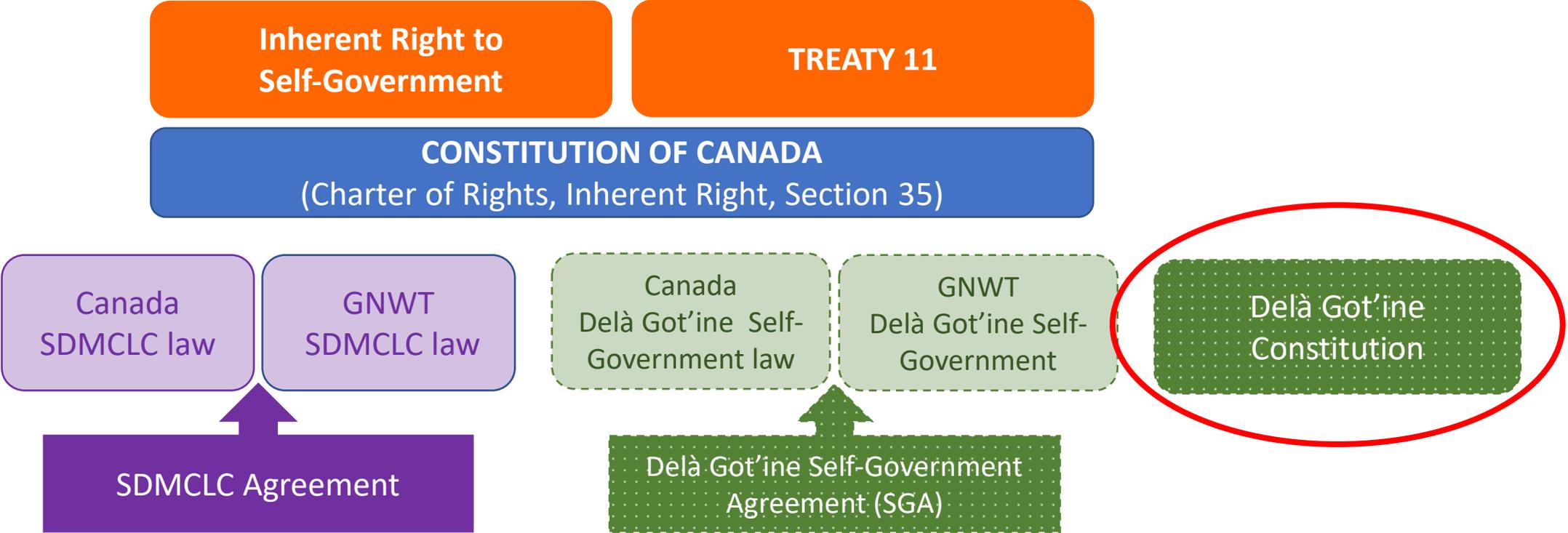


# Governance Workshop

Delà Got'ne Constitution

# How your rights will be protected under self-government



# What is a Constitution

- Highest law of the Delà Got'ine Government
- A high-level document that describes the Delà Got'ine Government and how it will govern
- Developed and approved by members only
- Must be consistent with land claim and SGA
- Cannot go against Treaty or Constitution of Canada
- Delà Got'ine Government has to follow the Constitution

# What goes in the Constitution

- **Preamble – your history, your identity and your vision**
- **Definitions – important words in your own language**
- Interpretation – how to understand the Constitution and how it works with other laws
- Structure of the Government
- How the government is elected
- Community Assembly
- **How the government will be kept accountable**
- How the government will make laws
- How the Peacemaker Court will work and what it can do
- How the Constitution can be amended

# Review: Definitions

- Review
- Any comments?

## Discussion: Preamble

The preamble describes the values and principles that will guide the Delà Got'ine Government.

It sets the tone for the rest of the document.

It should be simple and tell a brief story of who you are as Delà Got'ine and what you want for your future.

# Preamble: History and Identity

## QUESTIONS

1. What are the most important parts of your people's history that needs to in your Constitution? What events or stories should be the foundation for your government.
2. How would you describe your identity as Dela Got'ine? What makes you distinct and special?

# Preamble: Values and principles

## QUESTION

1. What are the principles and values that you want your government and your citizens to live by?

# Preamble: Delá Got'ine vision

Some ideas so far:

1. Have a self-sufficient government based on teachings from our Elders and the land that emphasize independence and determination
2. Be self-reliant and innovative so we can be more responsible because we live in harmony with our lands
3. Have a strong and prosperous government that pursues sustainable economic development and give its people the tools to be successful physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually
4. Have an accountable government where Tseduweh have the responsibility to speak and the leadership has the responsibility to listen when making decisions

## Preamble: Dela Got'ine vision

5. Government decision making authorities and practices will always be rooted in our culture and will also bring in elements of Canadian democracy when it is good for us
6. Government follows our traditional laws and will try to keep responsibility for its operations in the hands of Delá Got'ine so that the Delá Got'ine remain strong, hard working, capable and reliable
7. We will respect the spirit and intent of Treaty 11 between Delá Got'ine and the Crown

# Preamble: Delá Got'ıne vision

8. We have inherent rights of self-government, including the rights to determine Delá Got'ıne political, cultural and economic institutions, and to determine our relationships with other peoples and their governments
9. We have concluded this Self-Government Agreement in order to secure the place of Delá Got'ıne as a distinct, self-governing people within Canada
10. We will continue to try and achieve more powers over time.

# Keeping our representatives accountable

Three main ways:

1. Oath of Office
2. Code of Conduct
3. Annual Assembly

# Oath of Office

The elected representative must swear to:

- Follow the Code of Conduct and all laws, policies and traditions of the Behdzi Ahda” First Nation
- Communicate openly and keep people informed, but in a way that follows rules about confidentiality
- Not do anything to put them in conflict of interest
- Work hard and honestly for everyone, without favouring any person or family
- Act in a way that is careful and thoughtful
- Never lie or misrepresent facts
- Not allow others to influence their independent
- Treat everyone with respect, even those who are not members of the Behdzi Ahda” First Nation
- Always work for the self-determination and independence of the Behdzi Ahda” First Nation when dealing with other nations and governments
- As directed by the membership, set clear goals and be dedicated to achieve them through personal commitment, discipline and consistency
- Behave in a way that is healthy, positive and professional, with the teachings of our Elders in their heart and mind
- Work to keep a good path for the youth so they can protect the future of our grandchildren
- Try to build consensus for decisions, respect other Council members and employees of the Behdzi Ahda” First Nation so they can work as a team
- Encourage an atmosphere of caring, sharing, balance, and harmony while building trust and confidence among the Council and with all members of Behdzi Ahda” First Nation

- Is this clear?
- Is this a good Oath?
- Is there anything you would add or change to make it better?

# Code of Conduct

- Is this clear?
- Is this a good Code of Conduct?
- Is there anything you would add or change to make it better?

The Dene Bek'owere, Dene Bek'owere ke wedea and Councillors may not:

- use information they get because of their position for their own personal gain
- cannot participate in a discussion or decision that would directly benefit them or any member of their immediate family without first disclosing their conflict of interest
- participate in hiring committees for an immediate family

The immediate family members of the Dene Bek'owere, Dene Bek'owere ke wedea, or Councillor cannot get financial benefit the government unless it was through a fair and open process, approved by the Main Council.

If any elected person finds out they may have a conflict of interest they have to say something about the conflict right way and remove themselves from the decision. If Council feels it is still important for them to participate in the discussion or decision, they can describe their conflict in a Conflict of Disclosure Form so everyone is aware.