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National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) records – Constitution and By-laws, 1967, 1971

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ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be of five classes:

a. Individual Membership. Any person of Indian ancestry in the United States or a Native Alaska is eligible for individual membership. For the purpose of the section, an Indian is a person who is recognized as a member by an Indian tribe, or band, or combination of tribes and bands recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Indian Claims Commission or Court of Claims.

b. Tribal Membership. Any tribe, band or identifiable group of American Indians shall be eligible for tribal membership provided it shall fulfill all of the following requirements:

(1) substantial number of its members reside upon the same reservation, or (in the absence of a reservation) in the same general locality; (2) It maintains a tribal organization, with regular officers and the means of transacting business and arriving at a reasonably accurate count of its membership; (3) It is not a mere offshoot or fraction of an organized tribe itself eligible for membership; and (4) It is recognized as a tribe, band, or other identifiable group of American Indians by the Department of the Interior, Court of Claims of the Indian Claims Commission. The All-Pueblo Council and similar Indian groups with a common bond shall be each considered one tribe for the purposes of membership, voting and dues assessments.

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