**Induction Ceremony-Longhouse Chief\***

**Induction of Longhouse Chief\* with Symbolic Gifts of Nature**

**Overview:** This ceremony is used to induct and welcome new a Longhouse Chief. ***It is intended to only be used for the top officer of the Longhouse*** or other level of the organization (RAL, NLL) because of the additional symbolism that such a high office & level of responsibility should be given. It can be used by itself or as a part of a larger ceremony. Adjust wording as necessary to fit those needs. This ceremony can be blended with the **Induction-Longhouse Officers** ceremony if necessary to induct all new Longhouse Officers for a coming new term.

\*This ceremony is very fitting to induct a new RAL or National Council Chief as well.

The Great Elder portion of this ceremony requires a number of gifts that represent things in nature. They need to be prepared for in advance. If an item is not available, substitute another gift of nature and change the text to fit.

The Great Elder may need to memorize their portion where it is necessary to act out in sign language as well as speak the words of the Sixth Aim.

**Participants:**

* Leader: Ceremonial Leader
* Assistant: Co-leader
* Great Elder: Presenter of the gifts of wisdom and gifts of nature
* Anyone else necessary to help or guide the proceedings
* New Longhouse Chief\*

**Relevant Ceremonial Pieces:** You may wish to incorporate this ceremony with other ceremonial components to form your full ceremony. The following are basic suggestions. Your creativity is your limit.

* Parade to Ceremonial Location
* Sacred Fire Lighting
* Induction or Graduation of members
* Other Officer Inductions
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**CEREMONY**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Leader | *(Call the Council to Order with Salutation)*I am (Leader Indian Name). It is my honor as a past (Officer title) of this (**Longhouse Name, RAL Name, etc**.) to induct a new Chief to lead the (**Longhouse Name, RAL Name, etc**.).  |
| Assistant | Will (**New Chief Name & Indian name**), our new (**Longhouse Name, RAL Name, etc**.) Chief, please step forward to stand in front of this council.  |
| Leader | Chief (**New Chief Indian name**), you have volunteered to lead the (**Longhouse Name, RAL Name, etc**.). This honor, this responsibility has been given to you because your interest and your abilities will be an asset to the position you will hold |
| Assistant | I call forward any other past Chiefs/Lifetime Members present. Please join us in the front of this council gathering. *(PAUSE)**(present the Peace Pipe)*Our New Chief will join the Past Chiefs & Lifetime Members in holding the peace pipe. *(PAUSE)* |
| Leader | New Chief **(New Chief Indian name)** Please answer "I Will" loudly to the following… Will you as the new Chief of the (**Longhouse Name, RAL Name, etc**.) pledge to carry out the responsibilities of your position to the best of your ability? Will you make every effort to organize and communicate with the Longhouses of this (**Longhouse, RAL, etc**.)? Will you make it your goal to be a living example of the aims and ideals of the Native Sons & Daughters Programs? |
| Leader | I invite our Great Elder (Great Elder Indian Name) to now bestow on our new chief some very special gifts and wisdom… |
| Great Elder | *(Steps forward with the gifts already prepared)* |
| Great Elder | Great Chief, I (Great Elder Indian Name) have some very special gift to present to you that are symbolic of the office you have accepted. With those symbolic gifts, there is also some very important wisdom.First, a reminder of your need to move about within this great (**Longhouse, RAL, etc**.), to bring forth the leadership that Great Spirit has placed within all of us and to finds the strength for our journey toward the tomorrows.Second, a gift of a drum, to remind you of the need for communication within the (**Longhouse, RAL Name, etc**.) and that you are the “Keeper of the Word” |
|  | CONTINUED |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Great Elder | Third, a gift of a tipped arrowhead. This is a reminder of the strength you represent within (**Longhouse Name, RAL Name, etc**.) and that one may sometimes feel wounded by others, but standing true to the mission of this great program and it deep traditions, that you would overcome and provide leadership and direction.Fourth, you are the Keeper of the Six Aims, especially the sixth Aim and the official “signs” of that Aim as I will entrust you with now:**To Seek** (hand like salute over eyes… looking to the distance)**And Preserve** (arms crossed with clenched fists in from of chest with strength)**The Beauty** (open hand brought up to cheek then wiped away)**Of the Great Spirits Work** (hands at shoulders, looking to the sky’s and beyond)**In Forest** (hand in front with 4 fingers up and thumb down)**Field** (flat out in front of you, tilted and moving back and forth as if sweeping across the tops of the prairie grasses)**And Stream** (flat hand that wiggles out away from you as a flowing stream) |
| Great Elder | As a symbol of the Sixth Aim, I give you the jawbone of the beaver. A stream and river dweller, his unyielding dedication to provide for his family is an example to follow with the tribal family.Fifth, I give you this hawk feather. The hawk, whose keen eyes and superior hunting skills makes him a high flier. Use this example to search far and wide for new membership.Sixth, this sweet-grass that our Native American friends use to freshen their lodges and to bring calm moments as the quiet of the fields in our minds.And finally with great respect for our forest laws in Gods towering world of the forest trees, the gift of the Bracken plant. This is what grows on the base of tree when it begins to wither and fade and moves down as the tree is gradually lost to the earth. It reminds you to look always for the smallest sign that a program that does not remain vital and fresh and filled with good leadership will also begin to wither and fade. You are the Keeper of Our Continuance.(*Salutation*) to you our new Great Chief! |
| Assistant | Great Spirit, we ask your blessing on our new Chief. Guide his spirit in your service, strengthen his heart and help him in the leadership of our program under the Four Winds of Heaven |
| Chief | (New Chief Indian Name) Having pledged yourself as the new Chief of the (**Longhouse Name, RAL Name, etc**.), I officially welcome you as leader of this council, and present you with the patch that represents your office. As a show of support and welcome, I ask for the applause of the council. |
| Chief / ALL | *(Chief shouts the Longhouse salutation, then all repeat/shout in approval)* |

Contributed by: Elders/Lifetime Members, Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge