



CHIEFS OF ONTARIO – FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURES

**Presented to Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
August 7, 2015**

Background

- 13 strong nations – 13 languages, knowledge systems and cultural practices
 - Algonquin, Mississauga, Ojibway, Onondaga, Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Cree, Odawa, Pottowatomi and Delaware.
- Contact
 - Treaties (pre, post and modern)
 - Outline the relationship and responsibilities of the partners in the agreement
 - Are mutually binding obligations that are to be solemnly respected
 - Ontario is covered by 46 treaties and other agreements (1781 and 1930), such as land purchases by the Crown.



Background cont'd

- Assimilation, paternalism and control
 - *Royal Proclamation* 1763
 - *Gradual Civilization Act* 1857
 - *British North American Act* 1867
 - *Gradual Enfranchisement* 1869
 - *Indian Act* 1876 (several amendments since)



First Nation Communities

Collective Community Affiliations

- Tribal Councils
- Provincial Territorial Organizations
- Others
- Chiefs of Ontario
- Assembly of First Nations

COMPONENTS OF THE CURRENT STRUCTURE



First Nation Communities

- Jurisdiction is held here
- First Nation governments
 - Elected Chief and Council
- 133 in what is known as Ontario
- Chiefs vote for Regional Chief
 - Traditional election
 - 3 year term



Tribal Councils

- Organizations established by a number of First Nations with common interests who voluntarily join together to provide advisory and/or program services to Member First Nations
- 17 in Ontario
- Have undergone massive cuts from AANDC in the past several years
 - \$46.4 million to 78 tribal councils in 2011-12 to \$16.6 million as of April 1, 2014.
- 21 First Nations in Ontario remain unaffiliated with any Tribal Council
- Non-political



Provincial Territorial Organizations

- 5 Treaty-based / inherent rights-based organizations/groupings have emerged in Ontario that represent most of the 133 First Nations' political concerns, treaty interests, lands and resources, land claims and entitlements, health, education, social services, cultural knowledge systems, as well as economic and political rights.



PTOs and Others

PTOs

- Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians – 7
- Grand Council Treaty No. 3 – 24
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation – 47
- Anishinabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians) – 39

Others

- Independent First Nations – 12
- 4 unaffiliated First Nations



Chiefs of Ontario

- Legal name – Indian Associations Coordinating Committee of Ontario Inc.
- A not-for-profit federal corporation since 1982
- Purpose - to serve the needs of First Nations in Ontario by:
 - Discussing issues and deciding on priorities
 - Coordinating an annual all Ontario Chiefs conference including post conference activities
 - Formulating positions and policies by facilitating discussion, planning, monitoring and evaluation of issues



COO – Key Components & Functions

- Board of Directors
 - Grand Chiefs of the 4 PTO's
 - General corporate management
 - COO Chief Operating Officer reports to the Board and manages day-to-day operations
- Regional Chief
 - Selected by 133 Chiefs
 - AFN Vice Chief Ontario Region
 - Political Staff



COO – Key Components & Functions

- Political Confederacy
 - General mandate – to foster Nationhood and facilitate development and implementation of inherent jurisdiction and public policy where traditional governance in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres of our people can re-emerge.
 - Composition
 - 4 Grand Chiefs
 - Independent FN rep
 - Six Nations
 - Akwesasne
 - Mushkegowuk
 - ORC is non-voting Chair



COO – Key Components & Functions

Secretariat

- Sectors
- Chief Operating Officer
- Directors
- Policy Analysts
- Coordinators
- Coordination Units
- Connection with political?
 - Portfolio holder – PC
 - Chiefs committees
- Connection with communities?
 - One on one
 - Through PTOs
 - Through Tribal Councils



Assembly of First Nations

- A national advocacy organization representing First Nations rights holders in Canada living in 634 First Nation territories across the country.
- Chiefs' assemblies occur twice a year and provide the AFN with direction through resolutions.
- An Executive Committee comprised of the National Chief, 10 Regional Chiefs, and the Chairs of the Council of Elders, Youth and Women respectively directs the AFN on a daily basis.

