



## Declaration of čišaaʔaqsumin

Since time immemorial, čišaaʔaqsumin honor the teaching of hišukʔin čawaak, it is the core of our belief that everything has life and is interconnected. Our teachings are what give us strength. As čišaaʔaqsumin are rooted in the values of equality, humility, kindness, generosity and balance. Every person has a role, and everyone works together and looks after one another. čišaaʔaqsumin uphold ʔiisaak as a way of life, it is honoring the sacredness of life, it is the key to demonstrating respectful actions and behavior, as well as showing respect for all living things, which includes;

- Family
- Humility
- Ceremony
- Story telling
- Lands, water, sky and all that inhabits Mother Earth

Today's generation is walking in two worlds. čišaaʔaqsumin embrace our root; our anchor, to identify and bring our teachings back to life. čišaaʔaqsumin respectfully claim and assert our place in society honoring the balance of men and women and our responsibility to protect our haahuufii, our children and future generations of all living things.

čišaaʔaṭṭh traditional ways of life and our teachings fell dormant for a number of years. čišaaʔaqsumin have survived the effects of colonization, residential schools, trauma and violence. čišaaʔaṭṭh value their women as teachers and carriers of life. As such they are to be treated well and protected. čišaaʔaqsumin have strong minds to remember and are to be respected for the knowledge that they carry for the future generations. They ensure the continuity of teachings, values, ceremonies, songs and stories. čišaaʔaqsumin are integral to the strength and wellness of our community.

čišaaʔaqsumin remember where we come from; that is what makes us strong. We teach with love and respect to honor those that came before us and those yet to come. Moving forward, we draw on the strength and resiliency of our ancestors and knowledge to guide us in supporting the health, wellbeing and safety of our Nation and all current and future inhabitants of Mother Earth. As čišaaʔaqsumin we embrace our responsibility to uphold the sacredness of all life rooted in our traditional ways of being.