



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION
CONSTITUTION ACT, 1993

******FINAL******

Ratified

by the

TRTFN Clan Members

On

March 30, 1993

Amended on

May 28, 2005 (Various sections regarding Elections and Consensus)

January 21, 2006 (Fundamental Principles – Grammar and spelling only)

TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION CONSTITUTION ACT, 1993**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

FORWARD.....	1
<u>PART I - DEFINITIONS</u>	2
<u>PART II - FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES</u>	
TRTFN Governing Principles.....	3
Responsibilities of TRTFN Governing Bodies & Protection of TRTFN Aboriginal Rights, Titles and Interests	4
<u>PART III - TRTFN LAW MAKING POWERS & GOVERNING RESPONSIBILITIES</u>	
DISTRIBUTION OF LAW MAKING POWERS	
Joint Clan Meetings	5
DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNING RESPONSIBILITIES	
TRTFN Elders Council	6
Clan Meetings	7
Clan Leaders	9
Spokesperson	9
Clan Directors	10
<u>PART IV - GENERAL MATTERS</u>	
Clan Membership & Social Structure	14
Appeals	14
Constitutional Amendment	15
Implementation of the Constitution Act, 1993	16

FORWARD

This document shall be known as the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) Constitution Act, 1993, and is the result of a consultation process with the TRTFN clan members which began in 1984. At that time the TRTFN Elders indicated the need to develop a fully functional constitution. From 1991 to 1993, workshops, specific to constitutional development, were offered and conducted in both Atlin, BC and Whitehorse, YK.

On January 30, 1991, during the first workshop, in Atlin, BC, the participating members decided it was necessary to move from the foreign Chief & Council system of government and adopted "in principle" the Teslin Tlingit Council Constitution which is based on the Tlingit Clan System of government. Following this, on June 6, 1991, during general meeting in Atlin, BC, the TRTFN clan members decided to formally revert to the Tlingit Clan System of government.

Most recently, a core of approximately thirty TRTFN clan members from Atlin, BC and Whitehorse, YK participated in the constitutional development process. The workshops began in January of 1991 and concluded in March of 1993 and served as the foundation for this TRTFN Constitution Act, 1993.

PART I - DEFINITIONS

1. DEFINITIONS applicable to the TRTFN Constitution Act, 1993.
 - 1.1. **"lands"** includes all land, water, glaciers, sea, air, and renewable and non-renewable resources within TRTFN traditional territory.
 - 1.2. **"renewable and non-renewable resources"** include all animals, plants, minerals and other types of resources which can be used by the Tlingit people and are found in or on the land.
 - 1.3. **"Governing Bodies"** *are those persons and entities which have been appointed to hold the powers and responsibilities under this constitution, including:
 - 1.3.1. TRTFN Elders Council;
 - 1.3.2. Clan Meetings
 - 1.3.3. Houses;
 - 1.3.4. Joint Meetings of the Crow and Wolf Clans;
 - 1.3.5. Clan Leaders;
 - 1.3.6. Spokesperson;
 - 1.3.7. Clan Directors;
 - 1.3.8. Corporations or other entities owned or controlled by the TRTFN Governing Bodies;
 - 1.3.9. Officials, servants, agents or employees of any of the above,
 - 1.4. **"Agreements"** include all agreements negotiated between the TRTFN governing bodies and other governments, entities, or persons.
 - 1.5. **"Clan"** indicates the primary social structure of TRTFN which is based upon the two clans (Crow and Wolf) consisting of one or more Houses.
 - 1.6. **"Clan Meeting"** is a separate meeting of either the Crow or the Wolf clan members.
 - 1.7. **"Joint Clan Meeting"** is a collective meeting of both the Crow and Wolf members.

- 1.8. "Clan member" refers to the citizens of the TRTFN who are members of a particular Clan and House.
- 1.9. "Union" refers to martial relationships which are duly recognized and sanctioned by Tlingit or non-Tlingit laws.
- 1.10. "Election" is an election at which the Spokesperson and Clan Directors are elected following the Taku River Tlingit First Nation Custom Election Rules and Regulations, as adopted by the Clan members at a Joint Clan Meeting.

PART II - FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

2. Governing Principles

- 2.1. This TRTFN Constitution Act, 1993, including these governing principles, represents our paramount laws which apply to all Taku River Tlingits and TRTFN governing bodies. Therefore, in a Joint Clan Meeting, the Taku River Tlingits representing the Clans hereby adopt this Constitution.
- 2.2. These governing principles are written out of respect and trust since we understand that, today, we must write in order to help other peoples understand who we are as Tlingit.
- 2.3. It is the land from which we came that connects all life. Our land is our lifeblood. Our land looks after us, and we look after our land. Anything that happens to Tlingit land affects us and our culture.
- 2.4. As Tlingit, we accept that we are a part of and responsible to our land. Everything that is a part of the land has life and spirit. Thus, we respect, protect and preserve all life and land.
- 2.5. As Tlingit, we do not recognize the borders imposed by any other governments because we know where we come from and only we can define our Traditional Territory. We know that we come from this land and we are rooted in this place. It is this place, our Traditional Territory that makes us Tlingit.
- 2.6. We are Tlingit because we know that this place, this land, is our Traditional Territory. We have an eternal spiritual relationship with this land, this place.
- 2.7. The history of our relationship with the land is sacred and we shall always protect the spiritual places that help us to be Tlingit. We have no where else to go; **THIS IS OUR HOMELAND!!!**

- 2.8. Historically, our people have laws and customs through which they successfully governed our Traditional Territory and protected it for future generations. Now, we are the caretakers for those yet to come. We are thankful and shall only take from our Traditional Territory what we need to ensure our well being and self-determination as Tlingit
- 2.9. It is our responsibility to pass on healthy land so that the Tlingit remain healthy and survive forever. Therefore, we have a responsibility to pass Tlingit Laws which shall protect our Traditional Territory and way of life.
- 2.10. Each Tlingit is responsible for protecting, preserving, and promoting Tlingit land, laws, culture and spirituality.
- 2.11. Our Elders show us that, to live as Tlingit, the life breath of our culture comes from each of us through our heart, mind, body and spirit. Therefore, as Tlingit, we have a spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual relationship with ourselves, and all other life.
- 2.12. Strength and balance in all relationships requires us each to respect, trust, care and share. As Tlingit, we stand together in a circle and, in this way, we are connected to each other and all life.
3. Responsibilities of TRTFN Governing Bodies & Protection of TRTFN Aboriginal Rights, Titles and Interests
 - 3.1. All persons participating in TRTFN Governing Bodies hold their powers and responsibilities in trust for all generations of the TRTFN. Therefore, they are accountable to the clan members and are bound by the following:
 - 3.1.1. The Fundamental Principles in Part II, and TRTFN laws;
 - 3.1.2. TRTFN Governing Bodies shall not, directly or indirectly, cede, release, surrender, extinguish, diminish or waive any of the TRTFN Aboriginal rights and titles;
 - 3.1.3. TRTFN Governing Bodies shall exercise their powers and responsibilities in a respectful, fair, non-discriminatory, and non-abusive manner;
 - 3.1.4. All persons fulfilling leadership responsibilities or participating in any TRTFN Governing Body shall be of a sound and sober mind or involved in a healing process for those suffering directly or indirectly from abusive behaviour.

- 3.1.5. Subject to foregoing, all powers and authority shall be exercised so as to recognize and respect the interests of other First Nation citizens, our non-Tlingit neighbour, and their governments.

PART III - LAW MAKING POWERS & GOVERNING RESPONSIBILITIES

DISTRIBUTION OF LAW MAKING POWERS

4. Joint Clan Meetings

- 4.1. Both the Crow and Wolf Clans are equally important to our survival as Tlingit. Therefore, both clans are responsible for participating in the Joint Clan Meetings.
- 4.2. The primary purpose of the Joint Clan Meetings is to provide both clans with the opportunity to participate in the TRTFN government process by enacting TRTFN law and providing direction to the TRTFN Governing Bodies in relation to the matters in section 9.3.
- 4.3. In order to ensure that both clans have the opportunity to participate in making TRTFN laws and in order to ensure that the TRTFN Governing Bodies are bound by the laws passed and direction given, the Joint Clan Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedures. All Joint Clan Meetings shall:
 - 4.3.1. be convened and chaired by the Spokesperson or his/her delegate appointed in accordance with section 8.3.3;
 - 4.3.2. be attended by the Clan Leaders;
 - 4.3.3. be open to all clan members who shall sit in their respective Clans and Houses wearing their blankets and other appropriate clothing;
 - 4.3.4. make decisions by consensus of the Clan members present; such decisions require the involvement of a minimum of ten (10) members from each Clan.
 - 4.3.4.1. If consensus cannot be reached, the Joint Clan Meeting shall be adjourned and reconvened where a decision will be made where more than seventy (70) percent of the members present vote in favour of the decision. Quorum in 4.3.4. shall apply
 - 4.3.5. Enact TRTFN laws which have been considered within each of the clans;

- 4.3.6. Be held a minimum of twice per year during each spring and fall;
- 4.3.7. Thirty (30) days notice of such meetings shall be provided to all Clan members.
 - 4.3.7.1. In emergency situations, Joint Clan Meetings may be conducted and two (2) weeks notice of such meetings shall be provided to all clan members;
 - 4.3.7.2. Notice of such meetings shall include the nature of the emergency.
- 4.4. Decisions of Joint Clan Meetings shall be of no force and effect unless made in compliance with section 4.3.
- 4.5. TRTFN Governing Bodies shall act upon the decisions of the Joint Clan Meetings in relation to the following matters:
 - 4.5.1. Tlingit custom and tradition;
 - 4.5.2. the matters in section 9.3;
 - 4.5.3. TRTFN laws;
 - 4.5.4. the authorization of persons or entities to carry out specific responsibilities on behalf of the TRTFN Government.

DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNING RESPONSIBILITIES

5. TRT ELDERS COUNCIL

- 5.1. All TRTFN Elders are a valuable and respected part of our culture and each Elder contributes to our survival as Tlingit.
- 5.2. The primary purpose of the TRTFN Elders Council shall be to ensure the continuity of Tlingit laws, values, customs and traditions.
- 5.3. In order to do this, the TRTFN Elders Council shall provide to the TRTFN Governing Bodies, political or social advice in the best interests of all clan members.
- 5.4. The TRTFN Elders Council shall conduct meetings in accordance with the following procedure in order to ensure that the TRTFN Governing Bodies are bound to consider their advice. The TRTFN Elders Council meetings shall:

- 5.4.1. Be convened and chaired by the Spokesperson at least four (4) times per year;
- 5.4.2. Make decisions by consensus of the elders present; such decisions require the involvement of a minimum of two (2) elders from each clan.
- 5.4.3. If consensus cannot be reached, the meeting shall be adjourned and reconvened where discussion shall continue with more than four (4) Elder's Council members, where a decision will be made where more than seventy (70) percent of the Elder's council members present vote in favour of the decision. Quorum in 5.4.2. shall apply.
- 5.5. Decisions of the TRTFN Elders Council shall be of no force and effect unless made in compliance with section 5.4.
- 5.6. In order to ensure continuity, the TRTFN Elders Council shall:
 - 5.6.1. Be established by the clan members in accordance with sections 6.4 and 6.5 and consist of a maximum of eight (8) elders;

6.0 Clan Meetings

- 6.1. Every clan member contributes to our survival as Tlingit. Therefore, each person is responsible for participating during all their clan meetings.
- 6.2. The primary purpose of the clan meetings is to provide clan members the opportunity to participate in the TRTFN government process and provide the TRTFN leadership direction in relation to internal clan matters or matters in section 9.3.
- 6.3. In order to ensure that each clan member has the opportunity to participate, and in order to ensure that clan representatives act upon the direction from the clans, each clan shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the following procedures. All clan meetings shall:
 - 6.3.1 be convened and chaired by the Clan Leader;
 - 6.3.2 be open to all the members of that clan and to those invited by that clan's elders or Clan Leader;
 - 6.3.3 promote continuity by encouraging the elders and youth of each clan to attend and participate;
 - 6.3.4 make decisions by consensus of the clan members present; such decisions require the involvement of a minimum of ten (10) clan members.

- 6.3.4.1 if consensus cannot be reached, the clan meeting shall be adjourned and reconvened, where a decision may be made when seventy (70) percent of the members present vote in favour of the decision. Quorum of 6.3.4. shall apply.
- 6.3.5 Be scheduled on a regular monthly basis with the annual schedule being provided to all clan members;
 - 6.3.5.1. in emergency situations, clan meetings may be conducted and two days notice of such meetings shall be provided to all clan members;
 - 6.3.5.2. notice of such meetings shall include the nature of the emergency.
- 6.4. Decisions of the Clan Meetings shall be of no force and effect unless made in compliance with 6.3.
- 6.5. Clan Directors shall act upon clan decisions in relation to the following matters:
 - 6.5.1 internal clan matters;
 - 6.5.2 the matters in section 9.3;
 - 6.5.3 the appointment of clan representatives to the following positions of leadership:
 - 6.5.3.1 four (4) clan elders as members of the TRTFN Elders Council;
 - 6.5.3.2 one (1) clan member as **Clan Leader**.
- 6.6. In order to ensure continuity in relation to TRTFN Governing Bodies:
 - 6.6.1 if the clan representatives or either clan wishes to review the appointment, the clan shall meet with the incumbent to reconsider the appointment.
 - 6.6.2 the Clan Representatives shall continue to represent their clan until another person is appointed.
 - 6.6.3 should the Clan Representatives be temporarily unable to fulfil his/her duties, s/he shall inform their Clan, who shall make a temporary appointment on terms.

- 6.6.4 in making or reviewing all appointments, clan members shall consider each persons knowledge of Tlingit traditional territory, traditions, language, values, customs, decision making abilities and knowledge of political, administrative, or other government matters.

7. Clan Leaders

- 7.1. Both Clan Leaders are equally important to our survival as Tlingit, therefore, each Clan Leader is responsible for participating in the TRTFN government process.
- 7.2. The primary role of the Clan Leader is to assist their clan members and facilitate the TRTFN clan system of government. Therefore, the Clan Leader shall:
 - 7.2.1 be appointed by his or her clan in accordance with section 6.3;
 - 7.2.2 provide advice, upon request, to the TRTFN Elders Council and assist in the promotion of respect for all Tlingit laws, language, values, customs and traditions;
 - 7.2.3 provide advice and assistance to individual clan members;
 - 7.2.4 provide advice to the Clan Directors in relation to matters discussed within his/her clan;
 - 7.2.5 assist the Spokesperson in fulfilling the responsibilities of that position, particularly in relation to internal dispute resolution;
 - 7.2.6 convene and chair clan meetings in accordance with section 6.3; and
 - 7.2.7 ensure that records are kept of clan meetings and communicate the record during each subsequent meeting;
 - 7.2.8 speak as directed by their clan at Joint Clan Meetings or, as necessary, in other meetings where overall clan representation is required.
 - 7.2.9 fulfil their responsibilities through continual and regular consultation with the clan membership through clan meetings.

8.0 Spokesperson

- 8.1 The Spokesperson shall be elected by all eligible Wolf and Crow Clan members in a general election conducted in accordance with the Taku River Tlingit first Nation Custom Election Rules and Regulations.

- 8.2 The Spokesperson acts as the political voice of both the Crow and Wolf clans. Therefore, when fulfilling the responsibilities of that position the Spokesperson shall not represent his/her own clan, but shall act in the best interest of both clans and all clan members.
- 8.3 The primary role of the Spokesperson is to promote cooperation between the clans and ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Clan Directors.
- 8.4 In order to ensure that the Clan Directors decisions are implemented, the Spokesperson is responsible for providing overall political, administrative and social leadership by:
 - 8.4.1 acting as the central contact person for all matters, internal or external, which affect the clan members.
 - 8.4.2 acting as the principal spokesperson when dealing with all external issues, meetings or communications affecting the TRTFN.
 - 8.4.3 when necessary, expressly delegating his or her responsibilities, on terms, after seeking the advice of the Clan Leaders.
 - 8.4.4 facilitate the development and the implementation of consensus in TRTFN governing bodies.
 - 8.4.5 facilitating the resolution of all internal clan disputes;
 - 8.4.6 encouraging all clan members to respect all TRTFN laws and this Constitution;
 - 8.4.7 attending internal clan meetings of both clans, when appropriate;
 - 8.4.8 convening and chairing TRTFN Elders Council meetings;
 - 8.4.9 convening and chairing Joint Clan Meetings;
 - 8.4.10 convening and participating in Clan Director meetings;
 - 8.4.11 monitoring the day to day administration and management of the TRTFN;
 - 8.4.12 in fulfilling the responsibilities set out in this section, the implementation powers of the Spokesperson are limited by this Constitution and TRTFN laws.
9. Clan Directors
 - 9.1. two Crow and two Wolf Directors shall be elected by the members of their respective clans in accordance with the Taku River Tlingit first Nation custom election rules and regulations.

- 9.2. The primary role of the Clan Directors is to make decisions, in relation to the matters set out in sections 9.3 and 9.4, for the benefit of both clans and all clan members.
- 9.3. In accordance with Part II of this Constitution, all Tlingit laws and direction from the Clan or Joint Clan Meetings, the Clan Directors are responsible for making and implementing decisions affecting the rights, titles and interests of TRTFN clan members in relation to all matters including but not restricted to matters within or ancillary to the following classes of subjects:
 - 9.3.1. development and implementation of the rules of procedure, accountability and remuneration for TRTFN governing bodies;
 - 9.3.2. protection, management and administration of TRTFN rights and benefits;
 - 9.3.3. the facilitation of the clan membership process as set out in section 10, including ensuring that proper records are kept;
 - 9.3.4. use, management, administration, control and protection of TRTFN lands;
 - 9.3.5. allocation or disposition of rights, titles or interests in and to TRTFN lands;
 - 9.3.6. implementation of Agreements;
 - 9.3.7. use, management, administration, control and protection of renewable and non-renewable resources under the ownership, control or jurisdiction or the TRTFN;
 - 9.3.8. development and implementation of policy in relation to gathering, hunting, trapping or fishing and the related conservation of fish and wildlife habitat;
 - 9.3.9. establishing and monitoring all processes related to the administration of justice;
 - 9.3.10. ensuring the development, registration and enforcement of TRTFN laws and the maintenance of Law and Order, based on traditional Tlingit values;
 - 9.3.11. inter-governmental relations resulting from Agreements including matters in relation to transfer payments and participation in inter-jurisdictional bodies;
 - 9.3.12. economic development and employment opportunities;

- 9.3.13. establishment, organization and maintenance of corporations or other entities owned or controlled by the TRTFN;
- 9.3.14. licensing and regulation of any business, trade, profession or other occupation on TRTFN lands;
- 9.3.15. labour relations;
- 9.3.16. public works and other services or facilities on TRTFN lands;
- 9.3.17. use, management, administration, control and protection on TRTFN monies and assets;
- 9.3.18. raising money by levying or collecting fees and direct or indirect taxes for the use or occupation of TRTFN lands, or other types of fees or taxes from TRTFN clan members or purchases of services on TRTFN lands;
- 9.3.19. borrowing money for governing bodies;
- 9.3.20. inheritance wills, intestacy and administration of estates;
- 9.3.21. pollution and environmental protection;
- 9.3.22. promotion of Tlingit culture and language;
- 9.3.23. promotion of Tlingit spiritual beliefs and practices;
- 9.3.24. education and training;
- 9.3.25. health and health care;
- 9.3.26. social and welfare services;
- 9.3.27. public health and safety;
- 9.3.28. zoning and housing;
- 9.3.29. communication;
- 9.3.30. family matters, including marriage, birth, adoption and divorce;
- 9.3.31. safeguarding the well-being or property of children, including guardianship, custody, care and placement
- 9.3.32. safeguarding the well-being or property of elders;

9.3.33. safeguarding the well-being or property of persons under a disability;

9.3.34. such other matters as may fall within TRTFN jurisdiction.

9.4. In order to ensure that decisions in relation to all matters set out in section 9.3 are implemented, the Clan Directors shall:

9.4.1. consist of the four (4) clan representatives appointed through sections 6.5.3.3, and the Spokesperson;

9.4.2. be collectively responsible for the ongoing decision making authority and good government for the benefit of all clan members.

9.4.3. each assume individual responsibility in relation to monitoring one or more departments, through the portfolio system;

9.4.4. conduct meetings, convened by the Spokesperson, a minimum of once per month;

9.4.5. make decisions by consensus involving at least three (3) Clan Director, with one representative from each clan participating in that consensus.

9.4.6. if consensus can not be reached on a particular issue, the meeting shall be adjourned and reconvened, where a decision will be made when three (3) of four (4) Clan Directors vote in favour of the decision.

9.4.7. authorize the Spokesperson, TRTFN Elders Council, Clan Leaders or other agents to perform particular functions;

9.4.8. employ staff, consultants or other agents as required;

9.4.9. communicate decisions and consult with the clan members by attending monthly clan meetings;

9.4.10. ensure the preparation of all draft laws, service program plans and departmental reports requiring discussion and approval during Clan or Joint Clan Meetings.

9.4.11. provide for the publication and implementation of TRTFN laws and service program plans;

9.4.12. provide for the development and implementation of administration and financial management policies;

- 9.4.13. provide for the protection, administration and management of all TRTFN interests, including lands, monies, capital and other assets;
- 9.4.14. negotiate and conclude Agreements on behalf of the TRTFN;
- 9.4.15. take other steps, as necessary, to give effect to TRTFN laws and this Constitution.
- 9.5. Decisions of the Clan Directors shall be of no force and effect unless made in compliance with section 9.4.
- 9.6. TRTFN management, and other agents, shall act upon the decisions of the Clan Directors in relation to the matters set out in section 9.3 and 9.4.

PART IV - GENERAL MATTERS

10. Clan Membership & Social Structure

- 10.1. All matters pertaining to TRTFN clan membership shall be determined in accordance with this Constitution and TRTFN laws.

11. Appeals

- 11.1. Appeals from decisions
- 11.2. Appeals from decisions or actions by the TRTFN Governing Bodies in relation to internal clan matters shall be conducted in accordance with these procedures;
 - 11.2.1. only the clan member(s) directly affected or prejudiced by such a decision or action shall have a right of appeal;
 - 11.2.2. the appellant shall inform his/her clan, during a clan meeting, of the decision or action being appealed;
 - 11.2.3. the Clan Leader, or a designate, shall then organize a clan meeting where those from the Governing Body who made the decision or action and the appellant shall come together with the clan members in an effort to resolve the dispute by consensus, with reason;
 - 11.2.4. all decisions from the first appeal shall be reported and recorded through a Clan Directors meeting.
 - 11.2.5. failing resolution by consensus, the Clan Leader, or a designate, shall organize a final appeal to the TRTFN Elders Council who will reconsider the outcome of the initial appeal. Both those from the Governing Body

who made the decision or action and appellant shall state their case. After reviewing the facts, the TRTFN Elders Council shall either reaffirm the appeal decision or render a new decision, with reasons;

- 11.3. Appeals from decisions or actions by the TRTFN Governing Bodies in relation to administrative matters shall be conducted in accordance with these procedures;

11.3.1. only persons directly affected or prejudiced by such a decision or action shall have a right of appeal;

11.3.2. the appellant shall inform the Spokesperson of the decision or action being appealed;

11.3.3. the Spokesperson shall then ask the TRTFN Elders Council, those, from the Governing Body, who made the decision or action and the appellant to each appoint one (1) person to sit on a mediation panel;

11.3.4. the Spokesperson shall the organize a meeting where those from the Governing Body who made the decision or action and the appellant shall come together with the mediation panel in an effort to resolve the dispute by consensus, with reasons;

11.3.5. decisions from the first appeal shall be reported and recorded through a Clan Directors meeting.

11.3.6. failing resolution by consensus, a decision may be made when seventy percent of the members present vote in favour of the decision. Quorum shall apply.

- 11.4. Final appellate decisions of the TRTFN Elders Council shall be final and binding on all parties, and not subject to further appeal or review in any court. Final appellate decisions of the TRTFN Elders Council shall be reported through a Joint Clan Meeting.

12. Constitution Amendment

12.1. This TRT Constitution Act, 1993 may only be amended through the Joint Clan Meetings.

12.2. Subject to 12.3, Amendments to this constitution may be made at one Joint Clan Meeting.

12.3. Amendments to the Fundamental Principles in Part II or section 12 of Part IV require passage at two consecutive Joint Clan Meetings, at least six months apart.

- 12.4. Proposed amendments must be provided in writing to the Board of Clan Directors and all clan members thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Joint Clan Meeting wherein the amendment shall be considered.
- 12.5. Amendments to this Constitution shall be made by consensus and shall involve at least fifteen (15) members from each clan who participated in that consensus.
13. Implementation of the Constitution Act, 1993
 - 13.1. During the Joint Clan Meeting to ratify this TRTFN Constitution Act, 1993, the clan members present shall approve a short-term Implementation Plan and instruct the Clan Directors to develop a long-term Implementation Plan which shall establish the implementation process by setting out the priorities, identifying training needs and delegating the responsibilities. Finally, the long-term plan shall include a review process through the Joint Clan Meetings, three years after the ratification date.
 - 13.2. Upon ratification, other governments shall be informed that the TRTFN is operating in accordance with this TRTFN Constitution Act, 1993.

This TRTFN Constitution Act, 1993, including these governing principles, represents our paramount laws which apply to all Taku River Tlingits and TRTFN governing bodies. Therefore, in a Joint Clan Meeting, on March 30, 1993 the Taku River Tlingits representing the Clans, hereby adopt the Constitution.