

CONSTITUTION

OF

NunatuKavut

(Noo-na-too-HA-voot)

Revised

Oct 16, 2015

Definitions

Unless explicitly stated elsewhere in these Articles:

"The Council" means the members for the time being of the Council hereby constituted.

The "NunatuKavut Community Council" represents the Inuit of NunatuKavut in the successor "communities" of the historic Inuit of South and Central Labrador.

Name and Office

1. The name is "NunatuKavut" which means 'Our Ancient Land.'
2. The registered office of NunatuKavut shall be situated in the town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Objects of Nunatukavut

3. The objects for which NunatuKavut is established are:
 - a. To participate in all of the legal, civil and constitutional Aboriginal rights and liberties enjoyed in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and in Canada.
 - b. To preserve the traditional culture (e.g., music, food preparation, ceremonies/gatherings, survival skills, efficient ways of living off the land while preserving it) of the membership and to demonstrate pride and self-respect in the Inuit heritage and language.
 - c. To maintain hunting, fishing, trapping and land rights of the membership and the right to pursue traditional activities.
 - d. To use research, disseminate information and sponsor directly or indirectly the development of viable economic projects and programs.
 - e. To improve the well-being (e.g., social, economic, physical, psychological) of the members.
 - f. To self-govern.
 - g. To have an agreed upon map of our own territory.
 - h. To use negotiated funds to compensate the people for any losses for disruption to their lifestyle or destruction of resources.

- i. To set up a business development corporation (now known as NUNACOR) to enhance the financial well-being of the NunatuKavut communities

Membership

4. NunatuKavut shall represent the full resident membership living in Central/Northern Labrador Area, Western Labrador Area, Sandwich Bay/Island of Ponds Area, Bolsters rock to Spear Point Area, and Battle Harbour Area and Straits Area, and approved non-resident and alliance members.
5. The number of representatives shall be as outlined in Schedule A of the Bylaws and shall not change without an affirmative motion of the membership.
6. There are three classes of membership. Any person wishing to become a member shall make application to the registered office for the relevant type of membership. The registered office shall amend the application where the applicant qualifies for a type of membership other than the one specified in the application.
7. Membership cards shall be for five years only. Membership is a lifetime membership subject to membership criteria review, resignation or expulsion by the council.
8. Types of Memberships (See Table Below)

Type	Who	Where	Criteria	Entitlement
Full members-resident	A person of Inuit descent who is a member of the historic Inuit community of South/Central Labrador and who is accepted by the Modern Inuit community as represented by NunatuKavut	1. A citizen of Canada 2. A current permanent resident of one of the outlined areas. 2. Lived for the past six months in one of the areas defined in the Bylaws.	1. Cannot be a full member in any other aboriginal organization. 2. Full access applies unless otherwise stated in specific program/service criteria 3. Fulfills the commitment associated with the specific program/service 4. Paid the specified fee 5. Is bound to further to the best of his ability the objectives, interests and influences of NunatuKavut, and shall observe all the by-laws and policies.	To all of the rights, benefits and privileges as defined by the Council.
Full members-non-resident	A person of Inuit descent who is a member of the historic Inuit community of South/Central Labrador and who is accepted by the Modern Inuit community as represented by NunatuKavut)	1. A citizen of Canada 2. Maintains current contact with members living in one of the designated areas. 3. One parent or grand parent was of Inuit descent and resident of one of the designated areas.	1. Cannot be a full member in any other aboriginal organization. 2. Access depends on stated program/service criteria 3. Fulfills the commitment associated with the specific program/service 4. Paid the specified fee 5. Is bound to further to the best of his ability the objectives, interests and influences of NunatuKavut, and shall observe all the by-laws and policies.	To the rights, benefits and privileges defined by the Council.
Alliance Member	An Aboriginal person who does not qualify for full membership	1. Lived in the NunatuKavut Area for a minimum of seven years Or 2. One parent or grand parent was aboriginal and was primarily resident for a minimum of seven years in one of the designated communities.	1. Unless specified by NunatuKavut, do not have harvesting, voting, representational and other rights limited to full members- resident 2. Cannot be a full member in any other aboriginal organization. 3. Access depends on stated program/service criteria 4. Fulfills the commitment associated with the specific program/service 5. Paid the specified fee 6. Is bound to further to the best of his ability the objectives, interests and influences of NunatuKavut, and shall observe all the applicable by-laws and policies.	Based solely on program/ service criteria

Finances and Property

9. The income and property of Nunatukavut, however derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of objects of Nunatukavut.
10. Members who are hired as employees shall receive the salary associated with the position.
11. Council members, other than the President, shall not be paid other than out-of-pocket expenses unless approved by an affirmative by-law of Nunatukavut.
12. Nunatukavut shall carry liability insurance for the Council members.
13. In event of the dissolution of Nunatukavut, members shall not be compensated for any contribution to Nunatukavut unless there are assets remaining and, in such a case, these shall be distributed equally among the full member- residents.
14. True account shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by Nunatukavut and an annual audit shall be conducted by a qualified auditor(s).

Amendments to the Constitution

15. Any additions, alterations or amendments to the Constitution proposed by the members shall be provided to the council no less than 90 days prior to date of the next Annual General Assembly, and all proposed additions, alterations or amendments shall be posted by the Council publically for the members information no less than 28 days prior to the Annual General Assembly (AGA).
16. Constitutional amendments can be voted on only at an AGA.

Meetings:

17. The AGA shall consist of Annual Community Meetings (ACM) in locales where more than 25 full members reside and a formal AGA in one community.
18. The votes taken in the locales shall be counted and added to the vote at the AGA to determine whether resolutions to effect changes to the Constitution shall come into effect.
19. No person shall vote more than once on the same resolution.
20. An Annual General Assembly shall be held each year and shall be held alternately in one of the four Areas which include: Central-Northern/Western Labrador Area;

Sandwich Bay/Island of Ponds Area; Bolsters Rock to Spear Point Area; and Battle Harbour/Straits Area.

21. The date and location of the Annual General Assembly shall be set by the Council and shall be held no later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Assembly
22. At each Annual General Assembly the following business shall be transacted:
 - (a) Consideration of the President's report;
 - (b) Consideration of the Auditor's reports;
 - (c) Appointment of Auditors for the next ensuring reports;
 - (d) Updates regarding new programs; and
 - (e) Business.

Voting Items

- resolutions to change the Constitution (3/4 affirmative vote required)
- resolutions which provide general directions to the council (simple majority vote required)

Discussion Items

- recommendations for changes to the Bylaws
- recommendations for changes to Governance Policies

23. A quorum for a combination of the annual community meetings and the Annual General Assembly shall be 120.

Referenda

24. The Council may decide to hold a referendum between AGAs to deal with issues which require membership input.

Voting:

25. Every full member, sixteen (16) years of age and over, shall be eligible to vote.
26. Voting shall be conducted in person, and may be conducted via mail in ballot or electronic means, unless a bylaw precludes the use of such processes for voting.
27. No voting shall be conducted by proxy.
28. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall apply unless otherwise stated in the Constitution, the Bylaws, or the Governance Policies.
29. Elections shall be done by secret ballot, and the Elections Officer appointed by the Council shall collect the totals and prepare a final count.

30. A three-fourths majority of votes cast at the community meetings and AGA shall be required to pass a resolution that proposes to amend the Constitution.
31. All of the Executive of the Council, except the President, shall be elected from among the Council members.

Officers and Council

32. The roles of the Executive Officers of Nunatukavut shall be outlined in the Bylaws and Governance Policies.
33. All nominations for President and Councilors, who shall be full-member residents, shall be filed with the Council 28 days before the day set for the election, and to retain his/her position on Council shall remain a resident of the Area he/she was elected to represent.
34. Nominations shall be signed by the candidate and by ten other full-members. Nominees shall also pay the applicable fee as may be prescribed from time to time as part of the filing of their nomination papers.”
35. The Elections Officer appointed by the Council shall be responsible for the preparation of the ballots and the supervision of the tabulation of votes.
36. When a position or positions become vacant on the Council, the Council shall appoint a new member(s) to fill the vacant position(s), and that person(s) shall remain in his/her position(s) until the next election.

Powers of the Council

37. The Council shall have all the powers of governance of Nunatukavut.
38. The Council shall fulfill the role outlined in the governance policies to aid further in the carrying out of the objects of Nunatukavut.
39. The Council shall revoke a membership where the member violates the conditions of membership.
40. The Council shall review the Areas every four years, commencing 2015.

Revisions:

Nov 2, 2012

Section 7 Ammended, Section 3 (i) addition

Nov 7, 2014

1. Definition expanded to name who NCC represents
2. Insertion of Schedule B in By-Laws which defines designated areas. This includes a name change for the former areas of Labrador White Bear, Eagle River and Central Labrador. It also expands designated communities to include **all** towns/villages in Labrador. These names changes are reflected in Article 20 and other applicable articles in the Constitution, Bylaws and Governance Policies.
3. Changes to membership Criteria Table (Article 8)
4. Article 15 amended to include deadlines for membership submission of constitutional resolutions and also timeframe for posting of such resolutions prior to the AGA.
5. Article 22 amended to reflect business that **shall** be transacted at the AGA.
6. Article 26 amended to expand voting options if resources allow.
7. Article 33 amended to expand the timeframe between close of nominations and Election Day.

October 16, 2015

1. Article #25 ammended to expand voting to full members-non resident.
2. Atricle # 34 ammended to expand the signatures required on nomination forms, and to allow for possible implementation of a fee.