

## CHAPTER FOUR

### *Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Structure and Powers*





**The Structure and Powers of Contemporary  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Government**



This chapter is a study of the structure of the present day tribal government of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is a confederation of six reservations whose governing body is the Tribal Executive Committee hereafter referred to as the TEC. Each reservation has its own governing body known as the Reservation Business Committee, RBC. The TEC is composed of twelve members: the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer of each of the six RBC's. They in turn elect officers within the group which are the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The RBC of each reservation is composed of a Chairman, a Secretary/Treasurer and from one to three committeemen all elected for four year terms. The Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer are elected at large while district representatives are elected from the three reservation districts.

This structure of present day tribal government of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is that of a representative democracy. This means that the leader and committeemen, or representative, are elected by the people in regular elections. The chief leaders that are elected, as stated above, are Chairman and Secretary of each of the six member reservations and the district representatives on each reservation of which total 30 elected from within the six reservations.

The requirements to run for office are as follows:

1. At least 21 years old
2. A candidate for Chairman, Secretary Treasurer and committeemen must be an enrolled member of the tribe and reside on the reservation of his/her enrollment
3. Residency for at least one year immediately preceding the election in the community from which you want to run

All enrolled members of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, 18 years and older shall have the right to vote at all elections held within the reservation of their enrollment. (Read Article IV, Section I, of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution for a full review of the requirements.)

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, also known as the Wheeler Howard Act of June 18, 1934. (For a detailed study on this Act, see Unit number Three.) The constitution and by-laws for The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe were ratified by the Tribe on June 20, 1936, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on July 24, 1936, and later amended and revised on March 3, 1964.

Additional graphs and information regarding composition of the TEC and RBC, past presidents of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and present members and officers of the TEC are attached at the end of this chapter. Students should understand that composition of the TEC changes quite often due to staggered terms in office and newly elected members.

The goals and powers of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe are set forth in the constitutional document. The specific goals of the Tribe are set forth in the Preamble to The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution. These goals include;

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1. To form a representative Chippewa tribal organization
2. Maintain and establish justice for our tribe
3. To conserve and develop our tribal resources and common property
4. To promote the general welfare of ourselves and descendents

These are important and difficult goals to achieve and it is up to each generation to continue the work of the previous generation and contribute to the further realization of these goals. These, we must remember, are also the goals of the people and can only be achieved by working to have the most dedicated and strongest tribal government possible.

Since the goals of the tribe have been discussed, what are the powers tribal government possesses in order to achieve these goals? The first area of major power of the tribe is to regulate membership in the tribe itself. The requirements for membership are set out in Article II of the Constitution and fall into three different categories depending on when you were born:

1. the first class includes all persons of Indian blood whose names appeared on the official census role of the tribe as of April 14, 1941.
2. the second group involves individuals born after April 14, 1941 to July 3, 1961. Any person born during this time, in order to become an enrolled member of the tribe, must have at least one parent who was already a member of the tribe and application for enrollment was filed one year after the date of birth of such children.
3. the third group includes all individuals born after July 3, 1961. The requirements are that such individuals must be at least one-fourth (1/4) or more degree of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood.

Tribal membership is only available to individuals who meet the proper requirements for the chronological group to which they belong. The TEC has the power to make ordinances concerning requirements for future membership, if they so desire, although they cannot change the existing constitutional requirements of Article II without a referendum vote of the people to amend the constitution, itself.

The other specific powers to be exercised by the Tribal Executive Committee are set out in Article V of the constitution. The most important of these powers include, but are not limited to the following:

1. To employ legal council for the protection and advancement of the rights of the tribe.
2. To acquire land or other property for or on behalf of the tribe and prevent the sale of already existing tribal land.
3. To advise regarding estimates for appropriation of federal projects for the benefit of the Minnesota Chippewa.
4. To regulate economic affairs of the tribe.
5. Enter into contracts on behalf of the tribe.
6. Manage, lease, permit, or otherwise deal with tribal lands, to engage in any business that will further the economic well being of members of the tribe.
7. Levy license or fees on non-members doing business on two or more reservations.
8. To delegate to committees any of the foregoing authorities.

These powers are more explicit within the constitution itself. Also, powers of the RBC are listed in Article VI, of the constitution. Students should review these sections for a better understanding of TEC and RBC powers. Some of the powers are more fully exercised than others while a few have not been exercised at all. Students

should realize that there is much authority available to tribal government to exercise if it so chooses.

Certain of the above named powers specifically require approval of the Secretary of Interior before such acts of the Tribal Executive Committee may become effective. Review Article XV, Section I of the Constitution to identify which of the named powers do require approval of the Secretary of Interior.

It is quite clear why the Secretary of Interior was given this power. During the period immediately following the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act, the Department of Interior was given the responsibility of assisting tribes in drawing up constitutions. Although the tribes were encouraged to look at several different forms of government, they were undoubtedly influenced by the model constitutions and lists of subjects drawn up by the Interior Department. It is no accident that most IRA governments are similar to the form recommended by the Department of Interior.

Perhaps the most obvious effect of the Interior Department's participation is the presence of certain clauses in constitutions which gave the Secretary of Interior authority to approve certain ordinances passed by a Tribal government organized under the act. A survey of IRA constitutions reveals that the Secretary of the Interior's powers over tribal governments are quite extensive. In some constitutions, he is given authority to approve all tribal ordinances in half of the area included within the tribe's jurisdiction. Only in a few constitutions was he given authority to veto all acts of a tribal governing council. In general, the tribe retained absolute control over subjects such as administrative operations; development of tribal culture; purchasing land and taxations. The Secretary of Interior was after given approval or supervising power over matters such as management of the tribe's economic affairs; taxation of non-members; regulation of domestic relations of the members; the hiring of legal council. In theory at least, the Interior Department continued its supervisory role to insure that the tribes did not infringe upon the rights of individuals. Of course, that judgement was usually made according to Anglo-American legal principles.

The I.R.A. itself does not authorize the Secretary of Interior to veto the acts of a tribal government. Only in the area of hiring legal counsel was the Secretary given specific approval authority. No other federal law gives him authority to control tribal governments in this way. Many I.R.A. constitutions are directly contrary to the spirit of the Act, which was clearly intended to reduce the authority of the Interior Department over Indian people. But since the act stipulated that the Secretary of the Interior must approve all constitutions, he could demand and get very broad authority.

Another source of limitation of tribal powers, and one which is not an outside limitation or review authority, is the tribal constitution itself. No action or ordinance of the TEC may do or exceed what the tribal constitution itself may prohibit or limit. For example, Article X addresses vacancies and removal from office. The constitution states that the Reservation Business Committee may, by 2/3 vote, remove any member for malfeasance in handling of tribal affairs, neglect of duty or gross misconduct after due notice of charges and opportunity to be heard. The TEC and RBC could not on their own decide to change the 2/3 requirement to 1/3 or whatever. The only way to change constitutional requirements is to change or amend the constitution itself. The TEC or RBC alone do not have this power. The amendment powers is very important and will be discussed in greater detail later.

The powers of the TEC are not strictly limited to the enumerated powers of Article V, Section 1. Many tribal

constitutions contained RESERVED POWERS or FUTURE POWERS sections which allowed tribes to exercise certain powers not specifically mentioned in their constitutions. These sections were not included in The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe constitution, however, additional powers may be exercised under Article 1, Section 3, or within the preamble itself which are both written in very broad terms. As the tribe continues to develop and grow, it may decide that it is necessary to exercise, in a legitimate way, certain powers not specifically mentioned in the present constitution.

Other parts of the constitution deal with specific powers of the Reservation Business Committee, elections, land issues, tribal elections, and duties of officers. These sections should be read and examined closely. What does each of these sections say?

The last important issue about The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe constitution concerns amendments. In what way, if any, may the constitution be changed or amended? The answer is in the way the constitution itself states that it may be changed. This is set forth in Article XIV, Section 1 of the constitution. The following steps may be followed:

1. First, there must be a written resolution or ordinance signed by at least 8 or 3/4 of the membership of the TEC.
2. Secondly, the TEC must order a special election for the eligible voters of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to vote on the proposed changes. A simple majority determines whether the changes are to be accepted or not. However, at least 30 percent of those eligible to vote must vote in the election before it becomes official. This is required in order to insure that on such an important issue as changing the constitution that a substantial number of people participate in the election.
3. The results of the election must be certified and approved by the Secretary of Interior.

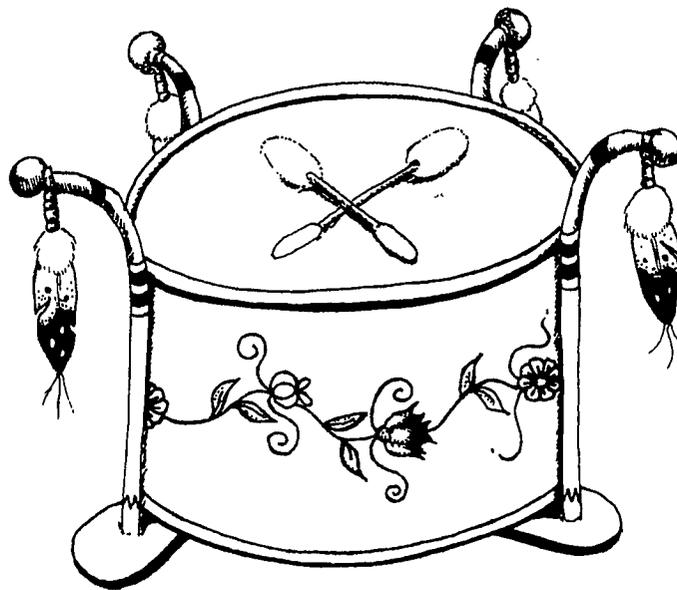
The amendment process remains available to the tribe to make any desired changes in the future. An important aspect of the amendment process to remember is that, ultimately, it is only the members of the tribe who can change or modify the constitution. The Tribal Executive Committee or the individual Reservation Business Committees do not alone have this power. Amending the constitution does not always have to mean adding something new to the constitution. It can also mean removing something or changing that is already in there. Students should try to research where The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe has revised the constitution and find out the reasons why. Can you think of any amendments that you would like to see incorporated into the constitution? What do you think of removing the Secretary of Interior's power of review over tribal governments?

Felix Cohen, an attorney, conducted a study of powers of Indian tribes and his work stands as an authority of tribal powers. He reasons that powers of a tribe were inherent, and, because they have been conquered, their laws were limited or changed by the conquerer through limitations set by treaties and statutes. In the **Handbook of Federal Indian Law**, Cohen summarizes that Indian tribes have inherent powers because of three basic principles; an Indian tribe possesses all the powers of any sovereign state; conquest renders the tribe subject to the legislative power of the United States and terminates the external powers of sovereignty of nations but does not affect its internal sovereignty, which contains the power of self-government; and, tribal powers are subject to qualification by treaties and legislation of Congress, but a tribe is allowed to retain full power for internal self-government by its duly constituted organs of government.

In order to exercise internal powers, an Indian tribe should have a duly constituted government. In the establishment of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Government under the Indian Reorganization Act, the tribe wrote its powers into its constitution. Many tribes rejected the Indian Reorganization Act, such as the Red Lake Chippewa, but eventually wrote their own constitutions.

In the **Handbook of Federal Indian Law**, Cohen examines the powers of the tribal government quite thoroughly in Chapter 7. Students should become more familiar with his reasoning presented in sections of Chapter 7 since the research is condensed from a variety of excellent sources, many of which are court decisions.

A case law which supported the right of a tribe to exercise its own sovereignty as long as it was consistent with federal law was, **Worcester vs. Georgia**, 1832. The state of Georgia, was, therefore, unable to interfere with a tribal problem. This famous case established the precedent that Indian nations are to be considered distinct, independent political communities.



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 THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DATA OF THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE 

The six member reservations for The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe are the White Earth Reservation, Mille Lacs Reservation, Leech Lake Reservation, Nett Lake Reservation, Grand Portage Reservation and the Fond du Lac Reservation.

**The White Earth Reservation** is located in northwestern Minnesota in Becker, Mahnomen and Clearwater counties. The reservation is approximately 60 miles southwest of Bemidji, Minnesota. The White Earth Reservation was established in 1867 by a treaty with the United States Government. Much of the land was passed from Indian ownership until today there remains 25,561 acres of Indian land. Of this amount, 25,568 acres are tribal land and 1,993 acres are individual Indian allotted land. There are approximately 2,546 Indian people residing within the reservation boundaries. The main Indian communities are Ponsford, White Earth, Naytahwaush and Rice Lake. Timber work, construction and seasonal farm labor are the main sources of employment. The United States Indian Health Service operates an Indian Center in the community of White Earth. There is also an active Office of Economic Opportunity; Community Action Program which provides many needed services. The Reservation Business Committee is very active in attempting to develop industry on the reservation.

**The Leech Lake Reservation** is located in north central Minnesota in the heart of the lake country. It is located largely in Beltrami, Cass and Itasca counties. The Leech Lake Reservation was established in 1855 by a treaty with the United States Government. Within the reservation boundaries there remains today a total of 26,773 acres of Indian land. Of this amount, 14,069 acres represent tribal land and 12,664 acres represent individual Indian allotments. Most of the balance of the land within the reservation boundaries is within the Chippewa National Forest. There are many lakes throughout the reservation, the largest of which are Leech Lake, Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish. Timber work and construction make up the major part of the livelihood for the area residents. The Indian people also derive some income from the harvest of wild rice, blueberries and maple sap. The Indian population within the reservation is estimated at 2,846. The major Indian communities are Cass Lake, Squaw Lake, Bena, Ball Club, Inger, Deer River, Federal Dam and Onigum. The United States Indian Health Service operates an Indian Hospital at Cass Lake. There is also an active Office of Economic Opportunity; Community Action Program which offers needed services to the reservation. The Reservation Business Committee is continually striving for development of industry and has completed a large modern camping ground and marina complex at Onigum Point in Leech Lake. They have also built a Community Center, which houses The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's main offices, and a combined bowling alley and laundromat at Cass Lake. They have developed a 200 acres wild rice paddy and are seeking additional suitable sites for further development of this product. Through their efforts they have established a Tribally owned Mini-Market also called "Che-wa-ka-e-gon" meaning "Big House" that is owned and operated by the Indian people of the community.

**The Mille Lacs Reservation** is located in east central Minnesota, in Aitken, Mille Lacs and Pine counties. The Mille Lacs Reservation was established in 1855 by a treaty with the United States Government. Most of the Indian land has passed from Indian ownership. There remains today a total of 3,660 acres of Indian land of which 3,592 acres are tribal land and 68 acres are individual Indian allotments. The estimated population of the

reservation is 748. The major Indian community is at Vineland where most of the Indian people are in the low income bracket because of chronic unemployment. Some of the members do supplement their income in woods work and gathering of wild rice and maple sap. A few of the members also sell their native arts and crafts such as birchbark canoes, drums, bird houses, etc. There is a very active Office of Economic Opportunity; Community Action Program which provides many needed services. One of the finest Indian museums in the state is located there and is available for visitation during the summer months.

**The Nett Lake Reservation** is located in northeast Minnesota, approximately 40 miles south of the Canadian Border in Koochiching and St. Louis counties. The Nett Lake Reservation was established in 1866 by a treaty with the United States Government. Some of the land has passed from Indian ownership. There remains today a total of 41,778 acres of Indian land within the reservation boundaries. Of this amount, 30,114 acres are tribal land and 11,664 acres are individual Indian allotments. Included in the tribal land is 1,060 acres at Vermilion Lake, about ten miles southwest of Tower. The reservation is located in sparsely populated regions. There are approximately 662 members of the reservation living on or around the village of Nett Lake and about 80 on the Indian land at Vermilion Lake near Tower. The 1,060 acres at Vermilion Lake was set aside as the Vermilion Lake Reservation by Executive Order on December 20, 1881. This small tract is part of the Nett Lake Reservation. Because of the lack of employment on the reservation, many of the Indians must seek employment elsewhere. The Nett Lake Reservation is famous for wild rice which is reserved for the reservation members. There is an Office of Economic Opportunity; Community Action Program which is quite active on the reservation and offers many needed services. The Reservation Business Committee is developing an 80 acre tract for a commercial rice paddy that will be expanded if their efforts are productive. The band also developed the Forest Products Enterprise which they hope to enlarge into an overall reservation program that will utilize all forest products under one cooperative.

**The Grand Portage Reservation** is located in the extreme northeast corner of Minnesota, approximately 150 miles northeast of Duluth, in Cook County. The reservation is located in one of the most scenic settings on the Lake Superior shoreline. The Grand Portage Reservation was established, in 1854, by a treaty with the United States Government. Some of the land has passed from Indian ownership. There are today 44,752 acres of land belonging to the Grand Portage Reservation, 37,427 acres of tribal land and 7,246 acres of individual allotments, and 25,353 acres of band land. The estimated population of the reservation, which is concentrated in and near the Village of Grand Portage, is 189. The people receive their income from timber work, trapping and construction work in other areas. Also, some of them obtain part of their income by hunting and fishing, and through guide work. The Grand Portage members also operate a new general store known as the Grand Portage Trading Post. The Grand Portage National Monument was established by Congress and is in the process of development. There is an Office of Economic Opportunity; Community Action Program which is quite active and offers much needed services. The Reservation Business Committee has set up a Fisheries Commission to handle fisheries management programs on the reservation. The Committee was instrumental in the planning and development of expanded sport fishing programs, including the construction of a marina, camp and picnic grounds for fishermen. They have also constructed a Radisson Inn motel and restaurant complex.

**The Fond du Lac Reservation** is located in northeastern Minnesota in St. Louis and Carlton counties near the city of Duluth. The Fond du Lac Reservation was established in 1854 by a treaty with the United States Government. Much of the land was passed from Indian ownership until today there remains 21,366 acres of

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Indian land. Of this amount, 4,253 acres are tribal land and 17,113 acres are individual Indian allotted land. The estimated population of the reservation is 680. The major Indian communities are at Brookston, Sawyer and Cloquet. There is also an active Community Action Program which provides many needed services. The Reservation Business Committee is continually striving for development of industry; it has completed a manufacturing plant of wood-oil combination furnaces, and has nearly completed a camping ground and marina complex.

In 1971, the total acreage of the six member reservations was 195,514 acres, including tribal land, individual allotments, and land purchased by the United States for Indian use but not held in trust.

Table of acreage of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Reservations, 1971.

RESERVATION	TRIBAL	ALLOTTED	TOTAL	PERCENT OF ORIGINAL RESERVATION
Fond du Lac	4,253	17,113	21,336	51 percent
Grand Portage	37,427	7,246	44,673	82 percent
Leech Lake	14,069	12,664	26,733	5 percent
Mille Lacs	3,592	68	3,660	(no boundaries)
Nett Lake	30,114	11,664	41,778	41 percent
White Earth	54,123	1,993	56,116	8 percent

As of January, 1975, there were 29,014 enrolled members of the tribe, 7,671 living on the reservation, 12,175 service population (those eligible for Bureau of Indian Affairs/Tribal services, living on or "near" reservations.) Table of reservation population statistics based on Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal records shows:

RESERVATION	RESERVATION POPULATION	SERVICE POPULATION	ENROLLED MEMBERS
Fond du Lac	680	2,200	2,162
Grand Portage	189	308	657
Leech Lake	2,846	4,217	4,880
Mille Lacs	748	980	1,750
Nett Lake	662	1,120	1,394
White Earth	2,546	4,250	18,151

As of April 1977, the enrolled population of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe had increased in two years by two thousand to 31,105, according to information supplied by the Minnesota Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs.





## MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBAL GOVERNMENT & THE FUTURE



The passage of the "Indian Self-Determination Act" has added tremendously to the scope of tribal government. In addition, many recent court decisions relating to Indian issues, both nationally and within the State of Minnesota, have a very direct bearing on the definition of the legal status of Indian tribes and their governing powers. These court decisions constitute an atmosphere of change and challenge for Indian tribal governments. In many respects the problems confronting Indian tribal leaders are not very different from those which burden the leaders on non-Indian communities across the country as they struggle to meet the demands of modern society. That is, Tribal Executive Committee members, as the embodiment of the communities governing structure are in a position comparable to that of their counterpart on city or municipal councils.

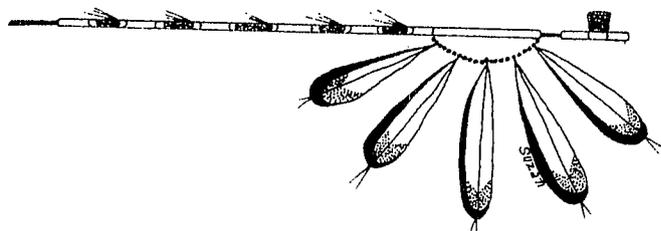
However, there are significant differences between the roles of tribal and city councils and it is the process of gaining an understanding of these differences that one can gain an appreciation for the unique needs a tribal governing body has for service and support which are distinct from those which may be required by a municipal court. The most basic difference lies in the fact that the tribe, historically, legally and socially, comprise a self-governing unit which is outside of the federalist system. The source of Indian tribes authority to govern itself flows from its status as a sovereign entity (i.e., as a sovereign, a tribe possesses "inherent" powers of self-government which pre-date the United States government) just as the mode in which it exercises this power is dictated by the kind of society the tribe historically and presently is, i.e., a "tribal" society. In contrast, any other local government unit in this country exists only because it has received its power or "charter" from the state, which in turn must be created by the federal government. The lines and extent of authority are defined clearly by the federalist system while membership within the community are defined politically on the basis of residence, property ownership, etc. In contrast, tribal membership closely follows cultural and racial lines.

In order to function wisely and effectively, tribal leaders must be aware of the ramifications of the tribes unique historical and legal status. For example, the complex jurisdictional relationship between the tribe, the state and the federal government must be understood by the Tribal Executive Committee before it can effectively define its jurisdiction to impose a taxation scheme, a comprehensive land zoning ordinance, or any other ordinance relating to its inherent rights.

Historically, those considerations flowing from the tribe's unique legal status, in correlation with the limited role of state governmental authority on the reservations, have always added complexity for federal and state officials and tribal attorneys who are assisting and advising The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Since the tribe is becoming more involved with tribal affairs by attempting to exercise its inherent rights the situation tends to become even more complex. The need for council and technical assistance is the greatest in the area of exercising tribal powers. In addition, students must be made aware of political agitations by anti-Indian groups where the main goal is an attempt to restrict or eliminate tribal self-government. There are currently two organizations that exist in Minnesota for that purpose. They are the White Earth Equal Rights Committee, Mahnomen, and the Leech Lake Citizens Committee, Leech Lake. Aside from these there are several more organizations throughout the United States. In 1975 these new coalitions of upset citizens formed a national organization: The Interstate Congress for Equal Rights and Responsibilities (I.C.E.R.R.) Through vigorous lobbying efforts this group has been making its views felt with congressional delegations from member states. These efforts include the abolition of Indian hunting and fishing rights, the abrogation of all Indian treaties, the extinguishment of Indian title to all reservation lands, etc. Other organizations with the same goals in mind are: Indian Affairs Task Force of the National Association of Counties, National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Tribal Executive Committee, concerned Indian people, and the legal counsel of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe have a special responsibility to meet these growing challenges. Necessary steps must be taken to assure that treaties remain the supreme law of the land.

In order to guarantee the most effective form of self-government, a comprehensive study of the governing structure used by the tribe must be done to determine how it is working, if it is not working well and why?, and if not, why not? As of this writing, initial steps have been taken to review the present constitution and to meet the growing demand of exercising tribal inherent and negotiated powers to the fullest extent.



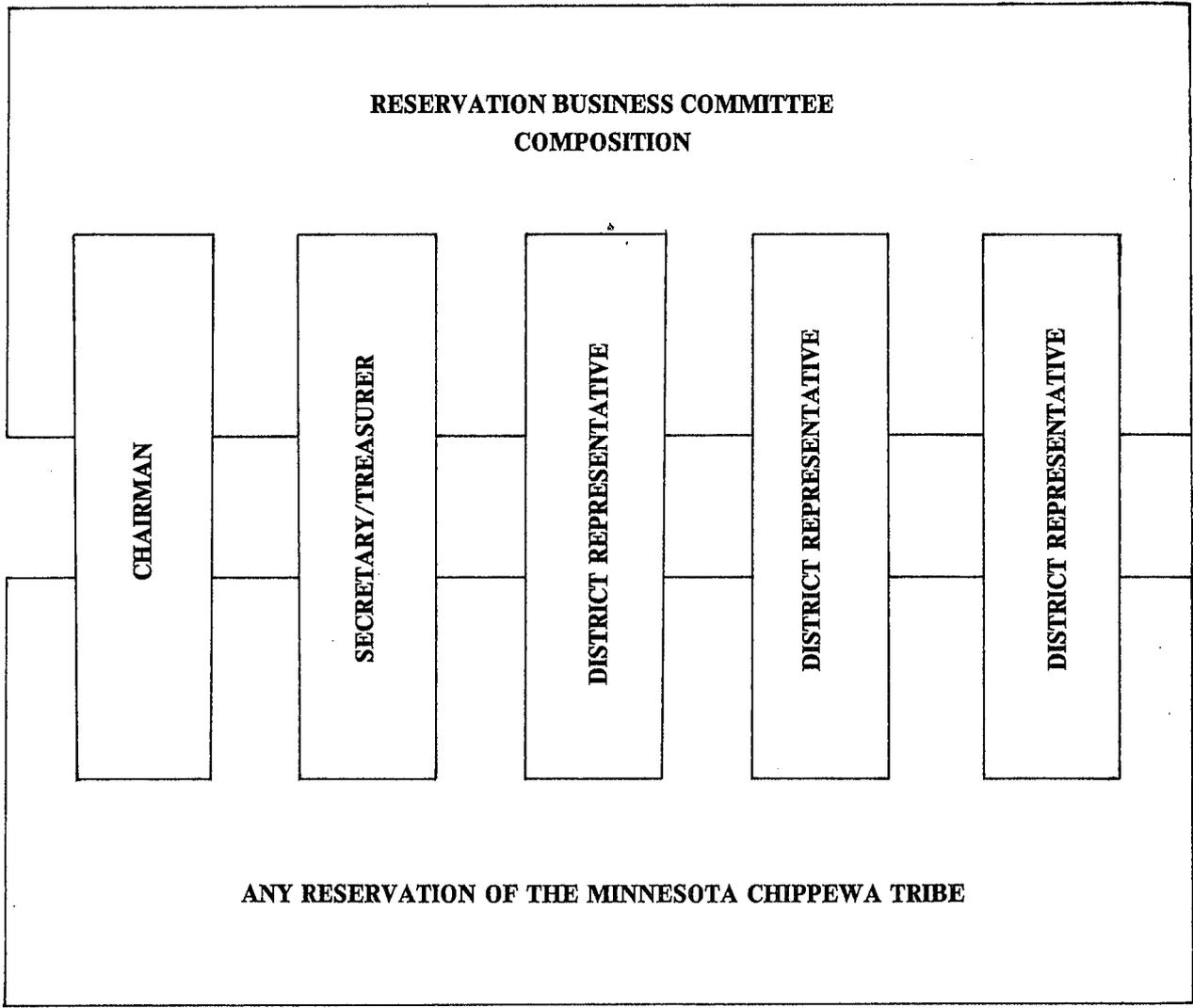
**PRESIDENTS FOR THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE**

**SINCE THE INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT**

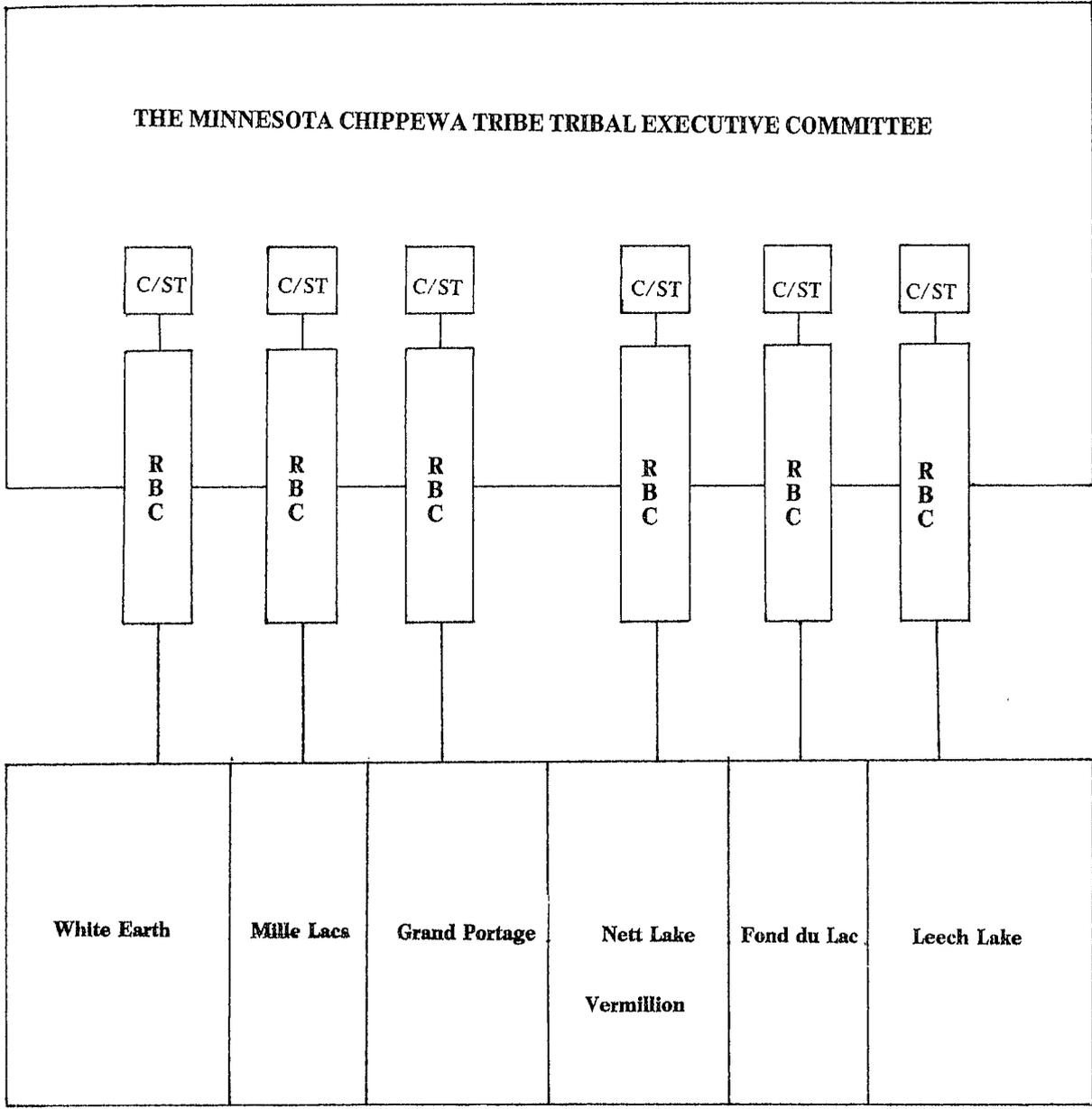


1936	John Broker
1937	John L. Pemberton
1938	Ed M. Wilson
1939 - 1940	Frank Broker
1941 - 1942	Ed M. Wilson
1943 - 1944	William Anawaush
1945 - 1946	Frank Broker
1947 - 1948	Sam Zimmerman
1949	Lawrence Connor
1950 - 1954	Ed M. Wilson
1955	W.J. Hanks
1956 - 1957	Lyzeme Savage
1958 - 1959	Simon Howard
1960	John Buckanaga
1961 - 1963	Allen Wilson
1964 - 1970	Peter Dufault
1971 - 1973	Simon Howard
1974	Harry Boness, Sr.
1975 to present	Arthur Gahbow





Each Reservation Business Committee has up to five members: three district representatives, a chairman and a secretary/treasurer. District representatives are elected from their respective districts whereas the chairman and secretary/treasurer are elected at large.



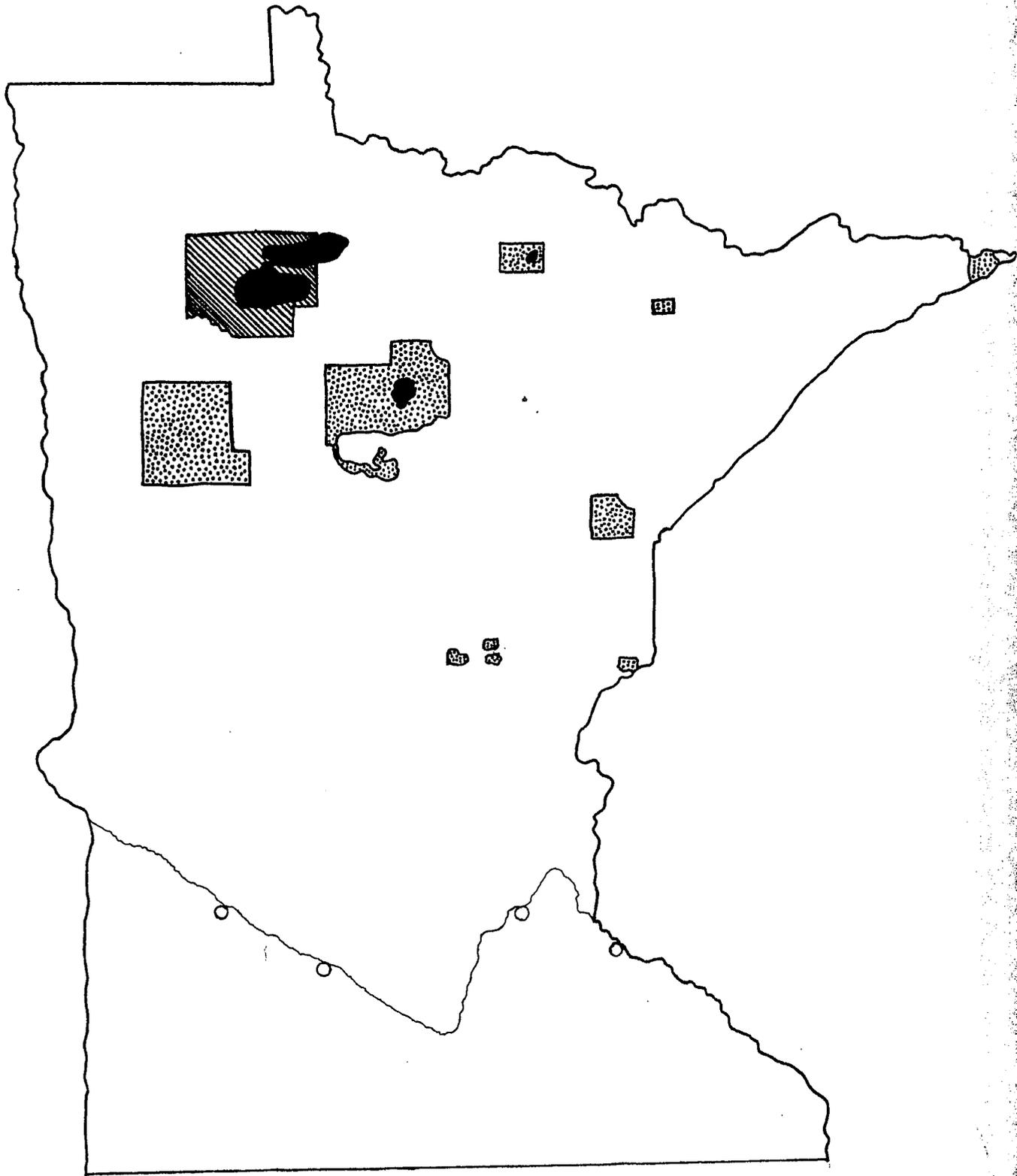
The composition of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee [TEC] represents each reservation by their elected chairman and secretary/treasurer, totalling twelve members. Officers of the Tribal Executive Committee are elected from this group.



**KEY: C - CHAIRMAN**  
**S/T - SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**RBC - RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

\*Vermillion is part of the Nett Lake Reservation



**MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE RESERVATIONS**



**RED LAKE CHIPPEWA**



**NON-MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE RESERVATIONS**



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Daniel  
Hartley

Fond o  
Willia  
Bernar

Grand  
James  
Norma

Leech  
Hartley  
Alfred

**THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE OFFICERS [1978]\***

\*The election of new officers is due during 1978, therefore, the list below is subject to change.

Arthur Gahbow  
Darrell Wadena  
Daniel Morrison, Sr.  
Hartley White

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer



**Tribal Executive Committee**

**Fond du Lac**

William Houle, Chairman  
Bernard Loons, Sr., Secretary-Treasurer

**Mille Lacs**

Arthur Gahbow, Chairman  
Maggie Sam, Secretary-Treasurer

**Grand Portage**

James Hendrickson, Chairman  
Norman Deschampe, Secretary-Treasurer

**Nett Lake**

Gary Donald, Chairman  
Daniel Morrison, Sr., Secretary-Treasurer

**Leech Lake**

Hartley White, Chairman  
Alfred Pemberton, Secretary-Treasurer

**White Earth**

Darrell Wadena, Chairman  
Vernon Bellecourt, Secretary-Treasurer



REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF THE  
MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

PREAMBLE

We, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, consisting of the Chippewa Indians of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond Du Lac, Bois Forte (Nett Lake), and Grand Portage Reservations and the Nonremoval Mille Lac Band of Chippewa Indians, in order to form a representative Chippewa Tribal organization, maintain and establish justice for our Tribe, and to conserve and develop our tribal resources and common property; to promote the general welfare of ourselves and descendents, to establish accordance with such privilege granted the Indians by the United States under existing law.

ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe hereby organized under Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended.

Section 2. The name of this tribal organization shall be the "Minnesota Chippewa Tribe."

Section 3. The purpose and function of this organization shall be to conserve and develop tribal resources and to promote the conservation and development of individual Indian trust property; to promote the general welfare of the members of the Tribe; to preserve and maintain justice for its members and otherwise all powers granted and provided the Indians, and take advantage of the privileges afforded by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, and all the purposes expressed in the preamble hereof.

Section 4. The Tribe shall cooperate with the United States in its program of economic and social development of the Tribe or in any matters tending to promote the welfare of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe of Indians.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall consist of the following:

- (a) Basic Membership Roll. All persons of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood whose names appear on the annuity roll of April 14, 1941, prepared pursuant to the Treaty with said Indians as enacted by Congress in the Act of January 14, 1889 (25 Stat. 642) and Acts amendatory thereof, and as corrected by the Tribal Executive Committee and ratified by the Tribal Delegates, which roll shall be known as the basic membership roll of the Tribe.
- (b) All children of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood born between April 14, 1941, the date of the annuity roll, and July 3, 1961, the date of approval of the membership ordinance by the Area Director, to a parent or parents, either or both of whose names appear on the basic membership roll, provided an application for enrollment was filed with the Secretary of the Tribal Delegates by July 4, 1962, one year after the date of birth of such children.
- (c) All children of at least one quarter (1/4) degree of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood born after July 3, 1961, to a member, provided that an application for enrollment was or is filed with the Secretary of the Tribal Delegates or the Tribal Executive Committee within one year after the date of birth of such children.

Section 2. No person born after July 3, 1961, shall be eligible for enrollment if enrolled as a member of another tribe, or if not an American citizen.

Section 3. Any person of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood who meets the membership requirements of the Tribe, but who because of an error has not been enrolled, may be admitted to membership in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by adoption, if such adoption is approved by the Tribal Executive Committee, and shall have full membership privileges from the date the adoption is approved.

Section 4. Any person who has been rejected for enrollment as a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall have the right of appeal within sixty days from the date of written notice of rejection to the Secretary of the Interior from the decision of the Tribal Executive Committee and the decision of the Secretary of the Interior shall be final.

Section 5. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to deprive any descendent of a Minnesota Chippewa Indian of the right to participate in any benefits derived from claims against the United States Government when awards are made for and on behalf and for the benefit of descendants of members of said tribe.

### ARTICLE III - GOVERNING BODY

The governing bodies of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall be the Tribal Executive Committee and the Reservation Business Committees of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond Du Lac, Boise Forte (Nett Lake), and Grand Portage Reservations, and the Nonremoval Mille Lac<sup>s</sup> Band of Chippewa Indians, hereinafter referred to as the six (6) Reservations.

Section 1. Tribal Executive Committee. The Tribal Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of each of the six (6) Reservation Business Committees elected in accordance with Article IV. The Tribal Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting, select from within the group a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall continue in office for a period of two (2) years or until their successors are elected and seated.

Section 2. Reservation Business Committee. Each of the six (6) reservations shall elect a Reservation Business Committee composed of not more than five (5) members nor less than three (3) members. The Reservation Business Committee shall be composed of a Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and one (1), Two (2), or three (3) Committeemen. The candidates shall file for their respective offices and shall hold their office during the term for which they were elected or until their successors are elected and seated.

### ARTICLE IV - TRIBAL ELECTIONS

Section 1. Right to Vote. All elections held on the six (6) reservations shall be held in accordance with a uniform election ordinance to be adopted by the Tribal Executive Committee which shall provide that:

- (a) All members of the Tribe, eighteen (18) years of age or over, shall have the right to vote at all elections held within the reservation of their enrollment. 1/
- (b) All elections shall provide for absentee ballots and secret ballot voting.
- (c) Each Reservation Business Committee shall be the sole judge of the qualification of its voters.
- (d) The precincts, polling places, election boards, time for opening and closing the polls, canvassing the vote and all pertinent details shall be clearly described in the ordinance.

Section 2. Candidates. A candidate for Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer and committeeman must be an enrolled member of the tribe and reside on the reservation of his enrollment. No member of the tribe shall be eligible to hold office either as a committeeman or officer, until he or she shall have reached his or her twenty-first (21) birthday on or before the date of election. 2/

1/ As amended per Amendment I, approved by Secretary of Interior 11/6/72.

2/ As amended per Amendment II, approved by Secretary of Interior 11/6/72.

Section 3. Term of Office.

- (a) To employ legal counsel for the protection and advancement of the rights of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; the choice of counsel and fixing of fees to be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, or his authorized representative.
- (b) To prevent any sale, disposition, lease or encumbrance of tribal lands, interest in lands, or other assets including minerals, gas and oil.
- (c) To advise with the Secretary of the Interior with regard to all appropriation estimates or Federal projects for the benefit of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, except where such appropriation estimates or projects are for the benefit of individual Reservations.
- (d) To administer any funds within the control of the Tribe; to make expenditures from tribal funds for salaries, expenses of tribal officials, employment or other tribal purposes. The Tribal Executive Committee shall apportion all funds within its control to the various Reservations excepting funds necessary to support the authorized costs of the Tribal Executive Committee. All expenditures of tribal funds, under control of the Tribal Executive Committee shall be in accordance with a budget, duly approved by resolution in legal session, and the amounts so expended shall be a matter of public record at all reasonable times. The Tribal Executive Committee shall prepare annual budgets, requesting advancements to the control of the Tribe of any money deposited to the credit of the Tribe in the United States Treasury, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative.
- (e) To consult, negotiate, contract and conclude agreements on behalf of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe with Federal, State and local governments or private persons or organizations on all matters within the powers of the Tribal Executive Committee, except as provided in the powers of the Reservation Business Committee.
- (f) Except for those powers hereinafter granted to the Reservation Business Committees, the Tribal Executive Committee shall be authorized to manage, lease, permit, or otherwise deal with tribal lands, interest in lands or other tribal assets; to engage in any business that will further the economic well being of members of the Tribe; to borrow money from the Federal Government or other sources and to direct the use of such funds for productive purposes, or to loan the money thus borrowed to Business Committees of the Reservations and to pledge or assign chattel or income, due or to become due, subject only to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, when required by Federal Law or regulations.
- (g) The Tribal Executive Committee may be ordinance, subject to the reviews of the Secretary of the Interior, levy licenses or fees on non-members or non-tribal organizations doing business on two or more reservations.

- (h) To recognize any community organizations, associations or committees open to members of the several reservations and to approve such organizations, subject to the provision that no such organizations, associations, or committees may assume any authority granted to the Tribal Executive Committee or the Reservation Business Committees.
- (i) To delegate to committees, officers, employees or cooperative associations any of the foregoing authorities, reserving the right to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated authorities.

#### ARTICLE IV - AUTHORITIES OF THE RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEES

Section 1. Each of the Reservation Business Committees shall, in accordance with applicable laws or regulations of the Department of the Interior, have the following powers;

- (a) To advise with the Secretary of the Interior with regard to all appropriation estimates on Federal projects for the benefit of its reservations.
- (b) To administer any funds within the control of the Reservation; to make expenditures from Reservation funds for salaries, expenses of Reservation officials, employment or other Reservation purposes. All expenditures of Reservation funds under the control of the Reservation Business Committees shall be in accordance with a budget, duly approved by resolution in legal session, and the amounts so expended shall be a matter of public record at all reasonable times. The Business Committees shall prepare annual budgets requesting advancements to the control of the Reservation of tribal funds under the control of the Tribal Executive Committee.
- (c) To consult, negotiate, and contract and conclude agreements on behalf of its respective reservation with Federal, State and local governments or private persons or organizations on all matters within the power of the Reservation Business Committee, provided that no such agreements or contracts shall directly affect any other Reservation or the Tribal Executive Committee without their consent. The Business Committee shall be authorized to manage, lease, permit or otherwise deal with tribal lands, interests in lands or other tribal assets, when authorized to do so by the Tribal Executive Committee but no such authorization shall be necessary in the case of lands or assets owned exclusively by the Reservation. To engage in any business that will further the economic well being of members of the Reservation; to borrow money from the Federal Government or other sources and to direct the use of such funds for productive purposes or to loan the money thus borrowed to members of the Reservation and to pledge or assign Reservation chattel or income due or to become due, subject only to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative when required by Federal law and regulations. The Reservation Business Committee may also, with the consent of the Tribal Executive Committee, pledge or assign tribal chattel or income.
- (d) The Reservation Business Committee may by ordinance, subject to the review of the Secretary of the Interior, levy licences or fees on non-members or non-tribal organizations doing business solely within their respective reservations. A Reservation Business Committee may recognize any community organization, association or committee open to members of the reservation or located within the reservation and approve such organization, subject to the provision that no such organization, association or committee may assume any authority granted to the Reservation Business Committee or to the Tribal Executive Committee.

- (e) To delegate to committees, officers, employees or cooperative associations any of the foregoing authorities, reserving the right to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated authorities.
- (f) The powers theretofore granted to the bands by the charters issued by the Tribal Executive Committee are hereby superseded by this Article and said charters will no longer be recognized for any purposes.

#### ARTICLE VII - DURATION OF TRIBAL CONSTITUTION

Section 1. The period of duration of this tribal constitution shall be perpetual or until revoked by lawful means as provided in the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended.

#### ARTICLE VIII - MAJORITY VOTE

Section 1. At all elections held under this constitution, the majority of eligible votes cast shall rule, unless otherwise provided by an Act of Congress.

#### ARTICLE IX - BONDING OF TRIBAL OFFICIALS

Section 1. The Tribal Executive Committee and the Reservation Business Committees, respectively, shall require all persons, charged by the Tribe or Reservation with responsibility for the custody of any of its funds or property, to give bond for the faithful performance of his official duties. Such bond shall be furnished by a responsible bonding company and shall be acceptable to the beneficiary thereof and the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, and the cost thereof shall be paid by the beneficiary.

#### ARTICLE X - VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

Section 1. Any vacancy in the Tribal Executive Committee shall be filled by the Indians from the reservation on which the vacancy occurs by election under rules prescribed by the Tribal Executive Committee. During the interim, the Reservation Business Committee shall be empowered to select a temporary Tribal Executive Committee member to represent the Reservation until such a time as the election herein provided for has been held and the successful candidate elected and seated.

Section 2. The Reservation Business Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members shall remove any officer or member of the Committee for the following causes:

- a. Malfeasance in the handling of tribal affairs.
- b. Dereliction or neglect of duty.
- c. Unexcused failure to attend two regular meetings in succession.
- d. Conviction of a felony in any county, state, or federal court while serving on the Reservation Business Committee.
- e. Refusal to comply with any provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe.

The removal shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 3 of this Article.

Section 3. Any member of the Reservation from which the Reservation Business Committee member is elected may prefer charges by written notice supported by the signatures of no less than 20 percent of the resident eligible voters of said Reservation, stating any of the causes for removal set forth in Section 2 of this Article, against any member or members of the respective Reservation Business Committee. The notice must be submitted to the Business Committee. The Reservation Business Committee shall consider such notice and take the following action:

- (a) The Reservation Business Committee within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the notice or charges shall in writing notify the accused of the charges brought against him and set a date for a hearing. If the Reservation Business Committee deems the accused has failed to answer charges to its satisfaction or fails to appear at the appointed time, the Reservation Business Committee may remove as provided in Section 2 or it may schedule a recall election which shall be held within thirty (30) days after the date set for the hearing. In either event, the action of the Reservation Business Committee or the outcome of the recall election shall be final.
- b. All such hearings of the Reservation Business Committee shall be held in accordance with the provisions of this Article and shall be open to the members of the Reservation. Notices of such hearings shall be duly posted at least five (5) days prior to the hearing.
- (c) The accused shall be given opportunity to call witnesses and present evidence in his behalf.

Section 4. When the Tribal Executive Committee finds any of its members guilty of any of the causes for removal from office as listed in Section 2 of this Article, it shall be in writing censor the Tribal Executive Committee member. The Tribal Executive Committee shall present its written censure to the Reservation Business Committee from which the Tribal Executive Committee member is elected. The Reservation Business Committee shall thereupon consider such censure in the manner prescribed in Section 3 of this Article.

Section 5. In the event the Reservation Business Committee fails to act as provided in Section 3 and 4 of this Article, the Reservation membership may, by petition supported by the signatures of no less than 20 percent of the eligible resident voters, appeal to the Secretary of the Interior. If the Secretary deems the charges substantial, he shall call an election for the purpose of placing the matter before the Reservation electorate for their final decision.

#### ARTICLE XI - RATIFICATION

Section 1. This constitution and the by-laws shall not become operative until ratified at a special election by a majority vote of the adult members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, voting at a special election called by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote, and until it has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

#### ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENT

Section 1. This constitution may be revoked by Act of Congress or amended or revoked by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Tribe voting at an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to call an election when requested by two-thirds of the Tribal Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE XIII - RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

All members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall be accorded by the governing body equal rights, equal protection, and equal opportunities to participate in the economic resources and activities of the Tribe, and no member shall be denied any of the constitutional rights or guarantees enjoyed by other citizens of the United States, including but not limited to freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of speech, the right to orderly association or assembly, the right to petition for action of the redress of grievances, and due process of law.

#### ARTICLE XIV - REFERENDUM

Section 1. The Tribal Executive Committee, upon receipt of a petition signed by 20 percent of the resident voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, or by an affirmative vote of eight (8) members of the Tribal Executive Committee, shall submit any enacted or proposed resolution or ordinance of the Tribal Executive Committee to a referendum of the eligible voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The majority of the votes cast in such referendum shall be conclusive and binding on the Tribal Executive Committee. The Tribal Executive Committee shall call such referendum and prescribe the manner of conducting the vote.

Section 2. The Reservation Business Committee, upon receipt of a petition signed by 20 percent of the resident voters of the Reservation, or by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Reservation Business Committee, shall submit any enacted or proposed resolution or ordinance of the Reservation Business Committee to a referendum of the eligible voters of the Reservation. The majority of the votes cast in such referendum shall be conclusive and binding on the Reservation Business Committee. They shall call such referendum and prescribe the manner of conducting the vote.

#### ARTICLE X - MANNER OF REVIEW

Section 1. Any resolution or ordinance enacted by the Tribal Executive Committee, which by the terms of this Constitution and Bylaws is subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior, or his authorized representative, shall be presented to the Superintendent or officer in charge of the Reservation who shall within ten (10) days after its receipt by him approve or disapprove the resolution or ordinance.

If the Superintendent or officer in charge shall approve any ordinance or resolution it shall thereupon become effective, but the Superintendent or officer in charge shall transmit a copy of the same, bearing his endorsement, to the Secretary of the Interior, who may within ninety (90) days from the Date of approval, rescind the ordinance or resolution for any cause by notifying the Tribal Executive Committee.

If the Superintendent or officer in charge shall refuse to approve any resolution or ordinance subject to review within ten (10) days after its receipt by him he shall advise the Tribal Executive Committee of his reasons thereof in writing. If these reasons are deemed by the Tribal Executive Committee to be insufficient, it may, by a majority vote, refer the ordinance or resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, who may, within ninety (90) days from the date of its referral, approve or reject the same in writing, whereupon the said ordinance or resolution shall be in effect or rejected accordingly.

Section 2. Any resolution or ordinance enacted by the Reservation Business Committee, which by the terms of this Constitution and Bylaws is subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, shall be governed by the procedures set forth in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3. Any resolution or ordinance enacted by the Reservation Business Committee, which by the terms in this Constitution and Bylaws is subject to approval by the Tribal Executive Committee, shall within ten (10) days of its enactment be presented to the Tribal Executive Committee. The Tribal Executive Committee shall at its next regular or special meeting, approve or disapprove such resolution or ordinance.

Upon approval or disapproval by the Tribal Executive Committee of any resolution or ordinance submitted by a Reservation Business Committee, it shall advise the Reservation Business Committee within ten (10) days, in writing, of the action taken. In the event of disapproval the Tribal Executive Committee shall advise the Reservation Business Committee, at the time, of its reasons thereof.

## BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The President of the Tribal Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Preside at all regular and special meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee and at any meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in general council.
- (b) Assume responsibility for the implementation of all resolutions and ordinances of the Tribal Executive Committee.
- (c) Sign, with the Secretary of the Tribal Executive Committee, on behalf of the Tribe all official papers when authorized to do so.
- (d) Assume general supervision of all officers, employees and committees of the Tribal Executive Committee and, as delegated, take direct responsibility for the satisfactory performance of such officers, employees, and committees.
- (e) Prepare a report of negotiations, important communications and other activities of the Tribal Executive Committee and shall make this report at each regular meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee. He shall include in this report all matters of importance to the Tribe, and in no way shall he act for the Tribe unless specifically authorized to do so.
- (f) Have general management of the business activities of the Tribal Executive Committee. He shall not act on matters binding the Tribe until the Tribal Executive Committee has delivered and enacted appropriate resolution, or unless written delegation of authority has been granted.
- (g) Not vote in meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee except in the case of a tie.

Section 2. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice-President shall preside. When so presiding, he shall have all rights, privileges and duties as set forth above under duties of the President, as well as the responsibility of the President.

Section 3. The Secretary of the Tribal Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Keep a complete record of the meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee and shall maintain such records at the headquarters of the Tribe.
- (b) Sign, with the President of the Tribal Executive Committee, all official papers as provided in Section 1 (c) of this Article.
- (c) Be the custodian of all property of the Tribe.
- (d) Keep a complete record of all business of the Tribal Executive Committee. Make and submit a complete and detailed report of the current year's business and shall submit such other reports as shall be required by the Tribal Executive Committee.
- (e) Serve all notices required for meetings and elections.
- (f) Perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Tribal Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Treasurer of the Tribal Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Receive all funds of the Tribe entrusted to it, deposit same in a depository selected by the Tribal Executive Committee, and disburses such tribal funds only on vouchers signed by the President and Secretary.
- (b) Keep and maintain, open to inspection by members of the Tribe or representatives of the Secretary of the Interior, at all reasonable times, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Tribe.
- (c) Make a monthly report and account for all transactions involving the disbursement, collection or obligation of tribal funds. He shall present such financial reports to the Tribal Executive Committee at each of its regular meetings.

Section 5. Duties and functions of all appointive committees, officers, and employees of the Tribal Executive Committee shall be clearly defined by resolution of the Tribal Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE II - TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee shall be held once in every 3 months beginning on the second Monday in July of each year and on such other days of any month as may be designated for that purpose.

Section 2. Notice shall be given by the Secretary of the Tribal Executive Committee of the date and place of all meetings by mailing a notice thereof to the members of the Tribal Executive Committee not less than 15 days preceding the date of the meeting.

Section 3. The President shall call a special meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee upon the written request of at least one-third of the Tribal Executive Committee. The President shall also call a special meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee when matters of special importance pertaining to the Tribe arise for which he deems advisable the said committee should meet.

Section 4. In case of special meetings designated for emergency matters pertaining to the Tribe, or those of special importance warranting immediate action of said Tribe, the President of the Tribal Executive Committee may waive the 15-day clause provided in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 5. Seven members of the Tribal Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum and Robert's Rules shall govern its meetings. Except as provided in said Rules, no business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present.

Section 6. The order of business at any meeting so far as possible shall be:

- (a) Call to order by the presiding officer.
- (b) Invocation.
- (c) Roll Call.
- (d) Reading and disposal of the minutes of the last meeting.
- (e) Unfinished business.
- (f) New business.
- (g) Adjournment.

ARTICLE III  
INSTALLATION OF TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 1. New members of the Tribal Executive Committee who have been duly elected by the respective Reservations shall be installed at the first regular meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee following election of the committee members, upon subscribing to the following oath:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby solemnly swear (or affirm) that I Shall preserve, support and protect the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and execute my duties as a member of the Tribal Executive Committee to the best of my ability, so help me God."

ARTICLE IV - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended in the same manner as the Constitution.

ARTICLE V - MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall begin on July 1 of each year.

Section 2. The books and records of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall be audited at least once each year by a competent auditor employed by the Tribal Executive Committee, and at such times as the Tribal Executive Committee or the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative may direct. Copies of audit reports shall be furnished the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

ARTICLE VI - RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Section 1. The Reservation Business Committee shall by ordinance adopt bylaws to govern the duties of its officers and Committee members and its meetings.

Section 2. Duties and functions of all appointive committees, officers, and employees of the Reservation Business Committee shall be clearly defined by resolution of the Reservation Business Committee.

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to an order approved September 12, 1963, by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe was submitted for ratification to the qualified voters of the reservations, and was on November 23, 1963, duly adopted by a vote of 1,761 for, and 1,295 against, in an election in which at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).

(sgd) Allen Wilson  
President, Tribal  
Executive Committee

(sgd) Peter DeFault  
Secretary, Tribal  
Executive Committee

(sgd) H.P. Mittleholtz  
Superintendent, Minnesota Agency

APPROVAL

I, John A. Carver, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority granted me by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, do hereby approve the attached Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota.

(sgd) John A. Carver, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of the Interior

(SEAL)

Washington, D.C.

Date: March 3, 1964

CHAPTER XVI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1601. No amendment, alteration or modification, or supplement to these laws shall be made without the consent and approval of the Tribal Executive Committee and of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative.

CERTIFICATION

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was duly adopted by a vote of 8 for, and 1 opposed, at a regular meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee, a quorum being present, held on April 14-15, 1969, at Bemidji, Minnesota.

Peter DeFault - President  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Pearl Fabre - Secretary  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Approved:

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Area Director



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CULTURAL STUDIES TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

STUDENT WORKSHEET QUESTIONS

UNIT IV PART I

1. How did the Indian Reorganization Act affect tribal government?
2. What important powers do tribal constitutions provide?
3. Explain how tribal sovereignty protects Indians from outside interference.
4. On the back of this sheet draw a diagram of the structure of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes government.
5. How can the constitution be changed?
6. What can the Tribal Executive Committee do to protect tribal lands?
7. What Appropriation or money power does the Tribal Executive Committee have?

UNIT IV PART II

1. What is the difference between Reservations and Service Population?
2. Compute the percentage of enrolled members who live on or near reservations. (divide column 3 into column 2.) Do it for each reservation and rank them.  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the functions of the Tribal Executive Committee?
4. List some issues that might be dealt with by any two Sub-committees.

UNIT IV PART III

1. When was the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe organized?
2. Why is the Red Lake Band not included?
3. For what reasons was the constitution written?
4. What qualifications must a new-born child meet to be an enrolled member?
5. What are the age requirements for voting and office-holding?
6. List three duties or powers of the Reservation Business Committees.
7. How can the reservation Business Committees be removed? (Give two reasons)
8. Explain the difference between the roles of the Tribal Executive Committee and a city council.
9. Who represents the six reservations on the Tribal Executive Committee?
10. Name three members of the Reservation Business Committee nearest you.

