

PROPOSED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

SUBMITTED FOR A VOTE BY THE MEMBERS
OF THE WWFN AT THE GENERAL
MEETING ON JUNE 6, 2026

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PREAMBLE

We, the Wolastoqiyik, after discussing our code of practice for traditional activities at a general assembly of the Wolastoqiyik Wamsipekuk First Nation (hereinafter “WWFN”), recognize and affirm the following:

The Wolastokuk is a distinct entity and has rights that are intrinsically linked to the practice of traditional activities;

We have been entrusted with the sacred responsibility of caring for the land, the waters, and all living things that inhabit the Wolastokuk;

We have a duty and responsibility to protect, preserve, and respect all of creation supported by wikuwossit skitkomiq (Mother Earth) on the Wolastokuk;

Our traditional and customary laws, as well as our ancestors’ decisions, have promoted coexistence with other peoples, and it is our intention to promote harmonious relations and healthy cohabitation on the Wolastokuk;

The WWFN holds ancestral and treaty rights, including Aboriginal title to its lands, waters, resources, and the exercise of its traditional activities, which have never been extinguished or surrendered. These ancestral and treaty rights are collective rights that fall under the jurisdiction of the WWFN, although they may be exercised individually by the Wolastoqiyik.

This *Code of Practice for Traditional Activities* is an update of the customs and practices of the WWFN, which is consistent and coherent with Wolastoqey traditions. It constitutes an act of affirmation and self-determination based on WWFN territorial, ancestral, and treaty rights, in accordance with the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Its provisions aim to ensure the respect, protection, and continuity of the traditional practices of the Wolastoqiyik;

The standards and rules of conduct guiding the exercise of traditional practices—which include measures to ensure compliance—fall within the scope of the WWFN’s contemporary exercise of governmental and legal autonomy. They cannot be considered a waiver of the exercise of any rights whatsoever. They may also be subject to future amendments to reflect changes in the rights and needs of the WWFN and the Wolastoqiyik.

Accordingly, we adopt the *Code of Practice for Traditional Activities*.

1. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this Code:

"Accompanying person":	As defined in section 5.3.4 of this Code.
"Traditional activities"	Include, but are not limited to, the traditional activities described in section 5.1 of this Code.
"Committee":	WWFN Advisory Committee appointed by the Grand Council, as provided for in section 6 of this Code.
"Code":	<i>The WWFN Code of Practice for Traditional Activities.</i>
"DCTA":	The Department of Culture and Traditional Activities.
"Immediate family":	Includes spouses residing at the same address, children, father and mother, direct siblings, guardians, grandparents, and grandchildren.
"Government":	Depending on the case, the Government of Canada and/or the government of the Province of Quebec.
"Grand Council":	Council of the Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation.
"WWFN":	Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation.
"Pomawsuwakon":	The Wolastoqey way of life.
"Rules of Practice":	The terms and conditions for accessing and using the territory set out in section 7.1 of this Code.

“Wolastokuk”:	The traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik.
“Wolastoqiyik” or “Members of the WWFN”:	As defined in sections 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 of this Code.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1** This Code and its implementation constitute a codification and update of the standards, practices, and rules of conduct of Wolastoqiyik ancestors, which have protected the territory and preserved its resources so that members of the WWFN can in turn benefit from them today.
- 2.2** This Code aims to guide the WWFN and its members in the practice of traditional activities, in accordance with the principles and values shared by its members, and to promote its application.
- 2.3** Both the WWFN, in its role as guardian of collective rights, and the Wolastoqiyik, in their practice of traditional activities, must act in accordance with the following objectives:
- a) Promote and highlight the Wolastoqiyik’s occupation of the Wolastokuk.
 - b) Promote the reappropriation and practice of Pomawsuwakon by engaging in traditional activities in a manner that is appropriate and adapted to contemporary realities and needs.
 - c) Play an active role in managing wildlife and plant resources, including decisions relating to species conservation, in order to meet the needs of the present Code without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
 - d) Promote the recovery of declining wildlife and plant populations to sustainable levels and the restoration of their habitat.
 - e) Promote the exchange, sharing, and transmission of traditional lifestyles and knowledge among Wolastoqiyik of all generations to ensure the continuity of activities on the territory.
 - f) Encourage responsible and exemplary behaviour in the harvesting of wildlife and plants.
 - g) Promote harmonious relations and healthy coexistence on the Wolastokuk with other users of the territory.
 - h) Ensure safe practices for everyone.

3. PRINCIPLES

- 3.1** The Wolastoqiyik watch over their traditional unceded territory, the Wolastokuk. This territory is sacred and reflects the interdependent relationship that the WWFN has with it.
- 3.2** The Wolastokuk is a distinct entity and a coherent whole toward which the Wolastoqiyik have rights, duties, and responsibilities.
- 3.3** The Wolastoqiyik have the right to practise traditional WWFN activities on the Wolastokuk. This right is inseparable from their responsibilities and roles toward the Wolastokuk and the Wolastoqiyik of the past, present, and future. In this regard, the Wolastoqiyik must exercise discipline and carry out traditional activities in accordance with this Code.
- 3.4** The Wolastokuk is intrinsically linked to the identity of the WWFN, and cannot be divided or fragmented without regard for its guardians, the Wolastoqiyik. No administrative or political division imposed without the consent of the WWFN can break the sacred bond between the Wolastoqiyik and their ancestors.

4. VALUES

- 4.1** The values that should guide the conduct of the WWFN and its members in achieving the objectives of this Code, in accordance with the principles set forth, are the following:
- Promoting the territory and its culture;
 - Sustainable management, including conservation, of resources;
 - Sharing;
 - Harmonious cohabitation;
 - Safety.

5. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

5.1 Traditional activities

- 5.1.1** This Code applies to all traditional activities, including those guaranteed by rights arising from peace and friendship treaties, related to the occupation and use of the Wolastokuk and Wolastoqey identity, whether or not they are covered by WWFN practice rules.

Definition of traditional activities

- 5.1.2** This includes, but is not limited to:

- activities involving the harvesting of wildlife and plants;
- harvesting and processing of products of the territory;
- construction of shelters and camps;
- land observation and planning activities;

and includes all cultural, spiritual, social, and community aspects of engaging in these activities.

Accessory practices

5.1.3 This Code also applies to all accessory activities or practices required for the exercise of the traditional activity.

5.2 Territory of application

5.2.1 For the sole purpose of applying this Code, the territory of application is limited to the part of the Wolastokuk located within the geographical boundaries unilaterally imposed and known as the Province of Quebec, as shown on the map in Appendix A.

5.2.2 Nothing in this Code shall be construed as limiting the ability of the WWFN to enter into discussions with other governments regarding the exercise of traditional activities throughout the Wolastokuk.

Prohibition on private property

5.2.3 The practice of traditional activities is prohibited on private property unless expressly authorized by the landowner, authorized by the WWFN, or specified as regards the territory of application in the rules of practice.

Club Appalaches

5.2.4 The land occupied by the Club Appalaches is not private property.

5.3 Beneficiaries

5.3.1 This Code applies to the Wolastoqiyik, or members of the WWFN, as defined in the following sections.

Members of the WWFN

5.3.2 For the purposes of this Code, a Wolastoqiyik or a member of the WWFN is a citizen of Wolastoqey Wahsipekuk as defined in the Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation Citizenship Code, which came into force in December 2022.

Exclusion – Associated citizens

5.3.3 Notwithstanding the preceding section, this Code does not apply to persons registered as “Citizens associated with a Maliseet Citizen” within the meaning of section 10(d) of the Citizenship Code.

Accompanying person

5.3.4 The Wolastoqiyik may be accompanied by members of their immediate family who are not covered by the previous section when practising traditional activities. However, an accompanying person is not subject to the rights and obligations arising from this Code.

In certain circumstances, the Committee may grant special permission to a person who is not a member of the immediate family to accompany the Wolastoqiyik during traditional activities. These measures are exceptional and may be used in situations of disability, for example.

5.3.5 The presence of a accompanying person shall not increase the level of harvesting authorized under the rules of practice arising from this Code.

6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6.1 The Grand Council shall designate, by resolution, a committee responsible for:

- a. recommending approval or amendments to the rules of practice;
- b. issuing recommendations on the application of sanctions;
- c. exercising any other responsibility specifically assigned to it by this Code or by the rules of practice.

6.2 The Committee may designate some of its members to act as a hearing and analysis subcommittee, in particular to perform the duties assigned to the Committee under Chapter 8 of this Code.

7. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE OF THE TERRITORY

7.1 The practice of certain traditional activities may be subject to additional access and use conditions, in particular to protect and conserve wildlife and/or plant resources, as well as to promote harmonious relations with third parties and healthy coexistence on the Wolastokuk.

Rules of practice

7.2 These rules of practice may cover the following topics in particular:

- territory of application;
- harvesting periods;

- beneficiaries;
- authorized harvesting;
- authorized equipment and boats;
- issuance of permits, including associated fees;
- declaration of harvesting;
- public health and safety;
- respect for users, resources, and activities;
- nuisance control.

7.3 The rules of practice may also be accompanied by sanctions, which application must comply with this Code.

Temporary suspension of access and exercise terms and conditions

7.4 Notwithstanding the rules of practice established under this Code, the Grand Council may, on the Committee's recommendation immediately and temporarily suspend at any time the terms and conditions of access to and exercise of traditional activities when there are serious concerns for safety or resource conservation; such suspension must not be prolonged and must lead to the resumption of activities, and the amendment, modification, or repeal of the rules of practice in accordance with the requirements of this Code.

Communication of changes to members

7.5 The rules of practice, as well as any subsequent amendments, modifications, or repeals, will be communicated to the Wolastoqiyik in a timely manner.

Member support

7.6 The WWFN ensures that support and assistance are provided to Wolastoqiyik engaging in traditional activities in accordance with this Code and any rules of practice arising therefrom, with a view to ensuring respect for the exercise of the WWFN's collective rights.

7.7 The WWFN does not assume any responsibility for anyone who fails to comply with this Code and the rules of practice derived from it.

8. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RULES OF PRACTICE

8.1 The Wolastoqiyik must be informed of the possible sanctions for non-compliance with the rules of practice.

- 8.2** When sanctions are provided for in the rules of practice, a commitment setting out the possible sanctions will be completed by each Wolastoqiyik wishing to engage in the traditional activity in question.

Whistleblowing

- 8.3** Any non-compliance with the rules of practice is reported by filing a complaint via the whistleblowing hotline set up by the WWFN, which is administered by an independent third party.

Information about the whistleblowing hotline can be found on the WWFN website at the following link: <https://wolastoqiyikwahsipekuk.ca/>.

- 8.4** Any complaints may also be submitted to the attention of the Executive Director of the WWFN:

- By email: info@malecites.ca
- By phone: 1-888-399-2393 or 418-860-2393

Admissibility of a complaint

- 8.5** The DCTA receives complaints and forwards them to the Committee, ensuring that any information that could identify the Wolastoqiyik targeted by the complaint is anonymized.

- 8.6** Within one week of receiving the complaint, the Committee conducts a preliminary analysis and determines whether it is admissible. In all cases, the DCTA will send the complainant a letter informing them of the Committee's decision on admissibility.

Notice to the Wolastoqiyik

- 8.7** When the complaint is admissible, the Committee shall send a notice to the DCTA containing the following information:

- The alleged acts;
- The possible sanction in the circumstances;
- The opportunity for the Wolastoqiyik concerned to submit written comments;
- The deadline for submitting comments.

- 8.8** This notice is then forwarded by the DCTA to the Wolastoqiyik concerned by the complaint.

- 8.9** Any Wolastoqiyik who wishes to submit written comments must do so within thirty (30) days of receiving the notice by sending them to the DCTA, which will then forward them to the Committee.

- 8.10** If no written comments are received after the deadline specified in the previous section, the sanction shall be deemed uncontested.

Request for a hearing

- 8.11** At the discretion of the Wolastoqiyik, a request for a hearing before the Committee to supplement or enhance their written comments may accompany those comments.

This hearing may take place in person or virtually.

- 8.12** As soon as possible after receiving a request for a hearing, the Committee shall agree with the Wolastoqiyik on the date and time of the hearing and the terms and conditions thereof.

Recommendations of the Committee

- 8.13** The Committee shall submit its recommendations to the Grand Council within a reasonable period of time after receiving written comments or after the deadline for doing so has expired.

If a hearing is held at the request of the Wolastoqiyik, the Committee shall submit its recommendations to the Grand Council within a reasonable time after the hearing.

- 8.14** Before drafting its recommendations, the Committee analyzes the entire file, including, where applicable, the Wolastoqiyik's comments.

- 8.15** The Committee's recommendations will indicate, in particular, the acts alleged and the recommended sanction, and will be submitted to the Grand Council together with the Wolastoqiyik's comments or, in the absence thereof, proof of transmission of the notice and any other relevant documentation.

- 8.16** The Committee exercises its discretionary powers in order to issue its recommendations and may, in particular, hear any person in the course of its investigation in order to obtain further information on the situation in question.

Decision

- 8.17** The Grand Council shall review the file, including the documents referred to in section 8.15, and shall render a decision by way of resolution. The Grand Council appends the Committee's recommendations to this resolution.

- 8.18** The Grand Council may request further details from the Committee in order to complete its analysis of the file.

- 8.19** The DCTA shall communicate the decision to the Wolastoqiyik no later than ninety (90) days after the Wolastoqiyik receives the notice referred to in section 8.8 of this Code.

8.20 The Grand Council's decision is final and without appeal.

Anonymous case management

8.21 The DCTA ensures that all information relating to conduct that may be subject to sanctions, including the Wolastoqiyik's written comments, is anonymized so that the individual in question cannot be directly identified by the Committee or the Grand Council.

8.22 When a Wolastoqiyik requests a hearing before the Committee, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, it is understood that they waive anonymity before the Committee.

8.23 It is understood that any person responsible for ensuring compliance with the rules of practice, including the application of sanctions recommended and decided by the Grand Council, must have access to information identifying the Wolastoqiyik and the sanction imposed.

9. GOVERNANCE

9.1 In order to ensure compliance with the principles and values of the WWFN and to ensure the implementation of the Code, the Grand Council may adopt rules of practice as provided for in this Code.

9.2 The Grand Council may also enter into agreements with another government or partner regarding the practice of traditional activities, in accordance with the objectives of this Code.

9.3 The development of rules of practice within the meaning of the preceding sections, as well as any subsequent amendments thereto, shall be subject to prior consultation with the Committee.

9.4 The Grand Council may establish rules governing the presence of guests on the Wolastokuk for the purpose of carrying out traditional activities.

9.5 The Grand Council may appoint officers responsible for overseeing the Wolastokuk and the practice of traditional activities, and adopt rules concerning their training, powers, and responsibilities.

9.6 The Grand Council delegates the management and enforcement of this Code and any rules arising from it to the DCTA.

9.7 This Code and the rules of practice adopted pursuant to it shall prevail over any government regulation or measure that has the effect of unjustifiably infringing upon the rights provided for therein.

10. GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

- 10.1** This Code is adopted by the general assembly of WWFN members.
- 10.2** This Code and/or rules of practice shall be revised in a timely manner to reflect changes in the practice of traditional activities over time.
- 10.3** Any amendment, modification, or repeal of this Code must be adopted by the general assembly of members, upon recommendation of the Grand Council, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the General By-law.
- 10.4** The codes, regulations, and policies adopted by the Grand Council of the WWFN remain in force unless they are incompatible with this Code, in which case the provisions of the Code prevail, until they are amended, modified, or repealed.
- 10.5** This Code is adopted in its entirety, so that if any section, clause, or paragraph is or should ever be declared invalid, the other provisions of the Code will continue to apply.
- 10.6** In the event of any discrepancy between the French version of this Code and the version in another language, the French version will prevail.
- 10.7** This Code will enter into force on the day of its adoption by the WWFN general assembly or on any other date decided by it.

APPENDIX A – THE WOLASTOKUK

CARTE DU WOLASTOKUK

