

What Is Governance?

There are many types of governance models for self-governance, namely six (6) as outlined here:

1. Central Control Structure: central policy-making body to deliver services and manage institutions. This would act much the same way as elected councils.
2. Society Structure: regulate membership and govern in specific spheres such as culture, while also arranging administrative



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services to the members, but mainly it is about Aboriginal identity. This model would function, for example, the same way a lawyer is part of a law society.

3. Institutional Structure: separate boards to administer agencies in specific areas, i.e., economic development, housing, social services, etc. It is similar to the Central Control Structure.

4. Aboriginal Self-Administration Structure: institutional or central control; creation of specific, single purpose services, institutions and agencies. For example, services, institutions and agencies would handle specific parts of governance like housing, etc.

5. Corporate Structure: a structure where agencies report to government with a board of directors and nation's government representatives administering public policy through corporations. Elected representatives in this model would sit on a Board of Directors to ensure, that all agencies are reporting to the government.

6. Representation Structure: creation of new Aboriginal institutions, boards and political bodies; small communities cooperate because alternative approaches are too impractical in governing the nation. The institutions are likely to have cultural sensitivity and directly resolve community needs. Creation of new agencies in this model includes representation on existing bodies that assist in self-governance.

Governance is decided by whether the nation is under treaty or following the Indian Act. Under treaty the nation can govern the way they want by adopting any one of those aforementioned ways of governance. When a nation finalizes treaty and has it in effect then the Indian Act no longer applies. Under the Indian Act, they are limited to how they can govern themselves.

In the case that a nation decides to finalize treaty, they are then able to determine their own elections, government structure and how they govern its people. Such governance requires the nation to develop a Constitution in which they strictly abide by.