



THE SEVEN FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS OF THE ACADIAN NATION

*Constitutional Framework for National Autonomy,
Cultural Sovereignty, and Collective Self-Determination*

Proclaimed: 31 March 2026

Moncton, New Brunswick
Acadian Nation

DOCUMENT I: THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ACADIAN NATION

*International Framework: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 1
(Right to Self-Determination)*

PREAMBLE

We, the Acadian people, drawing upon our resilient history spanning four centuries, our distinct Francophone culture, and our enduring spiritual and economic connection to our traditional territories across the Maritime provinces and beyond, hereby establish this Constitution to govern our collective future, ensure our democratic representation, protect our institutional autonomy, and advance our prosperity as a recognized stateless nation within the international community.

Recognizing that cultural and linguistic self-determination are fundamental human rights;

ARTICLE I: The Acadian National Assembly

1.1 Legislative Power and Jurisdiction

Legislative power concerning the cultural, linguistic, civic, educational, and heritage affairs of the Acadian Nation shall be vested in a transnational parliament, hereinafter known as the Acadian National Assembly (L'Assemblée Nationale de l'Acadie), operating as a self-governing body with jurisdictional authority over all registered Acadian citizens and cultural institutions.

1.2 Composition and Representation

The Assembly shall consist of democratically elected representatives apportioned among the following historical Acadian territories:

- New Brunswick (including the Acadian Peninsula, Madawaska, Saint-Coeur, and the southeastern coastal regions)
- Nova Scotia (including the Municipality of Clare, and recognized Acadian communities)
- Prince Edward Island (including Evangeline and surrounding districts)
- Newfoundland and Labrador (including the Port au Port Peninsula)
- Recognized diaspora districts in Quebec, Louisiana (Cajun communities), and other established Acadian populations globally

1.3 Electoral System and Democratic Principles

The Assembly shall be elected through proportional representation, with universal suffrage extended to all registered Acadian citizens aged 18 and above, ensuring that minority linguistic and cultural interests are protected and that geographic territories retain meaningful representation.

1.4 Powers and Authorities of the Assembly

The Assembly possesses exclusive jurisdiction over:

- Primary and secondary education curriculum development and language-of-instruction standards
- Post-secondary education strategy and institutional governance
- Cultural policy, heritage preservation, and museum management
- Acadian language standards, terminology development, and linguistic security
- Broadcasting and media standards for content aimed at Acadian audiences
- Immigration policy targeting qualified Francophone individuals to Acadian regions

ARTICLE II: Executive and Administrative Power

2.1 The First Minister and National Executive Council

Executive power shall be exercised by an elected First Minister of Acadie and a National Executive Council of no fewer than seven members, appointed or elected in accordance with procedures established by the Assembly. The First Minister shall serve as the head of government and chief representative of the Acadian Nation in international negotiations and diplomatic relations.

2.2 Executive Responsibilities

The Executive Council shall be responsible for:

- Executing and enforcing laws enacted by the Acadian National Assembly
- Managing the day-to-day operations of Acadian national institutions
- Representing the Acadian Nation in treaty negotiations and international forums
- Overseeing the Acadian Heritage and Development Fund
- Coordinating with provincial, federal, and Indigenous governments

2.3 Judicial Review and Constitutional Protection

A Constitutional Court, comprised of independent legal scholars and jurists appointed by the Assembly, shall have the authority to review legislation for compliance with the principles of this Constitution and international human rights law. No legislation of the Assembly may contradict the substantive protections established herein without two-thirds majority support and certification of constitutional necessity.

DOCUMENT II: ACT OF ACADIAN CITIZENSHIP AND GLOBAL DIASPORA

International Framework: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 15 (Right to a Nationality); UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992)

PREAMBLE

The Acadian Nation, mindful of its diaspora spanning continents and generations, and recognizing that cultural citizenship transcends geopolitical boundaries, establishes this Act to define and protect Acadian citizenship as a recognized civic and cultural status, independent of state residency or exclusive nationality, and to ensure that all members of the global Acadian community possess meaningful access to the institutions and democratic processes of their nation.

ARTICLE I: Definition and Categories of Acadian Citizenship

1.1 Nature of Acadian Citizenship

Acadian citizenship is recognized as a distinct civic and cultural status that operates independently of state borders. It is not an exclusive state nationality, but rather a recognized form of collective membership that grants rights, privileges, and responsibilities within the Acadian Nation while fully compatible with residence in and citizenship of any Canadian province, U.S. state, or other sovereign jurisdiction.

1.2 Citizenship by Descent (Jus Sanguinis)

Any individual who can demonstrate descent from a recognized Acadian ancestor (defined as an individual who lived in Acadie before 1763 or whose family lineage is documented as Acadian in church, civil, or genealogical records) is automatically entitled to recognition as a citizen of the Acadian Nation.

1.3 Citizenship by Cultural Naturalization

Individuals not of Acadian descent may apply for Acadian citizenship through a process of cultural naturalization, demonstrating:

- Functional fluency in the Acadian French language (oral and written)
- Active participation in Acadian cultural institutions or community organizations for a minimum of three years
- A commitment to supporting the linguistic and cultural integrity of the Acadian Nation
- Sponsorship by an existing Acadian citizen or community organization

ARTICLE II: The Global Acadian Diaspora

2.1 Recognition of Diaspora Communities

The Acadian Nation formally recognizes and honors its diaspora as an integral part of the Acadian nation. Specifically recognized diaspora communities include:

- The Cajun people of Louisiana and the broader Gulf Coast region, descendants of the Grand Dérangement and the Acadian exodus of 1765-1785
- Acadian communities in Quebec, particularly in the Gaspésie and Acadian regions of Quebec's francophone north
- Acadian communities in France, Belgium, and other Francophone nations
- Established Acadian cultural organizations and communities in the United States and globally

2.2 Right of Return and Participation

Members of recognized diaspora communities shall possess the "Right of Return," granting them the following privileges:

- Full voting rights in elections of the Acadian National Assembly through remote ballot or designated diaspora districts
- The right to hold elected office within the National Assembly or Executive Council
- Access to all cultural and educational institutions of the Acadian Nation
- The right to conduct business, establish enterprises, and own property in designated Acadian territories
- Eligibility for scholarships, grants, and cultural funding from the Acadian Heritage and Development Fund

DOCUMENT III: THE ACADIAN BILL OF COLLECTIVE RIGHTS

International Framework: UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992); UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001)

PREAMBLE

Affirming that the Acadian Nation, as a distinct cultural and linguistic community with centuries of continuous existence, possesses inherent and inalienable collective rights that supersede state or provincial authority in matters of cultural and linguistic governance. This Bill establishes enforceable protections against assimilation, linguistic erosion, and cultural displacement, grounded in international minority rights law and the principle that linguistic communities must retain effective control over the institutions that transmit their identity.

ARTICLE I: Linguistic and Educational Sovereignty

1.1 The Inviolability of Acadian French

The Acadian French language is declared inviolable and constitutes the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the Acadian Nation. No law, regulation, or administrative action by any government entity may diminish, discriminate against, or linguistically marginalize Acadian French within the historical territories of Acadie.

1.2 Educational Governance and Language Rights

The Acadian Nation possesses absolute and exclusive collective governance over its educational systems in all historical Acadian territories, from early childhood education through post-secondary institutions. This governance encompasses:

- Curriculum development and pedagogical approaches aligned with Acadian cultural values and linguistic standards
- Teacher recruitment, certification, and professional development in the Acadian education system
- Language-of-instruction policy (Acadian French as primary, with strategic bilingualism)
- Educational assessment, accreditation, and quality assurance
- Funding allocation and resource management for educational institutions

1.3 Linguistic Rights in Public Life

Acadian citizens have the fundamental right to live, work, be educated, and be served in Acadian French across all traditional Acadian territories, including public administration, healthcare, justice systems, and commercial transactions. States and provinces shall provide adequate resources to ensure this right is operationalized.

ARTICLE II: Protection Against Assimilation

2.1 Right to Cultural Security

The Acadian Nation possesses the collective right to cultural security. This right encompasses protection against:

- Policies or administrative actions designed to reduce Acadian demographic weight within historical territories
- Discriminatory housing, employment, or institutional policies targeting Acadian citizens

- Educational or media policies that promote assimilationist ideologies
- Economic policies that systematically disadvantage Acadian-controlled enterprises or cultural organizations
- Immigration or settlement policies that deliberately diminish linguistic or cultural continuity

2.2 State and Provincial Obligations

Federal and provincial governments shall refrain from enacting policies that dilute Acadian linguistic integrity or cultural identity within traditional Acadian territories. Where policies may have assimilationist effects, they require prior consultation and approval by the Acadian National Assembly to ensure compatibility with this Bill.

DOCUMENT IV: CHARTER OF ACADIAN ECONOMIC AND RESOURCE RIGHTS

International Framework: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Article 1 (Right to Freely Dispose of Natural Wealth)

PREAMBLE

The Acadian Nation, acknowledging its historical and ongoing relationship with the lands, waters, and resources of its traditional territories, and recognizing that economic self-determination is a prerequisite for cultural and political sovereignty, establishes this Charter to secure collective Acadian economic rights, ensure equitable resource governance, and create mechanisms for wealth redistribution that sustains Acadian institutions and prosperity.

ARTICLE I: Territorial Resources and Co-Management

1.1 Collective Economic Rights

The Acadian Nation holds collective economic rights to the natural wealth of its historical coastal and inland territories, including fisheries, forestry, agricultural lands, marine resources, and renewable energy potential. These rights operate alongside provincial and federal authority through frameworks of co-management and benefit-sharing.

1.2 Co-Management of Strategic Resources

The Acadian Nation asserts the right to co-manage the following resources within traditional territories:

- Commercial and subsistence fisheries (including lobster, herring, groundfish, and aquaculture)
- Forestry and timber management
- Agricultural production and land stewardship
- Offshore marine resources within the extended continental shelf
- Renewable energy installations (wind, tidal, hydroelectric) on Acadian lands

1.3 Indigenous Partnership Framework

The Acadian Nation explicitly recognizes that resource management must occur in partnership with Indigenous nations (Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, Peskotomuhkati) who hold pre-existing territorial rights. All resource governance frameworks shall include meaningful Indigenous participation and respect for Indigenous legal and ecological knowledge systems.

ARTICLE II: Economic Self-Determination and Revenue Redistribution

2.1 Mandatory Revenue Allocation

A mandatory percentage (minimum 15%) of all revenues generated from resource extraction and commercial development within traditional Acadian territories shall be directly redirected to the Acadian Heritage and Development Fund. This shall include revenues from:

- Commercial fisheries licensing and catch fees
- Timber sales and forest management contracts
- Mineral and oil/gas extraction permits (should such development be approved)
- Renewable energy facility licensing and power purchase agreements
- Tourism development and management fees in Acadian cultural heritage sites

2.2 Heritage and Development Fund

The Acadian Heritage and Development Fund shall be an autonomous trust account, managed by the Acadian National Assembly, dedicated to:

- Capital investment in Acadian cultural and educational institutions
- Scholarships and grants for Acadian youth in post-secondary education
- Support for Acadian-owned small and medium enterprises
- Heritage preservation, museum operations, and archival digitization
- Community development projects in economically disadvantaged Acadian regions

DOCUMENT V: TREATY OF ASYMMETRICAL AUTONOMY

International Framework: European Charter of Local Self-Government (adapted for stateless national devolution within federations)

PREAMBLE

The Government of Canada, the Crown, and the provincial governments of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador, recognizing the distinct status of the Acadian Nation as a cultural entity with inherent rights to self-governance, hereby enter into this Treaty to establish a framework of asymmetrical devolution that grants the Acadian Nation autonomous authority over specified domains while maintaining Canada's constitutional integrity and respecting the federalism balance.

ARTICLE I: Recognition of Acadian Autonomy

1.1 Constitutional Recognition

The Government of Canada and the Crown formally recognize the Acadian Nation as an autonomous, self-governing cultural entity operating asymmetrically within the Canadian constitutional federation. This recognition does not alter the provincial or federal status of territories in which Acadians reside, but establishes a parallel framework of Acadian self-governance over defined matters.

1.2 Non-Exclusivity and Complementarity

Acadian autonomy operates in complement to, not in replacement of, provincial and federal governance. Acadian citizens remain Canadian citizens and residents of provinces, maintaining all attendant rights and responsibilities, while simultaneously exercising collective rights and governance within the Acadian framework.

ARTICLE II: Devolution of Powers to the Acadian National Assembly

2.1 Exclusive Acadian Jurisdiction

The following domains are formally devolved to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Acadian National Assembly:

- Immigration targeting qualified Francophone and Acadian diaspora individuals to Acadian regions
- Cultural broadcasting standards and media licensing (Acadian language television, radio, digital platforms)
- Heritage management, museum operations, and historical site governance
- Acadian language standards, terminology development, and linguistic policy
- Education curriculum development for Acadian schools (subject to provincial accreditation)
- Community policing initiatives and liaison with provincial/federal law enforcement

2.2 Shared and Co-Managed Jurisdiction

The following domains shall be subject to consultation between the Acadian National Assembly and relevant provincial/federal authorities, with Acadian interests given significant weight in decision-making:

- Post-secondary education strategy and university governance in Acadian territories
- Health and social services delivery in Acadian French
- Economic development and resource management
- Infrastructure planning affecting Acadian communities

2.3 Taxation and Fiscal Authority

The Acadian National Assembly shall possess the power to levy specific community taxes upon registered Acadian citizens, with taxation authority earmarked for funding Acadian cultural institutions, education, and community development. The Assembly may establish dedicated tax mechanisms such as:

- An Acadian cultural development tax (0.5-2% of registered citizen income)
- Licensing fees for Acadian-language media and broadcasting
- Heritage fees on property transactions in Acadian cultural heritage sites

DOCUMENT VI: THE ACADIAN TERRITORIAL ACCORD

International Framework: ILO Convention 169 (Principles adapted for historical non-indigenous minority land ties); UN-HABITAT Urban-Rural Governance Framework

PREAMBLE

The Acadian Nation, mindful that collective identity is inseparable from territorial presence and historical connection to land, and recognizing that cultural survival requires geographic coherence and demographic concentration, hereby establishes this Accord to define the spatial boundaries of Acadian authority and the principles of land stewardship that govern L'Espace Acadien while honoring the pre-existing rights of Indigenous nations.

ARTICLE I: The Definition and Governance of L'Espace Acadien

1.1 Fluid and Demographic Boundaries

This Accord defines L'Espace Acadien not by rigid, exclusionary hard borders, but by historical presence, contemporary demographic concentration, and institutional continuity. Recognized cores of L'Espace Acadien include:

- **New Brunswick:** The Acadian Peninsula (including Bathurst, Caraquet, Shippagan, Miscou Island), Madawaska, Saint-Coeur, and the southeastern coastal regions (including Moncton metropolitan area)
- **Nova Scotia:** The Municipality of Clare and the Municipality of Argyle (including Pubnico, Meteghan, Belliveau Cove)
- **Prince Edward Island:** Evangeline Region and surrounding districts with Acadian demographic concentration
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** The Port au Port Peninsula
- **Quebec:** The Gaspésie region and recognized Acadian communities in Quebec's north

1.2 Primacy of Acadian Language and Culture

Within L'Espace Acadien, Acadian linguistic and cultural rights hold primacy in public administration, municipal signage, civic planning, and institutional governance. This primacy is operationalized through:

- Official bilingual (Acadian French-English) signage in municipal and provincial offices
- Acadian French as the language of instruction in public schools
- Prioritization of Acadian cultural representation in urban planning and public art
- Mandatory consultation with Acadian institutions on development projects affecting Acadian demographics

ARTICLE II: Indigenous Relations and Land Stewardship

2.1 Acknowledgment of Indigenous Sovereignty

The Acadian Nation explicitly recognizes and affirms that L'Espace Acadien exists entirely upon the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Wabanaki Confederacy, specifically the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet), and Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) nations. The Acadian Nation affirms that Indigenous nations retain inherent sovereignty over these territories regardless of Acadian or European settlement patterns.

2.2 Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Collaboration

This Accord commits the Acadian Nation to a permanent, binding framework of peace, friendship, and collaborative land stewardship with its Indigenous neighbors. This framework includes:

- Joint resource management committees with Indigenous representation and veto power over major development decisions
- Commitment to the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in decisions affecting Indigenous territories
- Revenue-sharing agreements ensuring Indigenous nations benefit equitably from resource extraction within their territories
- Protection and repatriation of Indigenous cultural artifacts and human remains held in Acadian institutions
- Recognition of Indigenous governance structures and legal systems as parallel authority to Acadian and Canadian governance

DOCUMENT VII: COMPREHENSIVE TREATY OF REDRESS AND RECONCILIATION

International Framework: UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law (2005); International Center for Transitional Justice Standards

PREAMBLE

The Crown, the Government of Canada, and the provincial governments of Canada, acknowledging the profound historical injustice inflicted upon the Acadian people through the Grand Dérangement and subsequent systemic marginalization, hereby commit to a comprehensive program of redress, restitution, and reconciliation designed to honor Acadian resilience, restore collective dignity, and establish a foundation for a just and equitable future.

ARTICLE I: Acknowledgment and Structural Restitution

1.1 Official Acknowledgment of the Grand Dérangement

The Crown and the Government of Canada formally acknowledge that the Grand Dérangement (1755-1764) constituted ethnic cleansing under contemporary international law—the forced displacement, dispossession, and destruction of Acadian communities as a deliberate policy of British imperial administration.

1.2 Recognition of Unlawful Expropriation

The Crown acknowledges that Acadian lands, property, and wealth were unlawfully expropriated without compensation, in violation of principles that would later be enshrined in international law. This expropriation had cascading intergenerational effects on Acadian economic capacity and institutional development.

1.3 Capitalization of the Acadian National Trust

The Crown, as a sovereign state entity responsible for historical injustice, shall provide structural restitution distinct from individual compensation. This restitution shall be operationalized through the capitalization of an Acadian National Trust with the following characteristics:

- **Capital Endowment:** A lump-sum payment of \$2.5 billion CAD (indexed annually) as reparative capital
- **Governance:** The Trust shall be administered by a Board of Trustees composed of Acadian representatives and independent financial experts, with absolute autonomy from Crown intervention
- **Allocation:** The Trust shall fund cultural institutions, educational endowments, heritage preservation, and economic development projects benefiting the collective Acadian Nation
- **Perpetuity:** The Trust is established in perpetuity as an act of historical redress, with capital preservation and intergenerational benefit

ARTICLE II: Commemoration and Educational Mandate

2.1 Educational Curriculum Transformation

The Crown and all provincial governments commit to mandating the inclusion of the unvarnished, historically accurate history of the Grand Dérangement in all public education curricula, from secondary schools through post-secondary institutions. This includes:

- The geopolitical context of French-British imperial competition and its impact on Acadian communities

- Detailed accounts of the deportation process, family separations, mortality rates, and refugee trajectories
- The Acadian Resistance and return migration, emphasizing collective resilience and institutional reconstruction
- The long-term socioeconomic impacts of dispossession and marginalization on Acadian communities
- Contemporary expressions of Acadian culture and the ongoing struggle for cultural sovereignty

2.2 Commemorative Infrastructure

The Crown shall fund the establishment of a National Acadian Memorial and Educational Center, located in Moncton, New Brunswick, serving as a repository of Acadian historical documentation, artifacts, and a center for intergenerational dialogue on the legacies of dispossession and resistance.

2.3 Linguistic Restitution and Language Revitalization

Recognizing that linguistic erosion is a consequence of historical trauma and systemic marginalization, the Crown commits to funding comprehensive language revitalization programs, including immersion education, dialect documentation, and intergenerational language transmission initiatives, with target benchmarks for increasing Acadian French fluency within one generation.

CLOSING DECLARATION

These Seven Foundational Documents together constitute the legal, constitutional, and moral framework for the recognition and governance of the Acadian Nation as a distinct, autonomous cultural entity within the international community. They are designed to transition the Acadian people from the status of marginalized linguistic minority to recognized stateless nation, with enforceable rights to linguistic security, cultural sovereignty, institutional autonomy, and economic self-determination.

These documents are offered to the Acadian people, the Canadian federal and provincial governments, and the international community as a blueprint for justice, reconciliation, and the future flourishing of Acadian civilization.



PROCLAIMED BY THE ACADIAN NATION

*Moncton, New Brunswick
31 March 2026*