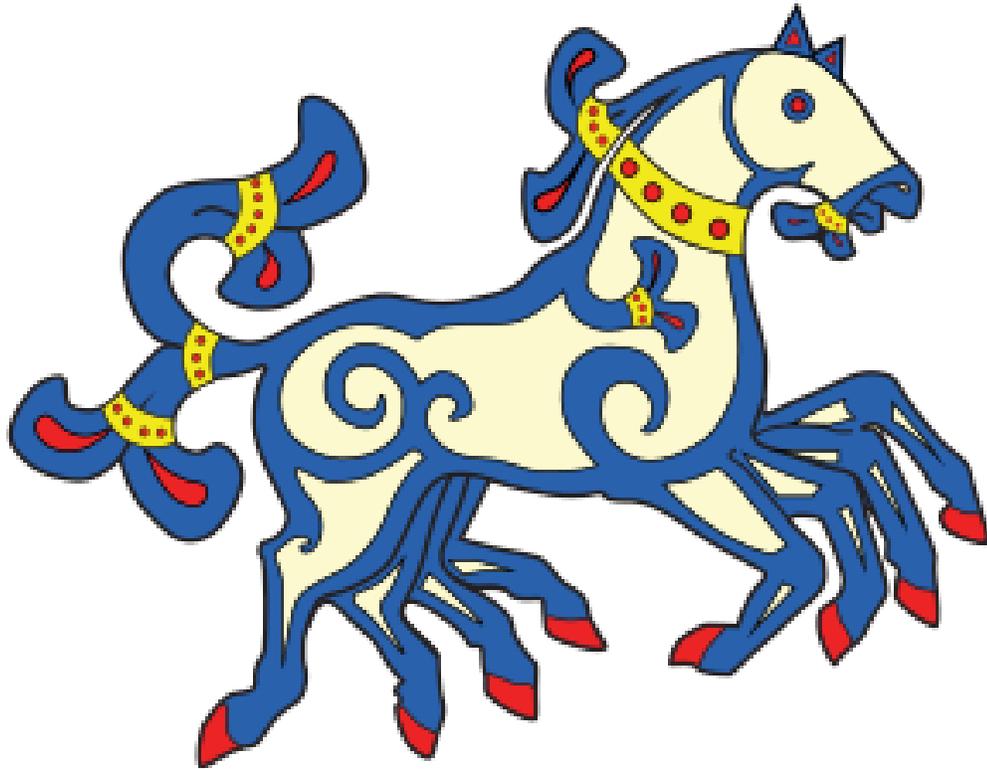


# British Columbia Heathen Freehold



## Constitution

As adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2020 CE

## Article 1. Identity

- Section 1 The name of this religious body is the *British Columbia Heathen Freehold*, hereafter referred to as "*the Freehold*".
- Section 2 Founded on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 in Vancouver BC

## Article 2. Statement of Belief

- Section 1 Heathenry is defined as the modern revival of the indigenous pre-Christian religion of the Germanic peoples of Northern Europe; including but not limited to the Norse, Anglo-Saxons, Continental Saxons, Franks, and Goths. Terms for specific branches of Heathenry include but are not limited to Asatru, Vanatru, Forn Sed, and Fyrnsidu.
- Section 2 We believe that anyone may be a Heathen regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, affectional preference, or physical or mental ability; so long as they value the lore and practices of Heathenry.
- Section 3 We believe our religious community is a Frithgard, a sacred space where peace is inviolate, thus we can receive our members, guests, and gods in full hospitality.
- Section 4 We believe in the sanctity of oaths made before our gods and community; these oaths bind us one to the other that all might prosper together.
- Section 5 We believe that each member, hearth, or kindred of the Freehold has the right to set their own customs and practices as they see fit.

## Article 3. Purposes

- Section 1 The Freehold is to advance the practice of Heathenry by teaching the lore, observances, and practices of Heathenry. To support this purpose the Freehold will establish and maintain religious educational material for new Heathens and for our priests.
- Section 2 The Freehold is to advance the teachings, customs, and observances associated with Heathenry. To support this purpose the Freehold shall establish local congregations, called kindreds, in communities of British Columbia where there is sufficient need and demand.
- Section 3 The Freehold is to advance religion by establishing and maintaining Heathen houses of worship in British Columbia. It is our long-term goal to establish permanent Hofs (Temples) for the use of each kindred. These Hofs will be the locations at which we will provide regular worship services and religious education after they are built.
- Section 4 The Freehold is to advance religion by establishing and organising religious gatherings in accordance with the customs of Heathenry. To support this end, the Freehold will sponsor an annual gathering of Freeholders and guests at the Althing (Annual General Meeting) where religious instruction and worship will take place alongside any necessary business that is put before the Althing.

## Article 4. Organisation

- Section 1 The Freehold's governing body is the Althing, the whole membership assembled to vote on matters of importance to the Freehold as a whole. The Althing shall have the authority to elect the Witangemot to administer the routine affairs of the Freehold, enact and alter by-laws of the Freehold, and make awards to acknowledge the contributions of individuals to the Freehold or Heathenry generally.
- Section 2 The Witangemot is the Freehold's board of directors and shall be elected as the Althing sets out in the Freehold By-laws. The Witangemot shall have administrative and religious oversight of Freehold activities. The Witangemot shall have the authority to set policies to bring about the goals of the Freehold, elect the Freyr/Freya of the Freehold, and to oversee the training and confirmation of Goðar of the Freehold. The Witangemot must maintain at least 5 members.
- Section 3 The Freyr/Freya of the Freehold is the Chief-Priest, Presiding Officer, and Sacral Luckholder of the Freehold. The Freyr/Freya shall have the authority to appoint administrative staff, supervise the religious and administrative actions of the Freehold, and enforce the policies and by-laws of the Freehold.
- Section 4 Kindreds are local congregations of the Freehold. Each Kindred shall have authority over all internal matters, excepting that they must meet minimum standards as set by the Althing. Each Kindred shall elect a Goði or Gyðia to lead ritual activities and handle administration for the Kindred. Members of the Freehold do not need to belong to a Kindred.

## Glossary

Althing – The Parliament of Iceland tracing its origins back to 930 CE. The name was also chosen for the assembly of Freehold members that has the authority to write and amend the by-laws and constitution of the Freehold. All authority within the Freehold derives from the Althing.

Freyr/Freya – Old Norse poetic titles used for priestly lords and ladies. Title of the Freehold's chief priest and presiding officer.

Frithgard – Sacred enclosure dedicated to Heathen ritual activities, violence is strictly prohibited within a Frithgard.

Goði/Gyðia/Goðar – Old Norse terms for a priest/priestess/priest(esse)s. Title of the Freehold's clergy, each supervising the spiritual welfare of a kindred (congregation).

Kindred – Local congregation of the Freehold, lead by one of the Goðar.

Wita(n) – Member of the Freehold's board of directors that is elected by the Althing, one of the Kindreds, or by another method approved by the Althing. The plural form is Witan. Named for high ranking members of Anglo-Saxon Royal Councils.

Witangemot – The Freehold's board of directors, named for the councils that elected and advised Anglo-Saxon Kings.