



DECLARATION OF CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY AND COLLECTIVE RIGHTS OF THE ACADIAN NATION

Proclaimed on this 31 day of March 2026

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** – Article 1 (Right to Self-Determination) and Article 27 (Minority Rights)
- **UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities** (1992)
- **UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity** (2001)
- **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** – Consultation and consent principles

PREAMBLE

Recognizing that the Acadian people constitute a distinct nation bound by a shared history, culture, language, and ancestral connection to the territory of Acadie;

Remembering the tragedy of the *Grand Dérangement* (1755–1764), an act of mass deportation and dispossession, and honoring the profound resilience of the Acadian people who returned and rebuilt their communities;

Reaffirming the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, specifically the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family;

Invoking Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees that linguistic minorities shall not be denied the right to enjoy their own culture and use their own language;

Asserting that while Acadie operates across existing provincial and federal boundaries, its people possess an undeniable right to cultural sovereignty and collective self-determination;

Now, therefore, this Declaration is proclaimed as a common standard of achievement for the Acadian Nation.

ARTICLE I: Right to National Identity and Self-Determination

- Acadians possess the **collective and individual right to identify as a distinct nation** with full recognition within international law.
- By virtue of the right to self-determination, the Acadian Nation **freely pursues its cultural, social, and linguistic development** without forced assimilation or the destruction of its culture.
- This right extends across all territories where Acadian communities exist and maintain cultural continuity.

ARTICLE II: Linguistic Security and Heritage

- The **Acadian French language is the cornerstone of the nation's identity**. The Acadian Nation has the fundamental right to preserve, use, develop, and transmit its language to future generations.
- In accordance with international minority rights frameworks (ICCPR Article 27, UN 1992 Minority Rights Declaration), Acadians have the **right to receive public services and education in their mother tongue**, managed and controlled by Acadian institutions, across all historical Acadian territories.
- States shall provide resources for Acadian language transmission, institutional development, and media preservation.

ARTICLE III: Institutional and Cultural Autonomy

- The Acadian Nation possesses the **right to establish, maintain, and govern its own cultural, educational, and economic institutions**, including governance structures that represent Acadian interests.
- The states and provinces in which Acadians reside shall **consult in good faith and obtain prior consent** from representative Acadian institutions (such as the Société Nationale de l'Acadie and provincial Acadian bodies) before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them. This consultation principle is grounded in international minority rights practice and UNDRIP precedent.
- Acadian institutions shall possess autonomous authority over cultural programming, educational curriculum development, and heritage management.

ARTICLE IV: Historical Memory, Territory, and Restitution

- The Acadian Nation has the **right to the recognition, protection, and stewardship of its historical sites, ancestral lands, and cultural artifacts**, including sites of significance to the *Grand Déplacement* and Acadian diaspora.
- States shall provide **effective mechanisms for the prevention of, and redress for**, any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing Acadians of their historical narrative, cultural heritage, or ancestral territories.
- Repatriation of Acadian cultural property and artifacts held in state or institutional collections shall be facilitated in accordance with UNESCO conventions on cultural property and international restitution

frameworks.

ARTICLE V: International Engagement and Representation

- As a distinct Francophone society and stateless nation, the Acadian Nation has the right to **maintain and develop contacts, relations, and cooperation** with other nations, states, and international bodies.
- The Acadian Nation shall pursue **constituent membership or observer status within the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)**, with representation that reflects its distinct identity and institutional autonomy.
- Acadian representatives shall participate in international forums addressing minority rights, cultural preservation, and linguistic diversity, including UN subsidiary bodies, UNESCO, and regional Francophone bodies.

NOTE ON IMPLEMENTATION

This declaration serves as a unifying framework for the Acadian Nation to exercise its collective rights to cultural sovereignty and self-determination. It is designed to:

- **Consolidate** existing linguistic and cultural protections under a unified national identity;
- **Provide** a basis for negotiation with Canadian federal and provincial governments on enhanced autonomy in cultural, educational, and institutional domains;
- **Transition** Acadian standing from a localized linguistic minority to an internationally recognized stateless nation with inherent rights;
- **Enable** meaningful participation in international bodies (Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, UNESCO, UN minority rights mechanisms) as a distinct cultural entity.

States shall recognize and respect Acadian collective rights through good-faith consultation mechanisms, informed by the precedent of prior consultation established in international minority and Indigenous rights frameworks.