FIRST NATION
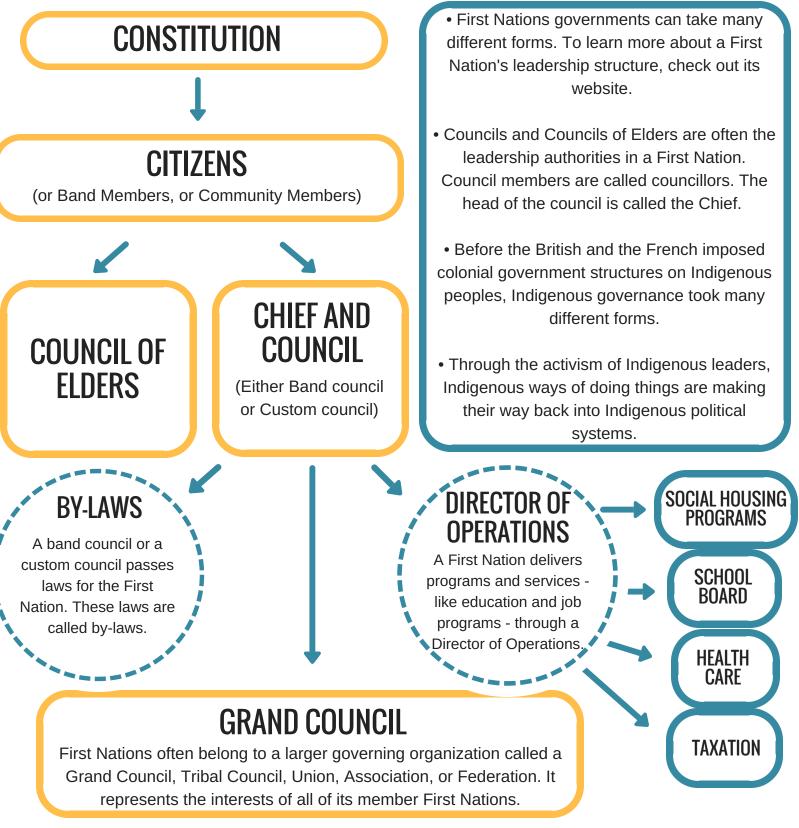
First Nations governments deliver services and programs, like education programs and health care, to their citizens.

CONSTITUTION

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CITIZENS
(or Band Members, or Community Members)

• First Nations governments can take many different forms. To learn more about a First Nation's leadership structure, check out its website.

• Councils and Councils of Elders are often the leadership authorities in a First Nation. Council members are called councillors. The head of the council is called the Chief.

• Before the British and the French imposed colonial government structures on Indigenous peoples, Indigenous governance took many different forms.

• Through the activism of Indigenous leaders, Indigenous ways of doing things are making their way back into Indigenous political systems.

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

CHIEF AND COUNCIL
(Either Band council or Custom council)

BY-LAWS

A band council or a custom council passes laws for the First Nation. These laws are called by-laws.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

A First Nation delivers programs and services - like education and job programs - through a Director of Operations.

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

SCHOOL BOARD

HEALTH CARE

TAXATION

GRAND COUNCIL

First Nations often belong to a larger governing organization called a Grand Council, Tribal Council, Union, Association, or Federation. It represents the interests of all of its member First Nations.

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS   First Nations come together in the Assembly of First Nations, which represents and advocates for First Nations.