

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE LITTLE SHELL
OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF MONTANA

PREAMBLE

We, the original Tribe of Chippewa Indians under the late Thomas Little Shell known as the Little Shell Tribe of the State of Montana.

Being Grateful to the Almighty God for the great blessings of friendship, peace, freedom, and liberties enjoyed in the past and may the same be perpetually maintained.

And in order to secure to ourselves and our descendents the advantage of a tribal government to exercise the rights of local self government to administer all tribal affair to the best advantage of the individual members, to preserve and increase out tribal resources and in accordance with the provisions of the enabling act of Congress approved on the 18th day of June, 1934 A. D. the year of our Lord, do ordain an establish this Constitution of the late Chief Thomas Little Shell the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the State of Montana and laying it's foundations upon the fundamental principles of the Constitution the United States, realizing the fact that we are under it's jurisdiction which has prompted us to be governed by it's principles, organizing it's powers in such a form as to be in conformity with any just an constitutional laws of federal, state, and local governments which won't seem to effect the safety of our rights, freedom, and liberties accorded all other citizens of the United States under it's Constitution.

We therefore formulate this Constitution acting in conformity with the present democratic form of government.

LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
OF MONTANA
BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1
GOVERNING BODY

SECTION I.

All officers must be qualified members of the Tribe.

SECTION II.

The governing body of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana shall be known as the Executive Board.

SECTION III.

(A) The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and all Area Council members.

(B) The Executive Committee shall consist of any five (5) Council members. The Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum to conduct business on the Executive Board's behalf.

SECTION IV.

Elections shall be held every two (2) years for each Council member, every four (4) years for the Executive officer's.

SECTION V.

If a Council member or executive officer shall die, resign permanently, leave his or her district or not be able to represent the district in the best interest of the Tribe or be found guilty of a felony or misdemeanor involving dishonesty in any Indian, State, or Federal court, the Executive committee shall declare the position vacant and call a special election to fill the vacancy.

SECTION VI.

Any Officer of the Executive Board who misses three (3) meetings in a row without reasonable cause, me be replaced by vote of the Executive Committee after a grievance hearing of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II.
JURISDICTION

SECTION I.

The jurisdiction of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the State of Montana shall extend to the territory within all lands acquired by purchase or otherwise for their use and occupancy in the State of Montana and such other lands as may hereafter be acquired and added their jurisdiction by law.

ARTICLE III.
POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION I.

The Executive Board of the Chippewa Indians of Montana shall exercise the following powers, subject to he limitations imposed by the statutes of the Constitution of the United States and subject further to all express restrictions upon such power contained the Constitution an By-laws.

SECTION II.

To negotiate with the Federal and local governments on behalf of the Tribe and to advise and consult with representatives of the Interior Department that may affect our organization.

SECTION III.

To advise the Secretary of the Interior with regard to all appropriation estimates or federal projects for the benefit of the Tribe prior to the submission of such estimates to the Bureau of Budget and to Congress.

SECTION IV.

To approve all applications for selection of land.

SECTION V.

To approve all applications for the enrollment as members of the Little Shell Tribe.

SECTION VI.

To manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana.

SECTION VII.

To administer all estates and determine heirs in accordance with ordinances of the Tribe.

SECTION VIII.

To encourage and foster the Arts, Crafts, Culture and traditions of the Pembina Band of Chippewa Indians.

SECTION IX.

To employ local counsel when needed for the protection and advancement of the Tribe.

SECTION X.

To exercise such further powers as may in the future be delegated to the Executive Board by members of the Tribe, the Secretary of Interior, or by any other duly authorized Official or Agency of the government.

SECTIONS XI.

Any rights and power heretofore vested in the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana but not expressly referred to in this Constitution shall not be abridged by this Article but may be exercised by the people of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians through adoption of appropriate by-laws and Constitutional Amendments.

ARTICLE IV REFERENDUM

SECTION I.

Upon petition of at least one half of the voters of the Executive Board or upon the request of the majority of the members, any enacted or proposed ordinance or resolution of the Executive Committee shall be submitted to popular referendum and the vote of a majority of the attending voters on such referendum shall be conclusive and binding on the committee.

SECTION II.

Alternate may vote – only in absence of the elected council member.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I.

All members of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the State of Montana whose application as an Indian has been approved, or may hereafter be approved, by the Executive Committee of said Tribe.

SECTION II.

Any Indian of Pembina ancestry and one-quarter (1/4) degree Indian blood providing they never have received an allotment or land derived by other Indian Reservations through adoption or marriage, subject to approval identical to Section I.

SECTION III.

All children born to enrolled members of the tribe who possess one-eighth (1/8) degree Indian blood are entitled to membership.

ARTICLE VI.

AMENDMENTS

SECTION I.

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Tribe voting at elections called for that purpose.

ARTICLE VII.

SECTIONS I: OFFICERS

- (A) The President, Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of the Council members of the Tribe by secret ballot.

- (B) District Council members shall be elected in the manner prescribed by that particular district's voters.

- (C) District Council members shall be able to vote for all members of his or her district with their permission at State level meetings.

- (D) The President of the Executive Committee shall preside over all meetings of the Committee and exercise any and all authority delegated to him by members of the Executive Committee. He shall vote only in case of a tie.

SECTION II.

- (A) The Secretary-Treasurer of the Executive Committee shall conduct all Tribal correspondence and shall keep an accurate record of all matters transacted at the business meetings. It shall be his or her duty to submit promptly to the Officer's and members of the Executive Committee and the Billings and Aberdeen Areas Offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; copies of the minutes of regular and special meetings, and resolutions of the Tribe.

SECTION II: DUTIES (Continued)

- B) The Secretary-Treasurer of the Executive Committee shall accept, receive, receipt for and safeguard all funds in the custody of the Committee whether same be Tribal funds or special funds for which the Committee is acting as trustee or custodian. Checks and drafts shall be endorsed for deposit only. He or she shall deposit such funds in a bank elsewhere as directed by the Committee and shall make and preserve a faithful record of such funds and shall report on all receipts and expenditures and the amount and nature of all funds in his or her possession or custody, such a report being made in writing to the Executive Committee at regular meetings and at such other times as requested by the Committee.

- C) He or she shall not pay out or otherwise disburse any fund in his or her possession or custody except when properly authorized to do by Executive Committee.

- D) All Checks shall be signed by two (2) Officers of the executive Committee.

- E) The books and records of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be audited at least once a year and at such other times the Executive Committee may direct.

SECTION III: MEETINGS

- (A) Regular State meeting will be held every three (3) months.

- (B) Special meetings may be called at any time by the President of the Executive Committee or by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

- (C) Order of Business:

ORDER OF BUSINESS: (Continued)

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Invocation
- 3) Introduction of Officers, Roll Call
- 4) Previous Minutes Read & Approved
- 5) Treasurer's Report Read & Approved
- 6) Chairman's Report
- 7) Committee Reports:
 - a) Federal Recognition Committee
 - b) Education Committee
 - c) Health Committee
 - d) Enrollment Committee
 - e) Claim's Commission Committee
 - f) Ways & Means Committee
- 8) Old Business
- 9) New Business
- 10) Other Business (Pass the Hat)
- 11) Adjournment