



Transformation in Governance-Nation Building: How One Tribal Traditional Governance for Contemporary Issues

Innovations in Governance

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Federal legislation denied Indigenous Nations their own governance systems – Canada's Indian Act in 1876. The legislation imposed Western-Euro systems of governance removing cultural connection, which resulted in social, political, and economic realities that led to outcomes that place Indigenous populations on the bottom of almost every indicator of well-being.

The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (HPAIED) focusses on the factors involved in the creation of sustained, self-determined social and economic development in Indigenous Nations through over 20 years of applied research. HPAIED suggests there are five pillars/principles necessary to build Nations: practical sovereignty, capable institutions, cultural match, strategic orientation, and leadership.

In June 2015 and several years of governance review, FHQTC Chiefs mandated fundamental changes to the governance structure to enhance how it serves our Nations and citizens. The need to change and evolve with the current and future climate of Indigenous governance is as fundamental as our need was to adapt to a changing way of life. As a tribal council, we recognize the need to adapt and have begun to take steps to evolve to enhance our ability to build our Nations and to bring forth our culture and language into all aspects of our governance. In doing so, this transformation will exponentially empower us to pursue our Inherent and Treaty rights and interests much more efficiently and effectively, engage our communities better, and continue to build and strengthen our capacity on the road to full implementation and enforcement of our Inherent and Treaty rights.