



# Constitution of the Haida Nation

## HAIDA PROCLAMATION

Iid kuuniisii asii id gii isda gan. Tllgaay ad siigaay Gan t'alang aaxana ad yahguudang. Huu tllguu Giidan hlk'inxa gaa.ngang xaayda hllng.aay gud giijaagids, gaay Gaaganuu gam gina daaGang.nga id gwii is hllnga Gang ga. XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay Gaaganuu iid xaynanga ga. Asii gwaay.yaay guu, iid kuuniisii xaynang.nga, ad siing.gwaa'ad gan. Sah 'Laana Tllgaay Gaa id gii kyaagang.ngaay Gaaw aan t'ang naaxang sGwaan.nang Gas ga. Iid sihlGa ga xaynangas gii t'alang t'aas.slas, asii kyang.gaay llgaay 'waagii kilxii gang ga.

- HlGaagilda Xaayda kil translation by the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program

Iitl' kuníisii áajii gwaayee iitl' ga t'asdlagan. Áajii gwáayee inggu gin 'waadluwaan t'aláng isdaas Gan t'aláng yahgudáng-gaa, gin 'waadluwaan t'aláng isdaas uu áajii tlagee, isgyaan siis, isgyaan sangee sda isgáagang. Áajii gwáayee kiid k'úlaas ginaan iitl' xaadaas asán Giidang, ahljii ahluu tliisdluu iitl' ga 'wáajaagahls dluu, itl' gwii asán káahlasang. Áajii gwáayee uu iitl' ga xíinang-gee ísdagan. Iitl' kuníisii gin Gaatláandagiinii ginaan uu wéed xaadee gin Gaatláahlal hlangaas gin Gan unsadasaang. Áajii gwaayee inggu iitl' kuníisii xíinangaagiinii, wéed áadlan 'l hlGíwaawaang. Áajii gwaayee inggu iitl' asán xíinangaas k'yaahl gu tliisdluwaan iitl' asan áadlan hlGíwaa'asaang.

- Gaaw Xaad Kil Translation by L. Bell and Dr. M. Boelscher Ignace

The Haida Nation is the rightful heir to Haida Gwaii. Our culture is born of respect; and intimacy with the land and sea and the air around us. Like the forests, the roots of our people are intertwined such that the greatest troubles cannot overcome us. We owe our existence to Haida Gwaii. The living generation accepts the responsibility to ensure that our heritage is passed on to following generations. On these islands our ancestors lived and died and here too, we will make our homes until called away to join them in the great beyond.

## ARTICLE 1 HAIDA TERRITORIES

**A1.S1** The Territories of the Haida Nation include the entire lands of Haida Gwaii, the surrounding waters, sub-surface and the air space. The waters include the entire Dixon Entrance, half of the Hecate Straits, halfway to Vancouver Island and Westward into the abyssal ocean depths.

**A1.S2** The Haida Nation recognizes the independent and separate jurisdiction of the Kaigani Haida.

## **ARTICLE 2 THE PEOPLE**

- A2.S1** All people of Haida ancestry are citizens of the Haida Nation.
- A2.S2** The Haida Nation reserves the exclusive right to determine additional Haida citizenship through a formal process accepted by the Haida Nation.
- A2.S3** Adoption of persons not of Haida ancestry by Haida families does not confer Haida hereditary or aboriginal rights to the land or right to citizenship of the Haida Nation.
- A2.S4** No external government or judiciary may impose rights of Haida citizenship to an individual who is not entitled by Haida ancestry.
- A2.S5** “Citizen of Haida Gwaii” is an honorary designation, which may be conferred to a person who is not of Haida ancestry. Such bestowal shall not be construed as granting of Haida citizenship or Haida hereditary or aboriginal rights.

## **ARTICLE 3 RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

### **Collective Haida Rights**

- A3.S1** The Haida Nation collectively holds hereditary and aboriginal title and rights to Haida territories.
- A3.S2** The Haida Nation collectively holds cultural and intellectual property rights of the Haida Nation and will protect the integrity of these rights.

### **Individual Rights**

- A3.S3** Every Haida citizen has a right to access all Haida Gwaii resources for cultural reasons, food, or commerce consistent with the laws of nature and as reflected in the laws of the Haida Nation.
- A3.S4** Every Haida citizen has the freedom to remain in, enter, or leave the territories of the Haida Nation.
- A3.S5** Every Haida citizen has the right to hold other citizenship as they choose.
- A3.S6** Every Haida citizen has the right of conscience, religion, thought, belief, opinion, expression, association, and privacy.
- A3.S7** Every Haida Citizen shall have access to all public records of the Council of the Haida Nation except in the case of someone found to be guilty of or suspected of treasonous acts, in which case, they will be informed of the reason for denying access.
- A3.S8** No natural born Haida citizen can have their Haida citizenship taken from them.

## **ARTICLE 4 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

**A4.S1** The official languages of the Haida Nation are Haida and English.

## **ARTICLE 5 HAIDA NATION GOVERNANCE**

### **Council of the Haida Nation**

**A5.S1** The governing power of the Haida Nation shall be vested in the Council of the Haida Nation.

**A5.S2** The Council of the Haida Nation shall uphold the principles embodied in the Haida Accord enacted by the hereditary chiefs, Council of the Haida Nation, Old Massett Village Council, and Skidegate Band Council.

**A5.S3** The Council of the Haida Nation shall consist of fourteen elected representatives:

- (a) a President
- (b) a Vice President;
- (c) four regional representatives for HIGaagilda *Skidegate*;
- (d) four regional representatives for Gaaw *Old Massett*;
- (e) two regional representatives for T'agwan *Vancouver*; and
- (f) two regional representatives for Kxeen *Prince Rupert*.

**A5.S4** The Council of the Haida Nation shall establish an Executive Committee and standing committees, and may establish ad hoc committees of elected representatives to carry out the Council of the Haida Nation mandate.

**A5.S5** The Council of the Haida Nation may delegate a consenting Haida citizen to represent the Council of the Haida Nation on specific matters. Citizens representing the Council of the Haida Nation must abide by the Haida Nation's laws, policies, and objectives. The Council of the Haida Nation may rescind this responsibility at any time.

### **Village and Band Councils**

**A5.S6** In addition to the elected representatives, Old Massett Village Council and Skidegate Band Council will each appoint a councillor to the Council of the Haida Nation.

### **Hereditary Chiefs Council**

**A5.S7** The potlatched hereditary chiefs will assemble as the Hereditary Chiefs Council to address issues of the Haida Nation.

**A5.S8** The hereditary chiefs will be notified of sittings of the Council of the Haida Nation and will be requested to attend.

## **Secretariat of the Haida Nation**

- A5.S9** The Council of the Haida Nation shall establish and maintain the Secretariat of the Haida Nation.
- A5.S10** The Secretariat of the Haida Nation will include representatives of the Council of the Haida Nation, Old Massett Village Council, Skidegate Band Council, and the Hereditary Chiefs Council. The Secretariat will report to the Council of the Haida Nation and to the House of Assembly.

## **House of Assembly**

- A5.S11** The lawmaking authority of the Haida Nation shall be vested in the House of Assembly.
- A5.S12** The decisions of the voting Haida citizens of the Haida Nation at a House of Assembly will be binding upon the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A5.S13** The Council of the Haida Nation will develop and enact policies pursuant to legislation adopted at the House of Assembly and in accordance with this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 6 MANDATE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION**

- A6.S1** The mandate of the Council of the Haida Nation is to steward the lands and waters of the Haida Territories on behalf of the Haida Nation, and to perpetuate Haida culture and language for future generations.
- A6.S2** The Council of the Haida Nation shall strive for the full independence, sovereignty, and self-sufficiency of the Haida Nation.
- A6.S3** The Council of the Haida Nation shall protect the domestic and foreign interests of the Haida Nation and territories through long-term strategies, negotiations, and steps consistent with this Constitution.
- A6.S4** The Council of the Haida Nation shall promote peaceful co-existence with other people and governments without compromise to the objectives of the Haida Nation.
- A6.S5** The Council of the Haida Nation, in carrying out its mandate, will strive for the betterment of rights for Indigenous peoples.
- A6.S6** The Council of the Haida Nation shall establish land and ocean resource policies consistent with nature's ability to produce. The policies will be applicable to all users of the territories.
- A6.S7** The Council of the Haida Nation shall regulate access to resources by citizens of the Haida Nation and other users of Haida Gwaii.

- A6.S8** The Council of the Haida Nation, through open and transparent consultation, will develop processes that will be implemented for the use and the allocation of potential benefits derived from the resources of Haida Gwaii for the benefit of the Haida Nation.
- A6.S9** The Council of the Haida Nation shall conduct the external affairs of the Haida Nation.
- A6.S10** The Council of the Haida Nation shall provide for the common defense of the Haida Nation.
- A6.S11** The Council of the Haida Nation shall keep the citizens of the Haida Nation fully informed by publishing reports and reporting out on the activities of Council of the Haida Nation three times per year, excepting such parts that may in their judgment, require confidentiality.
- A6.S12** The Vice President shall widely advertise these reporting sessions at least seven days prior to the sitting.
- A6.S13** The Council of the Haida Nation shall keep a record of proceedings.
- A6.S14** The Council of the Haida Nation will publish “Haida Laas” as the official publication of the Haida Nation.

## **ARTICLE 7 COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION**

- A7.S1** Council of the Haida Nation representatives will uphold the principles and dignity of the Haida Nation at all times.
- A7.S2** All Council of the Haida Nation representatives must act and be seen to be acting in the best interest of the Haida Nation, and in accordance with all Council of the Haida Nation adopted policies.
- A7.S3** Interpretations of Council of the Haida Nation policy shall be determined by a three-quarter majority of the Council of the Haida Nation quorum.
- A7.S4** All Council of the Haida Nation elected representatives shall have one vote on all matters in the Council of the Haida Nation requiring a vote.
- A7.S5** The Council of the Haida Nation representatives shall be elected by the voting citizens of the Haida Nation.
- A7.S6** The Council of the Haida Nation shall hold elections in accordance with the Council of the Haida Nation Election Act as adopted by the House of Assembly.
- A7.S7** Election day for Council of the Haida Nation representatives shall be the first Saturday of December in election years, and pursuant to the timelines specified in the Council of the Haida Nation Election Act.

- A7.S8** The term of office for Council of the Haida Nation representatives is three years, ending at the swearing in of the following election.
- A7.S9** Elected Council of the Haida Nation representatives must be Haida citizens.
- A7.S10** Elected Council of the Haida Nation representatives may not hold an elected position on a village or band council.
- A7.S11** No elected representative of the Council of the Haida Nation, or person or entity engaged by the Council of the Haida Nation, may use their position or privileged information acquired in the relationship with the Council of the Haida Nation for personal or other gain.

### **The President of the Haida Nation**

- A7.S12** The President is the political leader and first speaker of the Haida Nation.
- A7.S13** The President is responsible for regulating the activities of the Council of the Haida Nation in a manner consistent with this Constitution.
- A7.S14** The President must reside on Haida Gwaii within sixty days of being sworn in.
- A7.S15** The President shall take direction from the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A7.S16** The President, with consent of the Council of the Haida Nation, may appoint a specific portfolio to a Council of the Haida Nation representative. Through the same process, appointments may be rescinded.
- A7.S17** The President, with consent of the Council of the Haida Nation, may appoint specific tasks to any consenting Haida Citizen. Through the same process, appointments may be rescinded.

### **The Vice President of the Haida Nation**

- A7.S18** The Vice President is the second speaker of the Haida Nation.
- A7.S19** The Vice President must reside on Haida Gwaii within sixty days of being sworn in.
- A7.S20** The Vice President shall take direction from the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A7.S21** The Vice President shall call the sittings of the Council of the Haida Nation, and shall oversee Council of the Haida Nation activities.

## **Regional Representatives:**

- A7.S22** Council of the Haida Nation regional representatives shall be elected to represent Haida Citizens. Council of the Haida Nation regional representatives will form the base for consultation and participation between the Council of the Haida Nation and Haida citizens.
- A7.S23** Regional representatives must reside in the region in which they are elected within 60 days of being sworn in.

## **Departure of Council of the Haida Nation Representatives**

- A7.S24** In the case of departure of any Council of the Haida Nation representative due to resignation, disability, discharge, or loss of life, the Council of the Haida Nation Election Act shall apply.
- A7.S25** If the office of the President becomes vacant, the powers and duties of the President will be passed to the Vice President forthwith.
- A7.S26** If the office of the Vice President becomes vacant, the Council of the Haida Nation shall, from among their numbers, select a new Vice President.
- A7.S27** In the case of departure of both the President and Vice President, a House of Assembly will be convened by the elected representatives, and the House of Assembly shall decide which representatives will fill those seats, or may call a general election.
- A7.S28** If the office of any regional representative becomes vacant, the Council of the Haida Nation may appoint an alternate to fill the vacancy, or choose to have a by-election.
- A7.S29** In the case of departure of any elected representative, positions of appointment may be recalled or re-appointed by the Council of the Haida Nation.

## **Executive Committee**

- A7.S30** The Executive Committee conducts the affairs of Council of the Haida Nation between regular sittings of the full Council. This Committee shall be accountable to the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A7.S31** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President and Vice President, and one regional representative from each of Gaaw and HIGaagilda.

## **Sittings of the Council of the Haida Nation**

- A7.S32** Regular sittings of the Council of the Haida Nation to report out to citizens will be held three times per year, with one sitting to coincide with the House of Assembly.

- A7.S33** The reporting out sittings of the Council of the Haida Nation will be widely advertised to the Haida public at least seven days prior to the sitting. These sittings will alternate between HIGaagilda and Gaaw.
- A7.S34** Special sittings may be called by written notice signed by the President or Vice President of the Haida Nation, or by the majority of the Council of the Haida Nation, and at such sittings the Council of the Haida Nation may transact any business and take any actions within its powers.
- A7.S35** At all sittings of the Council of the Haida Nation, a quorum shall consist of eight representatives. No business shall be transacted unless there is a quorum.
- A7.S36** Whether assembled or not, a Council of the Haida Nation quorum can transact any business or take any action within the powers of the Council of the Haida Nation, provided that the Council of the Haida Nation has fully consulted with each Council of the Haida Nation representative. The decision of the quorum must be submitted in writing to the President for preservation in the record of proceedings.
- A7.S37** Forty Haida citizens, by petition to the Vice President of the Haida Nation or a quorum of the Council of the Haida Nation, may call a sitting of the Council of the Haida Nation within thirty days of receipt of petition by the Vice President.
- (a) The Hereditary Chiefs Council will review petitions to determine whether there are grounds for holding a special sitting of the Council of the Haida Nation.
  - (b) Special sittings of the Council of the Haida Nation will only deal with the items brought forward in the petition, and will be signed by the Vice President.
  - (c) Petitions for a special sitting of the Council of the Haida Nation will be reviewed based on existing Council of the Haida Nation approved policies, procedures, and regulations.
- A7.S38** All votes of the Council of the Haida Nation are recorded in the record of proceedings of the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A7.S39** Activities of the Council of the Haida Nation will be decided by a three-quarter majority vote.

## **ARTICLE 8 SECRETARIAT OF THE HAIDA NATION**

- A8.S1** The Secretariat will administer the Haida Nation treasury and holdings and manage the programs and staff of the Haida Nation, as directed by the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A8.S2** Pursuant to the policies and directives of the Council of the Haida Nation, the Secretariat may:
- (a) Borrow money on the credit of the Haida Nation with consent of the Council of the Haida Nation;



- (b) Regulate commerce with foreign nations and among domestic communities;
- (c) Coin money and regulate the value thereof;
- (d) Lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises, to pay the debts and costs associated with supporting the Haida governance; and provide for the general welfare of the Haida Nation.
- (e) Employ such persons or institutions deemed necessary by the Council of the Haida Nation to carry out the Council of the Haida Nation mandate.

## **ARTICLE 9 HEREDITARY CHIEFS COUNCIL**

- A9.S1** Heredity is an internal matter formalized through the ancient clan customs of the Haida Nation.
- (a) The Haida Nation is a matrilineal society, and we recognize the prominent role of our hereditary matriarchs as part of our governing body.
- A9.S2** One potlatched Chief from each clan will sit at the Hereditary Chiefs Council.
- (a) A Hereditary Chief may, with written notice, appoint a spokesperson to sit in their place.
- A9.S3** The Hereditary Chiefs Council will regulate its own activities through a process of a minimum of a three-quarter majority of a quorum of members.
- A9.S4** Prior to a referendum vote by the Haida Nation, the Hereditary Chiefs Council will approve or disapprove any international agreements between the Haida Nation and other nations that are directly related to Haida title and rights.
- A9.S5** The Hereditary Chiefs Council shall uphold the principles embodied in the Haida Accord enacted by Hereditary Chiefs, Council of the Haida Nation, Old Massett Village Council, and Skidegate Band Council.

## **ARTICLE 10 VILLAGE COUNCILS**

- A10.S1** Old Massett Village Council and Skidegate Band Council perform the functions of local government for their respective communities.
- A10.S2** Haida Village Councils are responsible for the well-being of their communities.
- A10.S3** Village Council responsibilities include, but are not limited to, delivery of programs and services regarding cultural, social, education, health, economic, and municipal services.

- A10.S4** Village Councils shall each make an appointment of one of their council members to the Council of the Haida Nation, and shall have the authority to recall these appointments with written notice to the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A10.S5** Village Council representatives will uphold the principles and dignity of the Haida Nation at all times.
- A10.S6** Village Council representatives shall uphold the principles embodied in the Haida Accord enacted by Hereditary Chiefs, Council of the Haida Nation, Old Massett Village Council, and Skidegate Band Council.

## **ARTICLE 11 HAIDA CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- A11.S1** Any voting-eligible Haida Citizen may propose to the House of Assembly that the Council of the Haida Nation develop policy or legislation and vote to determine whether it is adopted.
- A11.S2** The voting Haida citizens of the Haida Nation will elect representatives to the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A11.S3** Any Haida citizen may attend and participate in Council of the Haida Nation meetings, and will be subject to Council of the Haida Nation policies.
- A11.S4** Haida citizens may recall any or all members of the elected Council of the Haida Nation in accordance with this Constitution and the Council of the Haida Nation policies.
- A11.S5** Consenting Haida citizens may receive an appointment from the Council of the Haida Nation for specific tasks. The Council of the Haida Nation may rescind such an appointment at any time.
- A11.S6** Any Haida citizen who is 16 years of age or older on the day of voting may vote in Council of the Haida Nation elections, general votes, or referendums.

## **ARTICLE 12 THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

- A12.S1** The House of Assembly will be held during the third week of October of each year.
- A12.S2** Annual Houses of Assembly shall alternate between HlGaagilda and Gaaw.
- A12.S3** Houses of Assembly shall be called by the Vice President of the Haida Nation, or Council of the Haida Nation designate, with twenty days public notice.
- A12.S4** The Vice President, or Council of the Haida Nation designate, may call additional sittings of the House of Assembly to be held throughout the year with twenty days notice given by Council of the Haida Nation.

- A12.S5** The President, Vice President, and all elected representatives of the Council of the Haida Nation shall attend and participate at all Houses of Assembly.
- A12.S6** The House of Assembly may establish tribunals of exclusive jurisdiction.
- A12.S7** The quorum of the House of Assembly shall be forty voting eligible Haida citizens. The presiding chairperson of the House shall confirm that a quorum of citizens is present prior to any call for votes.
- A12.S8** Resolutions and motions at the House of Assembly will be valid with the approval of a three-quarter majority of the votes cast.
- A12.S9** The Vice President of the Haida Nation or Council of the Haida Nation designate shall ensure the House of Assembly is audio and written recorded.
- A12.S10** By petition and signature, submitted to Council of the Haida Nation, one hundred voting eligible Haida citizens may call for a Special House of Assembly. The Vice President of the Haida Nation shall call and implement this House of Assembly no later than thirty days of receiving the petition.
- (a) Hereditary Chiefs Council determines whether there are grounds for holding a Special House of Assembly.
  - (b) Special House of Assembly Agendas will only deal with the items brought forward in the petition; and to be signed off by the Vice President of the Haida Nation.
  - (c) Petitions will be reviewed based on existing Council of the Haida Nation and Secretariat of the Haida Nation approved policies, procedures and regulations.

## **ARTICLE 13 INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS**

- A13.S1** Amongst other strategies, Council of the Haida Nation will pursue the goals of the Haida Nation through negotiations and diplomacy.
- A13.S2** The Council of the Haida Nation shall inform all Haida citizens of all negotiations enacted.
- A13.S3** The Council of the Haida Nation will oversee the negotiation process and will provide the negotiators with the goals and objectives as well as ongoing direction and advice.
- A13.S4** Development of International Agreements shall proceed with full consultation of Haida citizens, Hereditary Chiefs Council, and Village Councils.
- A13.S5** A final draft of any international agreement must first be accepted by the Council of the Haida Nation and must then receive a minimum of a three-quarter majority of the Hereditary Chiefs Council, and if so accepted, the Council of the Haida Nation will conduct a vote of the Haida citizens. International agreements must receive approval of a majority of at least three-quarters of the votes cast.

- A13.S6** All international agreements which go beyond the mandate as laid out in Article 6 must be ratified by at least three-quarters of the votes cast by eligible voting Haida citizens in a referendum vote.
- A13.S7** Signatories to international agreements will be the President and Vice President of the Council of the Haida Nation and the Hereditary Chiefs Council.

#### **ARTICLE 14 DISCIPLINE AND REMOVAL OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

- A14.S1** Any representative who, in the line of duty, is cited for neglect of duty, servitude, and public activity disrespectful to the dignity of office shall be subject to the Notice of Conduct process in this Constitution.
- A14.S2** Any representative who misses three formal sittings without valid reason may be subject to the Notice of Conduct process by a three-quarter majority of the remaining representatives of the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A14.S3** Any representative who has acted in a manner deemed to warrant immediate action shall be asked to resign by a quorum of the Council of the Haida Nation without the issuance of a second Notice of Conduct.

#### **Notice of Conduct Process**

- A14.S4** Concerns regarding a representative's conduct must be submitted to the Council of the Haida Nation in writing.
- A14.S5** The Council of the Haida Nation will investigate all incidences, and with a three-quarter majority of the Council, may issue a Notice of Conduct calling for a corrective course of action.
- A14.S6** The Council of the Haida Nation may issue a second Notice of Conduct, which may be a call for resignation or removal from the Council of the Haida Nation.
- A14.S7** Decisions of conduct made by the Council of the Haida Nation must be pursuant to this Constitution, the Haida Accord, and the Council of the Haida Nation's policies.
- A14.S8** The Hereditary Chiefs will be notified of all Notices of Conduct served.
- A14.S9** Citizens may submit petitions for removal of a representative to the Council of the Haida Nation and the Hereditary Chiefs Council for review.
- (a) The Hereditary Chiefs Council will make a recommendation to the Council of the Haida Nation, and the Council's decision must pass with votes from a three-quarter majority of the Council.
- (b) Petitions may result in a Notice of Conduct or a call for resignation or removal from the Council of the Haida Nation.

- (c) Any petition must contain signatures of three-quarters of the votes cast for the representative in the election, or 50 signatures, whichever is greater.

**A14.S10** Any representative removed from their position may appeal to the Judicial Tribunal.

## **ARTICLE 15 JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL**

**A15.S1** A Judicial Tribunal may be convened to resolve internal conflicts in a timely way.

**A15.S2** A Judicial Tribunal will be convened only when:

- (a) All other Haida Nation processes have been exhausted to bring an issue to closure; and
- (b) All parties agree, in writing, to accept and abide by the findings and ruling of the Tribunal.

**A.15.S3** On consultation and agreement with the Hereditary Chiefs' Council and the Village Councils, the Council of the Haida Nation will select and appoint three (3) Haida citizens to convene a Judicial Tribunal for a specific issue.

**A.15.S4** Convened Judicial Tribunals will uphold the principles of the Constitution of the Haida Nation and the Haida Accord.

**A.15.S5** Hearings of Judicial Tribunals shall be open to Haida citizens.

## **ARTICLE 16 RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION**

**A16.S1** This Constitution must be adopted at the House of Assembly by a three-quarter majority of votes cast.

**A16.S2** From the time of adoption, this Constitution will be the basis of the law of the Haida Nation.

**A16.S3** The Constitution of the Haida Nation is the highest written law, reflecting the highest values of the Haida Nation, and any law that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution is, to the extent of the inconsistency, of no force or effect.

## **ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENTS**

**A17.S1** Amendments to the Constitution of the Haida Nation may be made only at the House of Assembly by a three-quarter majority of eligible voters present.

**A17.S2** This Constitution may be amended:

- (a) By resolution for an eighteen year period following the initial adoption of this Constitution at a House of Assembly, ending in 2020, with a widely advertised two month Notice of Change; and thereafter:
- (b) by resolution with a widely advertised two month notice of change for minor or administrative edits that do not change the original intent of the text; or
- (c) By resolution after four public readings over a two year period, two of which must be at a House of Assembly for any substantive changes that change the intent or interpretation of the original text. The readings must be widely advertised at least one month in advance.

This Constitution was adopted at the House of Assembly on October 19, 2018.



---

kil tlaats 'gaa  
*Peter Lantin*  
President of the Haida Nation



---

Ginn wadluu un uula isdaa ayaagang  
*Trevor Russ*  
Vice President of the Haida Nation