

Mendas Cha-Ag
Constitution
Of The
Healy Lake Tribe
Healy Lake Village, Alaska

Proposed updates for the Healy Lake Constitution to be put to a vote and consideration of the Healy
Lake Tribal voters.

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PREAMBLE

We, the Mendas Cha-Ag people, have lived at Healy Lake for more than 10,000 years in one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the Americas. We exercise our freedom and sovereign powers in creating our written Constitution in recognition of our ancestors and to support the well-being and unity of this and succeeding generations. In writing this Constitution we assert our fundamental Native rights and traditions in supporting our Tribe's social, cultural, economic and political progress, and to protect our people, land, and natural resources now and into the future. We adopt this Constitution as a federally recognized Tribe, under our inherent sovereign authority. We adopted our first written Constitution in 1977, the "Constitution and Bylaws of the Village of Healy Lake," which we replaced in 1997 with the "Traditional Constitution of the Mendas Cha-Ag Tribe." This Constitution shall amend and supersede the Constitutions of 1977 and 1997 upon adoption by the Healy Lake tribal voters.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

Our Athabascan name is 'Mendas Cha-Ag' meaning the 'place of a body of water with an outlet,' our Healy Lake. The name of our Tribe on the list of federally recognized tribes published by the United States Department of Interior is 'Healy Lake Village.' Our Tribe has been referred to in the past as the 'Healy Lake Band.' It is sometimes referred to as the 'Healy Lake Tribe.' All of these names refer to the one federally recognized Tribe. In this Constitution, our Tribe shall be referred to as the Healy Lake Tribe, and the governing body as the 'Healy Lake Tribal Council.'

ARTICLE 2 – JURISDICTION

The Healy Lake Tribe shall have all the jurisdiction, immunities and privileges available to federally recognized Indian tribes, in our government-to-government relationship with

the United States and other governments, as well as the responsibilities, powers, limitations and obligations of such tribes.