- 5 Unexplained or invalid absence from two meetings within a term.

Members will have an opportunity to address the Youth Council before their removal. Removal will be subject to a 2/3 vote by the NBAPC-YC.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Zone Youth Representatives**

- 1 Be responsible to keep their Community Zone and Local(s) informed of NBAPC-YC activities and initiatives.
- 2 Consult with and report to youth in their representative Community Zone and Local(s) on youth initiatives.
- 3 Be available and accessible for input from youth.
- 4 Carry the views, perspectives, concerns and interests of their Community Zone and respective youth to the provincial level through the NBAPC-YC.
- 5 Be an effective and professional representative of their respective Zone.
- 6 Provide, encourage and support youth involvement.
- 7 Be available for in-between meetings or consultations.

### **NBAPC Youth Council**

- 1 Assist and support the Provincial Youth Representative.
- 2 Perform the duties of the PYR in the event that he/she is unable to with the exception of the youth position on the NBAPC Board of Directors.
- 3 Shall keep records of meetings and correspondence and to facilitate the communication process within the NBAPC-YC.
- 4 Shall ensure full and accurate records of financial activities are kept and reported to the NBAPC-YC quarterly and annually.

### **Provincial Youth Representative**

- 1 Must be of the age of majority. (19)
- 2 Shall represent the NBAPC-YC as a spokesperson, on their behalf.
- 3 Chair all meetings of the NBAPC-YC.
- 4 Will represent the NBAPC-YC on the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples' Youth Council.
- 5 Attend meetings, as assigned.
- 6 Ensure the enforcement of the Youth Constitution and By-Laws.
- 7 Serve as official representative of the NBAPC-YC on the NBAPC Board of Directors.
- 8 Keep the NBAPC Board informed of Youth Council activities and provide a youth perspective on all issues affecting youth.
- 9 With the Youth Council, shall evaluate NBAPC youth initiatives.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Youth Council Members are to:

- 1 Be accountable for their actions.
- 2 Adhere to the Roles and Responsibilities outlined in this document.
- 3 Inform the NBAPC Office when speaking on behalf of the Youth Council.
- 4 Keep open lines of communication within the NBAPC-YC.
- 5 Communicate to youth through newsletters, print material and website.
- 6 Attend all required meetings as assigned.
- 7 Promote the work of the NBAPC-YC.
- 8 Be accountable to youth, NBAPC, Community Zones, other youth councils and youth in general.
- 9 All Members shall provide quarterly reports on their activities

### **Meetings**

- 1 Should be held in conjunction with NBAPC Annual General Assemblies, and other NBAPC meetings when able.
- 2 Ideally, four times per year.
- 3 Other meetings as funding permits.
- 4 Utilize all possible methods for meetings. (Teleconference, Internet, and other media methods etc)
- 5 There will be thirty (30) days notice of meetings.

### **Rules of Order**

- 1 Rules of order will be adopted by the Youth Council.
- 2 A minimum of 50% +1 of existing Youth Council required to conduct business.
- 3 Decisions to be reached by consensus. If a decision cannot be reached, a majority vote will decide. Only in the event of a tie is the Chair entitled to vote.

### **Costs**

- 1 NBAPC rates for travel, accommodation and per diem expenses.
- 2 Cost saving measures are to be taken, whenever possible.
- 3 Participation on the NBAPC-YC is on a volunteer basis.

### **Other**

- 1 The NBAPC-YC must be notified thirty (30) days in advance of a meeting that the NBAPC-YC Constitution and By-Laws will be an agenda item and which areas will be discussed.
- 2 The amendments will be decided by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, a 50% +1 vote will be required to amend the NBAPC-YC Constitution and By-Laws.
- 3 The NBAPC board will be notified of any changes to the NBAPC-YC Constitution and By-Laws for ratification.