

Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania

Lekhikan Lenapeowski

Document to live the Lenape way



Niluna Lenapeyok. Kichi Manitou, Kishelemukonk, kehela wanishi ahpin.
We are the Lenape People. Great Spirit our Creator truly we are grateful to be here.

Nawenahta telen txapxki kahtena wikinen yu tali Lenapehokink.

More than 10 thousand years we live here in Lenape land

Apchi nteluwensihena nek muxumsak. Na welankuntewi awenak.

Always we were called the Grandfathers. The peacekeepers

Ninochi wikhatihena wichi elankumakikena:

It has always been we live here together with our relations.

awenik, chulensak, newakata, namesak, hukum, muxwesak, ahsena.

people winged-ones four-leggeds, fish plants insects rocks.

Ninochi kenamewakehena Kishelemukonk.

It has always been we give thanks to Creator.

Ninochi kenamewakehena Nipahuma,

It has always been we give thanks to Grandmother moon

Hooknah, Pethakhuweyok, Muxumsa Wehenchiopank, Nuhema Shaoneyunk

Mother Earth, Thunder Spirits Grandfather East Grandmother South

Muxumsa Eheliwsikakw ok Muxumsa Luwaneyunk.

Grandfather West and Grandfather North

Ninochi kenamewakehena kashaxen, tentay, mpi, hakhakan

It has always been we give thanks to wind, fire water earth

Ninochi moxinkwelemawenanank kikayuyemenaninkahke ok telsewakana

It has always been we honor them our ancestors and customs

ok apchi lekech. Wemi keku alemin ok nokenemen na Kishelemukonk.
and always it will be so Everything he begins it and he ends it the Creator.

Free Translation.

We are the Lenape people. Great Spirit, our Creator, truly we are grateful to be here. For over ten thousand years we have lived here in Lenape land. We have always been called the Grandfathers, the peace keepers. We have always lived here with all our relations: two leggeds, winged ones, four leggeds, fish, insects, plants, and rocks. It has always been that we give thanks to Creator, Grandmother Moon, Mother Earth, the Thunder Spirits, Grandfather East, Grandmother South, Grandfather West, and Grandfather North. It has always been that we give thanks to wind, fire, water, and earth. It has always been that we honor our ancestors and customs, and always it will be so. Everything begins and ends with Creator.

1. Kupene achimulsink

Regarding council

Lekech: Nulhatuhena achimulsink. Xu ahpuwak na sakima, nek lepwexkweok,
It will be so. We have it a council will they be here the chief, the wise women,
ok nek kikayak. Wemi keku xu kishiteheok telich kaski nek awenik
and the elders. All things will they decide so that they can the people
welawsineyo. Wemi awen xu pemetunhe kupene keku ok xu pwentako.
they live good. Every person will speak about issues and will be heard/understood
Wemi awen kaski ahkenutam w'sakwixen ok xu pwentako.
Every person he can he talks about it his trouble and will be heard/understood
Nek lepwexkweok xantki xu litheyok ok pemetunheyok ok lekech.
The wise women finally will they think and they speak and it will be so.

Free Translation.

It will be so: We will have a Council composed of the Chief, the Wise Women, and the elders. They will decide all things so that the people can live well. Every person will speak about the issues and he/she will be heard and understood. Every person can speak of his trouble and he/she will be heard and understood. The wise women will consider the issues and will make final decisions and they will be carried out.

2. Kupene nithakeyemenanak

Regarding our tribespeople

Lekech: Lenii elankumukw kikayuyemenaninkahkenk

It will be so: Only one who is related by blood to the ancestors
xu ahpu yu tali withakeyunk.
will he exist here among his/her fellow tribespeople.

Free Translation.

It will be so: Only those who are related by blood to the ancestors will be admitted into the tribe.

3. Kupene ankuntewakan

Regarding ceremony

Lekech. Nek meteinuwak xu pemexohtuneyo newen eshi kahten.

It will be so: The medicine men will they carry on ceremony four times every year.

Nipenink hate ne ankuntewakan mpink; Tahkokink hate

In the summer it exists the blessing of the water; In autumn it exists

Meesink. Luwani hate ne lailuwani ankuntewakan. Sikoni hate

Meesink. In winter it exists the mid-winter blessing. In the spring it exists

ansikemesi ankuntewakan.

maple tree blessing.

Nek xkweyok pemexohtunheyo nek ankuntewakana xaskwimink.

The women they carry on ceremony the blessings of the corn.

Nek meteinuwak ok kikayak xu kishitèheyok ktelsihena

The medicine men and elders will they decide what we do

pili ankuntewakanink.

other in ceremony.

Free Translation.

It will be so: The medicine society will carry on ceremony four times a year. In the summer there will be the Blessing of the Water, in the Fall there will be the Meesink Ceremony, in the winter there will be the Midwinter Ceremony, and in the Spring there will be the Maple Ceremony. The women will carry on the Blessings of the Corn. The Medicine Society and the elders will decide which other ceremonies will be done.

4. Kupene elankumakikena

Regarding our relations

Lekech. Nek lenapeyok wikhatihënuik wichi elankumakikena.

It will be so: The Lenape people we live together with our relations:
awenik, chulensak, newakata, namesak, hukum, muxwesak, ahsena, mpia,
people winged-ones four-leggeds, fish plants insects rocks, waters
ok welsit ntakiyëmëna. Wemi pilsuwak ok wemi ahpi kweti.
and our sacred land. All are sacred and all exist as one.
Ninochi kenahkihechik nek lenapeyok.
It has always been caretakers the lenape are.
Apchi xu kulahchahawenanak.
Always will we treat them well.

Free Translation.

It will be so: The Lenape people will live here together with all our relations: Two leggeds, winged ones, four leggeds, fish, insects, plants rocks, waters and our sacred land. All are sacred and all exist as one. The Lenape have always been caretakers of all our relations and we will always treat them well.

5. Kupene winkalichik

Regarding friends

Lekech: Nek lenapeyok xu wikhatihënuw wichi xeli winkalichik.
It will be so: The lenape people will we live together with many friends.
Mikwi newichemkunanak ok weli nuwatihëna.
Often they help us and we know each other well.
Nulelintam eli poneyo yu tali.
We are glad because they came here.
(They are welcome here!)

Free Translation.

It will be so: The Lenape people live together with many friends who often help us. We know each other well and they are always welcome here in our tribe

6. Kupene naxkuntewakana

regarding treaties

Lekech: Nek lenapeyok xu këmikëmòsihëna wichi pili kenahkihechik.
It will be so: The Lenape people will we work with other caretakers.

Nulhatuhena naxkuntewakana wichi nek awenik.

We have it a treaty with these people.

Luwentasu, "*Weski Witisewakan Naxkuntewakan*"

It is called, "Treaty of Renewed Friendship"

Entxen newa kahtena, lapi xu nulhatuna yun naxkuntewakan.

Every four years again will we have it this treaty

Nek lepwexkweok ok kikayak ok sakima xu kishitèheyok ktelsihena wichi

The wise women and elders and chief will they decide what we do with

pili weski naxkuntewakana.

other new treaties.

Free Translation.

It will be so: The Lenape people will work with other caretakers of our sacred land. We have a treaty with them called the "Treaty of Renewed Friendship. Every four years we will renew this treaty and other caretakers may sign. The wise women and the elders will decide what we should do regarding other new treaties.

7. Kupene Nishash Lehelexeokana

regarding seven generations

Lekech. Kench nulaehosihena ok mpenaelemahena kuxwisenanak ok ili nek

It will be so. Must we act well and we think about them our grandchildren and even the

Nishashke lehelexeokana.

next seven generations

Wemi keku kench ktelitunenen telich kaski welemalsin ok welatenamen.

everything must we do it so that they can be healthy and happy

Kench nkenahkitunena na haki, elankumakikena ok elawsiyenk.

must we take care of them the land our relations and the culture

Kench witenakwsuwihena wichi pili kenahkihechik ok kench

must we work together with other caretakers and must

nlepohena.

we are wise

Free Translation.

It will be so: We must act well and think about our grandchildren and the next seven generations. Everything must be done so that they can be healthy and happy. We must take care of the land and all our relations and our culture. We must work together with other caretakers and we must be wise.

8. Kupene nkenahlihawenanak nithakeyemenanak

Regarding

Caring for Our People

Lekech: Wichi netami lexeon enta pemawsiyankw ok wichi meken lexeon

It will be so: With our first breath during our lifetime and with out last breath

nkenahlihawenanak nithakeyemenanak. Nek kikayak kwentamawao

we take care of them our tribespeople The elders they teach them

nek mimensak elawsiyenk ok nkenahlihawenanak nek kikayak

the children the way we live and we take care of them the elders

ok wemi awen. Kwentamawena ok ktelitunenena asuwakana,

and all people We teach them and we do them songs

mahwina, achimewakana, lixsewakan, ok mpuhenemahena.

dances stories language and we drum

Free Translation.

It will be so: With our first breath, during our lifetime, and with our last breath, we will take care of our tribespeople. The elders will teach the children the way we live, and we will take care of the elders and all of the people. We will teach and perform our songs and dances. We will teach them the language and we will drum.

9. Kupene Kikayuyemenaninkahke ok Pilitunk

Regarding

our ancestors

and

sacred places

Lekech: Apchi xu nemesalawenanak kikayuyemenaninkahke wichi ahowatam.

It will be so: always will we think of/remember our ancestors with respect

Na haki pilet enta tawenasihitit. Pili haki ok nen hate pilitunk.

the ground it is sacred where they are buried other ground also it is sacred

Apchi kench nkenahkitunenena nel pilitunk.

always must we take care of them those sacred places

Free Translation.

It will be so: We will always remember our ancestors with respect. The ground is sacred where they are buried and other ground is also sacred. We must always take care of our sacred places.

10. Kupene Pili Lakeichik

Regarding Other Tribes

Lekech. Apchi nteluwensihena nek muxumsak ok na welankuntewi awenak.

It will be so: Always we were called the Grandfathers and the peacekeepers

Tamse pili lakeichik kiikamakunanak. Apchi nulahchahawenanak

sometimes other tribes they visit us always we treat them well

wichi ahowatam. Achimulsahtihena ok wemi awen

with respect. We will come together for a Council and every person

xu pemetunhe ok xu pwentako. Na sakima, nek kikayak,

will speak and will be heard/understood the chief, the elders

ok nek lepwexkweok, xu kishiteheok ktelsihena.

and the wise women, will they decide what we do

Free Translation.

It will be so: We were always called the Grandfathers – the peace keepers. When other tribes visit us we will treat them well with respect. We will come together for Council and every person will speak and will be heard and understood. The chief and the elders and the wise women will decide what will be done.

11. Kupene Hnakewsewakan Nithakeyemenanak

Regarding Aid to Our Fellow Tribespeople

Lekech. Wemi awen ahpu yu tali withakeyunk xu

It will be so: Every one he exists here among his/her fellow tribespeople will

newichemekuna wichi keku welsit elsit ok xu witenakwsuwihena.

he/she helps us with things the way he/she does best and will we work together.

Free Translation.

It will be so: Everone who is a member of the tribe will contribute to the tribe in whatever way he/she can do best. We will all work together to achieve our goals.

12. Kupene Welixtu na Lekhikan Lenapeowski

Regarding Amending the Document to Live the Lenape Way

Lekech: Lepweinuyemenanak kaski ulixtuneyo yun lekhikan

It will be so: Our Councilpersons they can they change it this document.

Wemi kwiteletewakana kench xu hateyo Lenapei elawsiyenk.

All corrections must will they are the way the Lenape live.

Free Translation.

It will be so: Our Councilpersons can amend this constitution. All amendments must reflect the way of the Lenape people.