**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**of the**

**Sault Area High School Native Youth Council**

**ARTICLE ONE**

**Name**

The name of this group shall be the ***Sault High Native Youth Council***

**ARTICLE TWO**

**Objectives**

The Objective of this group shall be to provide a collective voice and represent the tribal youth in all matters that concern them; to serve as a means of mobilizing and coordinating the actions of youth, other community members and organizations toward positive goals; to promote the development of future tribal leaders; to help solve problems facing tribal youth; to coordinated school and community service projects and provide opportunities for the youth to interact for fun and fellowship.

**ARTICLE THREE**

**Members**

**Section 1:** The group shall have one class of youth members consisting of Native American youth between the ages of 15 and 24 years of age.

**Section 2:** Each member shall have a right to cast one (1) vote on any matter submitted to a vote of the membership.

**ARTICLE FOUR**

**Officers**

**Section 1:** The officers of the group shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Two or more principal officers may not be held by the same person.

**Section 2:** The President shall be the principal officer of the group and shall supervise and control the affairs of the group. The President will preside at all membership meetings.

**Section 3:** In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President.

**Section 4:** The Secretary shall keep minutes of the membership meetings and see that all notices are given in accordance with the bylaws, keep a current membership list, and in general, perform all duties related to the office of Secretary.

**Section 5**: The Treasurer shall have custody and be responsible for the collection of all funds of the group. The Treasurer will prepare and present a financial report at each meeting. (An adult advisor shall sign all deposits, disbursements, checks, and financial statements.)

**Section 6:** The Officers shall be elected by ballot at a time and in a manner prescribed by the membership to serve for one year or until removed from office for just cause or until their successors are elected and assume office. The officer’s terms shall commence at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

**ARTICLE FIVE**

**Advisors**

**Section 1:** An Advisory Council will consist of parents, elders, other concerned adults, and representatives of various agencies serving Native American Youth.

**Section 2:** The members of the Advisory Council will help facilitate meetings, offer guidance to youth, chaperone functions and activities of the youth council, and assist youth council members in fulfilling their responsibilities. One (or more) members of the Advisory Council will serve as the primary advisor(s) of the youth council.

**Section 3**: At least one member of the Advisory Council must be present at all youth council meetings and functions.

**ARTICLE SIX**

**Meetings**

**Section 1:** the youth council membership shall meet a minimum of three times a year. A notice of time, place and agenda will be provided to all voting members at least fifteen days prior to the meeting. These meetings will consist of a business meeting followed by a social or recreational function. The business meeting will include reports from officers and /or special committees. Planning and duties for future business and social functions will be delegated during the business meeting.

**Section 2:** The presence of eight (8) voting members of the council shall be required to constitute a quorum necessary to conduct the Youth Council’s business.

**Section 3:** All regular and special meetings of the Youth Council shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order and consist of an agenda to include:

1. Roll Call
2. Determination of quorum
3. Reading of minutes of previous meetings
4. Reports of Officers
5. Reports of special committees
6. Old business
7. New business
8. Announcements
9. Adjournment

**ARTICLE SEVEN**

**Committees**

Committees shall be established by the President from time to time as deemed necessary to carry out the work of the group. The Committee Chairperson will be appointed by the President. The Committee Chairperson will be responsible for appointing others to serve on the Committee. The President shall be a member of all committees.

**ARTICLE EIGHT**

**Affiliation**

The youth council will affiliate with the United National Indian Youth Network, also known as the UNITY Network.

**ARTICLE NINE**

**Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the group by two-thirds vote, providing that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

**RESOLUTION**

Supporting the Organization of the **Sault High Native Youth Council**

**WHEREAS**, the youth of the **Sault High Native Youth Council** represent a great natural resource, and

**WHEREAS**, today’s youth of the **Sault High Native Youth Council** will be leaders of tomorrow, and

**WHEREAS**, the youth need leadership training and experience to better prepare them for these important roles, and

**WHEREAS**, the youth should be given the opportunity to bring about positive changes in the existing conditions (on the reservation /village or within the community), and

**WHEREAS**, the young people between the ages of fifteen to twenty-four should have a greater voice in matters concerning them, and

**WHEREAS**, the youth, though their collective actions, can serve as a catalyst to bring about more unity and harmony (on the reservation/village or in the community), and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for a mechanism which will allow for the distribution of information, coordination of activities, and sharing of resources, and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for interaction and communication among the youth representing the various schools and communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY** **THE SAULT AREA SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION** that the spiritual, mental, physical and social well-being of our youth is of the highest priority.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that to provide a greater voice for our youth and to give them greater opportunities to develop as leaders, the **SAULT AREA SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION** authorizes the formation of **THE SAULT HIGH NATIVE YOUTH COUNCIL**. This organization will operate under the supervision and with the support and encouragement of **THE SAULT STE MARIE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the youth council is approved to join the UNITY Network, sponsored by United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. to bring about positive change in Native AMerica and to provide youth with greater opportunities to work with other youth leaders throughout the nation.