

## BY-LAWS FOR THE INDIGENOUS CAUCUS OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

### ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Indigenous Caucus.

### ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

All agency begins with an awareness of absence. Indigenous agency has long been one of advocacy. The Indigenous Caucus was founded to afford the opportunity for not only this respectful advocacy to continue, but also to encourage Indigenous agency directly. The Indigenous Caucus culture is one of complete personal inclusion. The Indigenous Caucus is a cultural safe space allowing for increased agency and the birth of new avenues of research affording improved understanding of Indigenous communication. Research is necessarily tied to culture, identity, gender identification, and relationship with the content of the research. All of these elements are linked, inextricably, in a chain. The Indigenous Caucus serves to 1) make space for local Indigenous agency where conventions are held, 2) make space for Indigenous agency within the academy, and 3) to increase the Indigenous agency among associated professional organizations.

### ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership is open to NCA members in good standing with interests in Indigenous research, education, agency, and advocacy.

Section 2: Voting membership shall consist of those within the circle (in attendance) at formal meetings.

### ARTICLE 4: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: In accordance with Indigenous Ways of Knowing, the Indigenous Caucus will be guided by a circle of leadership team (Ogimaa) who will regularly consult with an elder on matters deemed of Caucus wide interest.

Section 2: The function of the Ogimaa will be not only provide a specific function such as financial advisement, convention planning, and meeting records but each will also be charged with a philosophical area to represent to ensure a balanced approach to all functions.

Section 3: Members of Ogimaa will be nominated and elected by members of the circle and serve for a two year term. Ogimaa members will recruit and replace themselves at the end of their term, with approval of the larger community with a lens for what is needed for the next seven generations and in the spirit of the last seven generations.

Section 4: Ogimaa will attend Legislative assembly.  
Ogimaa will attend convention planning meetings.

#### ARTICLE 5: MEETINGS

Regular business meetings will be held annually during the NCA convention.

#### ARTICLE 6: COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc committees will be formed at the formative convention in 2021. Committees determined valuable and required annually will be voted into existence in subsequent annual meetings.

#### ARTICLE 7: QUORUM

Quorum consists of two members of Ogimaa and additional circle members.

#### ARTICLE 8: MEETING OPERATIONS

Meetings are held in circle led by an Elder for smudge and teachings followed by a facilitated circle then an agenda.

All meetings follow Indigenous circle respect and guidelines in line with the seven sacred teachings of Love, Truth, Courage, Respect, Humility, and Honesty.

#### ARTICLE 9: BY-LAWS INCLUSIONS

Section 1: Additions to this document are presented in writing to the membership at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting. Discussion take place at the annual meeting. Additions are read at the first annual meeting and discussed. Additions are voted on at the meeting of the annual convention to allow time for consideration and consultation with Elders and peers.

Section 2: A successful vote consists of 2/3 of membership during the business meetings.

#### ARTICLE 10: IDEA COUNCIL

The Caucus will put forward a name to fulfill this role and an alternate