



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
2016 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY— NIAGARA FALLS, ON
FINAL DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Following the AFN Resolutions Procedures revised by Executive in October 2013, resolutions to be considered at Chiefs Assemblies are required the Friday a full two weeks prior to the first day of the Assembly. Notices of this deadline and related procedures are distributed to all First Nations via broadcast fax and posted on the AFN website.

Resolutions are provided in this package for review by Chiefs-in-Assembly. The Resolutions Committee will receive late resolutions until 5:00 pm ET on Wednesday, July 13, 2016.

#	Title
01	Moving Beyond Federal Legislation to Establish a Nation-to-Nation Relationship
02	Establishing a Nation-to-Nation Process on Land, Peoples and Governance
03	Calling for a National Reconciliation Process & Implementing the RCAP Recommendations
04	Support for First Nations Youth Life Promotion Calls to Action
05	Support for the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education 2017
06	Support for Indigenous Ways of Knowing at the Canada Wide Science Festival
07	Honourable process to develop a federal act for funding First Nations education
08	Call on Canada to update the Additions to Reserve Policy (ATR)
09	Support for Atlantic Salmon Emergency Critical Habitat Order
10	Fish-WIKS - Fisheries Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
11	Support for the National Indian Football Association Canada
12	Long Term Sustainability of Kashechewan (Albany) First Nation Reserve
13	Support for the Montreal Lake Cree Nation Emergency Repsonse Team Proposal
14	Support for Continued Partnership between Indigenous Peoples and LiUNA
15	Support for the concept of inherent and Treaty rights card
16	Development of a national action plan for the implementation of the UNDRIP
17	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 10 year Anniversary
18	Protection and Promotion of Free Prior informed Consent of Indigenous Rights holders
19	Engaging in Climate Action and the Environment
20	Support for Acting on Climate Change - Indigenous Initiatives Project
21	Support for Grassy Narrows and Other Mercury Impacted Communities
22	Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women Girls
23	Support For Bill S-215 An Act To Amend The Criminal Code (Sentencing For Violent Offenses Against Aboriginal Women)
24	Support for Engagement in Health Accord Discussions
25	Support for the Registered Disability Savings Plan
26	Declaration of November as Indigenous Disability Awareness Month
27	Support for Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering
28	Call to Action that Health Canada NIHB list provide a new treatment for type 2 diabetes Jardiance
29	Supporting Partnerships with Indigenous Health Organizations
30	Increased and enhanced flexibility of mental wellness funding to First Nation communities
31	Support for Community-based Health Surveillance Systems
32	Support for a Primary Health Care (Hospital) in Island Lake Manitoba
33	Recognizing and Protecting First Nations Sacred Heritage Sites and Ancestral Burial Grounds
34	Wanuskewin Heritage Park UNESCO Application, "Thundering Ahead"
35	National Indigenous Peoples Statutory Holiday and Indigenous Peoples History Month

#	Title
36	Responsibility to Investigate Allegations of Abuse brought against Mr. John Furlong
37	AFN Charter Chiefs Committee on nation Building & AFN Restructuring, Full Exemption: Proposed Charter Amendments Re: Confederacy of Nations
38	Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring – Proposed Charter Amendments
39	Reaffirmation of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development

DRAFT RESOLUTION #01/2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Moving Beyond Federal Legislation To Establish a Nation-To-Nation Relationship

SUBJECT: Moving Beyond the Indian Act

MOVED BY: Chief David Cote, The Key First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Rick Gamble, Beardy's & Okemasis, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B. Canada has adopted, without qualification, the UN Declaration, which provides standards and guidelines for the nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and First Nations.
- C. Recent public announcements made by the federal Minister of Justice indicate that the Government of Canada is making plans to move beyond the *Indian Act*.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations has a mandate to support First Nations in implementing and enforcing the inherent right to self-determination and the Treaty rights of First Nations across Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on Canada to work with First Nations to develop a comprehensive engagement and consultation process that clearly defines the nation-to-nation relationship between the Crown and First Nations.
2. The comprehensive engagement and consultation process must be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and be committed to the full implementation of First Nation Treaty rights and the UN Declaration prior to any attempt by Canada to change existing legislation or introduce new legislation affecting First Nations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 0 1 / 2 0 1 6

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Moving Beyond Federal Legislation To Establish a Nation-To-Nation Relationship

SUBJECT: Moving Beyond the Indian Act

MOVED BY: Chief David Cote, The Key First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Rick Gamble, Beardy's & Okemasis, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B. Canada has adopted, without qualification, the UN Declaration, which provides standards and guidelines for the nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and First Nations.
- C. Recent public announcements made by the federal Minister of Justice indicate that the Government of Canada is making plans to move beyond the *Indian Act*.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations has a mandate to support First Nations in implementing and enforcing the inherent right to self-determination and the Treaty rights of First Nations across Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on Canada to work with First Nations to develop a comprehensive engagement and consultation process that clearly defines the nation-to-nation relationship between the Crown and First Nations.
2. The comprehensive engagement and consultation process must be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and be committed to the full implementation of First Nation Treaty rights and the UN Declaration prior to any attempt by Canada to change existing legislation or introduce new legislation affecting First Nations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #02/2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Establishing a Nation-to-Nation Process on Land, Peoples and Governance

SUBJECT: Nation-to-Nation Relationship

MOVED BY: Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) recognizes:
 - i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
- B. First Nation sovereignty and self-determination are sacred rights bestowed by the Creator; a reality revered and protected by First Nations on Turtle Island.
- C. First Nation sovereignty was reaffirmed at the Treaty of Niagara in 1764 by the Crown of England and sanctified by the Two Row Wampum Belt.
- D. British North America Act, 1867 and the Indian Act, 1876 imposed an Indian Act government on First Nations in an attempt to displace First Nation governments, jurisdiction and customary laws.
- E. First Nation's true history, spiritual beliefs and ceremonies, and the spirit and intent of Treaties will guide First Nations to disengage from the Indian Act.
- F. The Chiefs-in-Assembly desire forum to dialogue with governments at the highest level on jurisdictional matters pertinent to First Nations and to discuss the unfinished business from the Constitutional Conferences held in 1983, 1985 and 1987.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Endorse the creation of a Nation-to-Nation Process on Land, People and Governance with Canada by establishing regional processes that seek mutual understanding, consensus and solutions to matters pertinent to First Nations including decolonization, empowerment and "going beyond the Indian Act;" and direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to coordinate this process with First Nation regions and Canada.
2. Direct each participating First Nation region, with technical assistance from the AFN, to ensure the direct participation by First Nation citizens throughout the process.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 2 / 2 0 1 6

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3. Call upon the Prime Minister of Canada to convene a special First Ministers Conference with full First Nation participation to discuss and reach consensus on solutions with respect to land, peoples and governance including, but not limited to, matters relating to:
 - a) Section 35(1) rights.
 - b) First Nation governments, jurisdictions & law making.
 - c) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - d) Repealing laws - unilaterally imposed and inconsistent to good governance.
 - e) Other matters pertinent to First Nations on Turtle Island.
4. Call on Canada to fully support and fund the nation-to-nation process at the regional and national level, to ensure First Nations and all other participants can complete the preparatory work and consensus building that is essential to the success of the First Ministers Conference.
5. Call on Canada to ensure that all existing First Nation programs, services and funding be considered "business as usual" and are not affected or disrupted in any way during this process.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 3 / 2 0 1 6

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Calling for a National Reconciliation Process & Implementing the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Recommendations

SUBJECT: Reconciliation Process

MOVED BY: Councillor Gilbert Fredette, Norway House Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Gilbert Andrews, Gods Lake First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. GUIDED BY the natural laws of the Creator and the spirit and intent of our Treaties which define our relationship with the state of Canada;
- B. AFFIRMING our endorsement of the spirit and intent of the Treaty of Niagara of 1764 and its constitutional principles of respect, peace and friendship that were established for Treaty relationships;
- C. WELCOMING the declarations of the federal government to implement the international standards in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples UN Declaration;
- D. WELCOMING ALSO the commitment of the federal government in the statements of the Attorney-General for Canada 'to breathe life into section 35' and to 'get rid of the shackles of the Indian Act';
- E. RECOGNIZING the unwritten principle of the Constitution of Canada that consent is the basis for constitutional legitimacy;
- F. AFFIRMING that the consent of First Nations is necessary for the legitimacy of the constitution as it is for provinces;
- G. RECOGNIZING that recent jurisprudence from Canada's courts has augmented provincial powers to infringe upon First Nations' Treaty and Aboriginal rights and imposed upon the provinces a duty to reconcile provincial interests with First Nation interests;
- H. URGING provincial governments to participate in the national project of reconciling provincial interests with First Nation interests;
- I. URGING ALSO the federal government to retain, through laws enacted jointly with First Nations, its traditional protective role mandated by imperial policy and the purposes of section 91(24);
- J. CONVINCED that a national process of reconciliation requires a national strategy and national institutions;

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K. CONVINCED ALSO that the national project of reconciliation demands local and regional negotiations to accommodate the distinct status and circumstances of distinct First Nations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly, respectfully calls upon the government of Canada:

1. To adopt, in consultation with representatives of the First Nations in Canada, a national reconciliation process having the following features and purposes: the negotiation of the contents of a new ROYAL PROCLAMATION, as recommended by the federal *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (1996) and the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* (2015), that would:
 - a. declare the commitment of the federal government to the principles of the *Royal Proclamation* of 1763 as agreed at the *Treaty of Niagara 1764*, as an expression of a new relationship with First Nations;
 - b. be accompanied, in the spirit of s.35 *Constitution Act 1982*, in accordance with the distinct needs and circumstances of First Nations, and as recommended by the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*, by legislation for 'Closing the Gap' that would identify the roles and responsibilities of the federal government respecting the delivery of social services to First Nations, including in the spheres of First Nations health and education;
 - c. be accompanied by legislation that makes the structural changes necessary for the federal government to allow it to communicate and negotiate effectively with First Nations, including the creation of a Crown Relations Office in a senior Ministry [as recommended by Canada's *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (RCAP)];

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- d. be accompanied by legislation for the creation of specialized courts or tribunals to assist the process and arbitrate or adjudicate disputes arising from negotiations on arrangements for “getting rid of the shackles of the Indian Act”.
2. To enact legislation that guarantees financial assistance for regional negotiations with distinct ‘nations’ on a nation-to-nation basis concerning arrangements and mechanisms to implement the UN Declaration standards and, in the spirit of the Treaty of Niagara, to breathe life into section 35 of Canada’s Constitution, which protects our Treaties.
3. To work with willing First Nation and provincial governments on the calling of a national conference, to be held within one year, to examine options for legitimizing the Constitution of Canada by attaching the consent of First Nations to constitutional provisions and interpretations, including, in particular, section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, and the identification of the respective roles of the federal and provincial governments in ‘nation-to-nation’ relationships with First Nations.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 4 / 2 0 1 6

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TITLE: Support for First Nations Youth Life Promotion Calls to Action

SUBJECT: Youth, Mental Health

MOVED BY: Chief Candice Paul, St. Mary's First Nation, NB

SECONDED BY: Chief Roy Fabian, Katlodeeche First Nation, NT

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision making institutions.
 - ii. Article 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
 - iii. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. Suicide rates are five to seven times higher for First Nations youth than for non-Aboriginal youth and are considered to be among the highest in the world.
- C. It is widely recognized that youth have important contributions to make in developing and administering life promotion activities and their involvement is necessary to develop their sense of purpose, hope, meaning and belonging to build resilience and ultimately decrease the risk of suicide.
- D. At most levels of life, promotion and suicide prevention policy and programming, youth are largely absent.
- E. The Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council, in collaboration with youth representatives across Canada, have developed several Calls to Action on Life Promotion for First Nations youth aimed at sparking meaningful action on these issues.
- F. It is expected that without drastic efforts in life promotion that involve and empower youth, youth suicide and its consequent impacts will continue to increase and impair First Nations communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

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1. Direct the National Chief to advocate to the federal government to support the implementation of the National Youth Council's Calls to Action on Life Promotion recommendations.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to communicate the National Youth Council's Calls to Action on Life Promotion with new and existing partners.
3. Endorse youth involvement in the entire process of life promotion work amongst and within the federal government and First Nations leadership.
4. Direct the AFN to advocate for increased funding to address mental wellness through a continuum of care across the lifespan, using the First Nation Mental Wellness Continuum framework as a lens, so First Nations communities can have access to resources to develop or expand life promotion initiatives.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 5 / 2 0 1 6

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education 2017

SUBJECT: Education

MOVED BY: Chief Ava Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. In 2017, as Canada celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation, Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP) in partnership with TAP Resources will host the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education, *A Celebration of Indigenous Resilience*, July 24-29, 2017 in Toronto.
- B. The World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) is the largest venue for Indigenous education in the world attracting over 4,000 Indigenous delegates.
- C. WIPCE provides significant opportunity to strengthen cultural resilience, inspire cultural fluency among First Nation Youth and build understanding across cultures.
- D. Truth and reconciliation is a growing international movement and presentations at WIPCE 2017 will address the status of the reconciliation in Canada and other countries.
- E. WIPCE 2017, *A Celebration of Resilience*, will also examine the role and impacts of Indigenous knowledge and languages in reconciliation thereby providing unique opportunities to profile and share Indigenous peoples education issues and successes in Ontario, across Canada and internationally.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Provide full support to the WIPCE 2017 Host Committee in their pursuits of sponsorship for this historic celebration of Indigenous resilience.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 6 / 2 0 1 6

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Indigenous Ways of Knowing at the Canada Wide Science Festival

SUBJECT: Education

MOVED BY: Chief Michael Starr, Star Blanket First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Dennis Dustyhorn, Kawacatoose First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
- i. (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
 - ii. (2): States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.
- B. The Canada-Wide Science Festival is an annual science fair in Canada coordinated by Youth Science Canada and will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan on May 14-20, 2017;
- C. The Canada-Wide Science Festival does not currently incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing as a category at this annual fair;
- D. The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Science and Math Program is part of the planning team for the Canada-Wide Science Festival and sees merit in having traditional knowledge of First Nations across the Country recognized as a valid source of information and practice In promoting environmental protection.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Supports the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Science & Math Program in its request to Youth Science Canada to add a category of Indigenous Ways of Knowing to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in 2017, and for all future years.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #07/2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Honourable Process to Develop a Federal Act for Funding First Nations Education

SUBJECT: Education

MOVED BY: Chief Lyndon Musqua, Keeseekoose First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief David Cote, The Key First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples declares under Article 14 that Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions and Article 19 directs Canada to consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent on legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's control and underfunding of First Nations education systems has produced many negative outcomes that First Nations understand can be remedied by a statutory guarantee of fair, predictable and sustainable funding for systems developed and maintained by First Nations.
- C. First Nations recognize federal legislation as a construct of the Government of Canada that provides a mechanism for inter-governmental transfers to occur.
- D. AFN Resolution 35/2014 supported a draft *Framework for a Federal Act for First Nation Education* and a draft *First Nations – Federal Crown Terms of Reference on Federal Act for Funding First Nations Education* as working documents to bring to the Government of Canada and develop an honourable process to develop a federal act for funding First Nations education.
- E. AFN Resolutions 01/2014 and 11/2014 also supported First Nations to call upon Canada to engage in an honourable process to develop a more streamlined and effective funding mechanism for First Nations education including a comprehensive funding formula to replace antiquated and outdated methodologies.
- F. AFN Resolutions 01/2014 and 11/2014 also called for an immediate infusion of additional funding for First Nations education to begin closing the funding gap for First Nations education until such time as a new fiscal framework is agreed upon.
- G. A new Liberal government announced its federal commitment to First Nations education through the 2016 federal budget which invested \$2.6 billion over five years for elementary and secondary education.
- H. First Nations across Canada have engaged in extensive discussions in their territories on the way forward for First Nations education and require a statutory guarantee of fair, predictable and

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sustainable funding to ensure the educational needs of First Nations learners are fully recognized and met regardless of where they reside.

- I. Responding to Resolution AFN 35/2014, AFN, the Chiefs Committee on Education and its national committee of First Nations education technicians, the National Indian Education Council (NIEC), have worked in collaboration with INAC to develop a draft *First Nations – Government of Canada Terms of Reference Joint Working Committee*, which outlines an honourable and collaborative process for ratification by Chiefs-in-Assembly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Accept the updated document, *Joint Collaboration between the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) (Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE), National Indian Education Council (NIEC), and Education Secretariat) and the Education Branch of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to develop a Federal Act for Funding First Nations Education (2016-2018)*, as the document that outlines an honourable process between First Nations and INAC to develop a draft federal act for funding First Nations education.
2. Call for the implementation of the aforementioned document through the activities and timelines therein.
3. Require the draft Federal Act for Funding First Nations Education that results from this process be ratified by the Chiefs in Assembly before being introduced into the federal House of Commons.
4. Understand that implementation of this resolution is contingent upon the Government of Canada and their provision of sufficient funding to undertake activities as outlined in the aforementioned documents.
5. Demand that Canada honours their Constitutional obligation to the Treaty right to education.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #08/2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Call on Canada to update the Additions to Reserve Policy (ATR)

SUBJECT: Land Rights and Claims

MOVED BY: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Harold St-Denis, Wolf Lake First Nation, QC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms:
 - i. Article 26 (2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
 - ii. Article 26 (3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.
- B. Adding additional lands to reserve is critical to the development of First Nation communities.
- C. The federal government's Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy is inadequate and inconsistent with the UN Declaration, and contains many barriers to reserve creation which impacts the ability of First Nations to take advantage of economic or social opportunities and frustrates the implementation of claims settlements.
- D. The federal government has acknowledged the need for an updated ATR policy and process to make it more effective and transparent.
- E. A Joint AFN / Canada Technical Working Group (JTWG) was established in 2009 with representatives from AFN and Canada which included First Nation representatives from several regions across Canada.
- F. The JTWG has met regularly to discuss the development of a new policy and process that would be guided by the following principles: transparency; cooperative relationships; timelines and service standards; and adequate capacity and resourcing.
- G. In 2013, Canada released a draft version of the updated ATR policy for public comment where these comments were consistent with the guiding principles considered by the JTWG.
- H. The Chiefs Committee on Claims (CCoC) has helped to guide discussions relating to the development of the new ATR policy.
- I. After years of joint development, and a period of adjournment, the new policy has been finalized with Canada, but has not yet been released.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 8 / 2 0 1 6

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to call on the Government of Canada to implement the new ATR policy and related processes as soon as possible.
2. Call on the Government of Canada to engage with First Nation stakeholders at the Joint Technical Working Group table to ensure that the implementation of Canada's new ATR policy and process reflects the Honour of the Crown, Canadian law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 9 / 2 0 1 6

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Atlantic Salmon Emergency Critical Habitat Order

SUBJECT: Fisheries, Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Rufus Copage, Sipekne'katik (Shubenacadie), NS

SECONDED BY: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
- i. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
 - ii. Article 29 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
 - iii. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
 - iv. Article 32 (2) States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
 - v. Article 32 (3) States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.
- B. Since time immemorial, the Mi'kmaq of Mi'kma'ki have relied on salmon for subsistence, and continue to subsist on salmon today to meet the nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs of the indigenous peoples.
- C. The Sipekne'katik members have Mi'kmaq Treaty rights, Supreme Court decisions, and constitutional protection to harvest salmon for Food, Social and Ceremonial purposes and seek to preserve aquatic species for future generations.

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- D. In 2003, the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon was listed as Endangered under the *Species at Risk Act*; and released the Recovery Strategy for the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon with Critical Habitat in 2010.
- E. The Shubenacadie River System was recognized as a migration corridor for salmon which consists of the Shubenacadie and Stewiacke Rivers, including the Shubenacadie Estuary to the confluence with Stewiacke River, Minas Basin and Chignecto Bay.
- F. The Sipekne'katik Band has recently requested the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard (DFO) to recommend that the Governor in Council place a Critical Habitat destination, specifically through an Emergency Order under section 80 of the *Species at Risk Act*, to protect the migration corridor of the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon.
- G. Listing the Shubenacadie River system as Critical Habitat will aid in the protection and preservation of the Atlantic salmon species

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. To fully support the Sipekne'katik Band in its request to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to designate the Shubenacadie River system as Critical Habitat, through an Emergency Order to protect the migration corridor for the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon.
2. To mandate the National Chief to issue a letter of support to the Sipekne'katik Band's request to protect Atlantic salmon to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and other responsible federal government agencies.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 10 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Fish-WIKS: Fisheries Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

SUBJECT: Fisheries

MOVED BY: Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
 - i. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
- B. First Nations are the traditional stewards of fisheries and aquatic resources.
- C. First Nations require greater capacity to access, form, influence, synthesize and create knowledge about fisheries resources to support stewardship, management and informed decision making.
- D. Since 2011, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has worked collaboratively with a variety of academic partners and First Nations (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, Nipissing First Nation and Eskasoni First Nation) on the first phase of the Fish-WIKS project.
- E. The Fisheries Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Fish-WIKS) research partnership project was initiated by AFN and Dalhousie University and funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and will end in 2017.
- F. The Fish-WIKS project has bridged a gap in academic capacity, scientific data, policy, technical capacity, Indigenous Knowledge and governance with First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Call on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to provide further leadership in establishing strong and respectful relationships with academic partners to expand the amount of scientific (technical), policy and economic research carried out cooperatively with First Nations regarding First Nation fisheries.
- 2. Direct the AFN to continue its efforts as directed in Resolution 53/2012 *Support for Fisheries Research*.
- 3. Direct the AFN to support the examination and development of renewed opportunities to work in conjunction with additional academic partners and First Nations, to develop a second phase of the Fisheries Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Fish-WIKS) project to commence in 2018.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 11 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for the National Indian Football Association Canada

SUBJECT: Sports

MOVED BY: Chief Bob Chamberlain, Kwikwasuti'nuxw First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Harvey Underwood , Tsawout First Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The Native Indian Football Association (NIFA) has been in existence for 25 years and has developed players and coaches to ensure First Nations athletes gain equal opportunity to strive towards the highest levels of national and international teams and competitions and to organize and host soccer camps and elite tournaments that will enhance development of youth players within First Nations communities in Canada. For the first time ever in the sport of soccer, NIFA Indigenous Ladies Team Canada won the inaugural 2015 World games gold Medal, a monumental time in history.
- B. The NIFA is in a position to take First Nations soccer programs to the highest level of development and competition and wishes to use a holistic approach based on traditional methods and technical skill development. Working with First Nations and soccer specific organizations, NIFA will develop the highest standard of traditional and technical training plans available to athletes and coaches.
- C. NIFA is working to build the capacity of its elite coaches through workshops, who will in turn coach First Nation youth elite teams regionally and nationally and assist in selection at national identification camps that lead to national and international competitions.
- D. NIFA have built international partners via international soccer tours and cultural exchanges around the world, have developed a memorandum of understanding with our USA counterparts, provided technical soccer information and created technical packages for Brazil at the first world indigenous games in 2015.
- E. NIFA has created a National Working Group that will assist in the development of soccer and, as a group, provide leadership, advocacy and a voice regionally and nationally to create opportunities for First Nations communities in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Native Indian Football Association NIFA as they work to build on the 25 years of football (soccer) in First Nations in Canada and North America in the development of coaches at both the grassroots level to international levels of competition. The approach will be a holistic one offering relevant traditional philosophies that integrate with universal elite sport development models.
2. Call on the national soccer organization, regional soccer organizations, First Nations sport organizations and business corporations to assist NIFA with financial support to develop short and long term football (soccer) development programs for First Nations youth and their coaches in Canada.

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3. Call on First Nations sport organizations to support and assist in the development of national level Indigenous teams (men and women, boys and girls) who will participate in international friendly competitions and compete at on-going World Indigenous Games and World Indigenous Soccer Cups in the future.
4. Support the NIFA development of long term program strategies to create sport and soccer infrastructure that will give opportunity for First Nations youth to pursue academic excellence through soccer at the level of their choice that lead to careers, healthy lifestyles, wellness and help them to become positive role models.
5. Support NIFA, as a leading soccer organization globally, to host and organize soccer events in Canada, be a resource internationally and to work in partnership with Soccer Canada and regional soccer bodies and First Nations sport groups across Canada.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 12 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Long Term Sustainability of Kashechewan (Albany) First Nation Reserve # 67

SUBJECT: Lands and Reserves

MOVED BY: Chief Leo Friday, Kashechewan First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Bruce Sheeshish, Attawapiskat First Nation, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - iii. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - iv. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, healthy and social security.
 - v. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. Kashechewan First Nation, located 35 feet above mean sea level in James Bay, Ontario, is a growing community of 2,300 people, the majority of which (60%) are under 25 years of age.
- C. Due to its current location on the flood plain, Kashechewan First Nation is extremely vulnerable to flooding, resulting in numerous community evacuations since 1974.
- D. In 1996, responding to major flooding which took place during the 1980s, Canada built a 7 kilometer ring dyke around the community. The dyke is 20 years old and no longer meets the standards for dyke construction or public safety.
- E. In 2006, the dyke was nearly overtopped due to flooding and ice jamming. For the last 4 years Kashechewan First Nation has been evacuated each year and 36 homes remain unusable from the flooding.

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- F. The 460 residents evacuated in 2014 are unable to return because their homes are unusable.
- G. The long term sustainability and growth of Kashechewan First Nation requires relocation from their current location on floodplain. The rationale for this move is as follows:
 - i. Kashechewan First Nation community experiences regular flooding, resulting in numerous evacuations since 1974. Major flooding occurs once every ten years, and annual flooding has occurred each of the past four years.
 - ii. A 2015 engineering risk assessment report determined the dyke and associated infrastructure to be an “Intolerable Risk” to public safety.
 - iii. A preliminary engineering report has outlined three flood risk reduction options, each with associated construction costs in excess of \$500 million, and which would have negative impacts on the traditional use and access of the Albany River by the Kashechewan First Nation.
 - iv. Since 2005, it is estimated the Government of Canada has spent between \$50 and \$100 million in evacuation costs.
 - v. Kashechewan First Nation signed relocation and development agreements with the Government of Canada in 2005 and 2007. These nation-to-nation agreements included commitments from Canada to address the areas of infrastructure, health, education, social and economic sustainability, and public safety.
- H. Kashechewan First Nation met with the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in June, 2016, to discuss the relocation of Kashechewan First Nation. The Minister committed to examine relocation options with Kashechewan First Nation, and agreed to provide immediate assistance to ensure Kashechewan First Nation is able to meet the housing, infrastructure, health and safety needs of its community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on Canada to uphold the Honour of the Crown and immediately begin working with Kashechewan First Nation to explore relocation options, and to provide ongoing emergency support to Kashechewan First Nation to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of its community.
2. Call on Canada to recognize and acknowledge the impacts of climate change on all areas of life, including infrastructure, housing, health, education, economic development and the traditional use of lands and resources.
3. Call on Canada to work with First Nations to develop sustainable approaches to combat climate change and ensure the security, health, and prosperity of future generations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 13 / 2016

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TITLE: Support for the Montreal Lake Cree Nation Emergency Response Search and Rescue Team Proposal

SUBJECT: Health and Safety

MOVED BY: A/Chief Dirk McDonald, Montreal Lake Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Cadmuss Delorme, Cowesses First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
 - i. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- B. The Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Treaty No 6 has proposed the creation of an Emergency Response Search and Rescue Team.
- C. On May 6, 2016, National Chief Perry Bellegarde was invited to the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for Emergencies where greater involvement by First Nations and their mandated organizations is needed in emergency response activities was communicated to the Minister.
- D. Search and Rescue (SAR) operations involving First Nations do not always have consideration for First Nation realities, such as set time limits for the search operation criteria by other agencies,
- E. The mandate of the Emergency Response Team is to locate, access, stabilize, rescue and transport lost, missing or injured persons to safety.
- F. The Emergency Response Search and Rescue Team would work cooperatively with other emergency agencies and police authorities and, when fully developed, would provide training to people from other First Nations communities

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Montreal Lake Cree Nation Emergency Response Search and Rescue Team proposal.
2. Support building and transferring of greater capacity and control, over all areas of Emergency Management and Response for First Nations communities in Saskatchewan including firefighting and evacuations.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to communicate this position to the federal and provincial governments as it relates to the Emergency Measures Bilateral Agreement.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 14 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Continued Partnership between Indigenous Peoples and the Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)

SUBJECT: International, UNDRIP

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. Since 1903, the Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA) has been at the forefront of defending the rights of working men and women who have been unfairly treated by governments and industry.
- B. In 2007, at a LiUNA Canadian Conference in Lake Louise Alberta, LiUNA's leadership reached out to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) as an extension of the belief that the LiUNA movement is a natural partner with Indigenous communities. This conference marked a significant partnership as LiUNA signed a memorandum of understanding with former AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine with the thought to partner with the AFN in order to help Indigenous youth learn new skills and trade, as well address the numerous issues affecting the indigenous community.
- C. The 2007 conference served as a catalyst for LiUNA to make it a priority to do its part in addressing historical wrongs perpetuated on Indigenous communities. LiUNA supports the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) in its entirety.
- D. LiUNA strongly believes that supporting and recognizing the rights codified in the UN Declaration should not only be the role of governments but also of unions and of industry.
- E. It is in this spirit that LiUNA wishes to establish a partnership with the leadership of the Indigenous community to symbolically sign this UN Declaration between LiUNA and First Nations leadership.
- F. On May 4, 2016, a LiUNA representative met with Grand Chief Edward John, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues North American member and Political Executive member of the First Nations Summit, and discussed the significance of the Declaration and LiUNA's support for it.
- G. Following this meeting, on June 7, 2016, LiUNA sent the attached correspondence to the First Nations Summit expressing its support for the Declaration, and its wish to discuss the possibility of a partnership with the leadership of the Indigenous community to symbolically sign the UN Declaration between the LiUNA and First Nations leadership.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 14 / 2016

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Welcome the strong positive support from Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA).
2. Recognize that public education is important for First Nations and Canada to moving forward as equal partners and to support healing as identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report and Calls to Action.
3. Invite other trade unions to express support for *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).
4. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to:
 - a. Jointly sign the UN Declaration as a display and affirmation of partnership.
 - b. Work with LiUNA to engage with other trade unions to honour and accept the spirit of the UN Declaration.
 - c. Work with LiUNA to construct a working relationship with the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development.

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TITLE: Support for the concept of inherent and Treaty rights card

SUBJECT: Inherent and Treaty Rights

MOVED BY: Chief Norman Whitehawk, Cote First, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Derek Sunshine, Fishing Lake First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
 - i. Article 6: Every Indigenous individual has the right to a nationality.
 - ii. Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- B. Inherent Rights are the rights that every Indigenous person is born with.
- C. Treaty rights are the foundation of the relationship between First Nations and the Crown.
- D. The issuing of Canadian government status cards is not an identification of inherent and/or Treaty rights and does not identify the inherent, tribal and Treaty territories that were in existence before the Constitution of Canada, provincial boundaries or any imposing legislation.
- E. The issuance and use of an inherent and Treaty rights card is an assertion of self-determination and governance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Support the concept of an inherent and Treaty Rights Card that sets out the inherent and Treaty Rights prior to the Constitution of Canada and the imposition of provincial boundaries and legislations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 16 / 2016

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TITLE: Development of a national action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

SUBJECT: Inherent and Treaty rights

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. Since the October 2015 federal election, Prime Minister Trudeau has publicly stated in mandate letters to his Cabinet Ministers that, "No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership." On November 13, 2015 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went on to publicly release all 30 ministerial mandate letters, as part of a plan for open and transparent government for Canadians.
- B. In the mandate letter to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, the Honorable Carolyn Bennett was mandated to work with her colleagues and, through established legislative, regulatory, and cabinet processes, deliver on top priorities, including supporting the work of reconciliation. This includes working with provinces and territories, and with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit, to implement recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, starting with the implementation of the Declaration.
- C. In its final report and 94 calls to action, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada called upon the federal government, among others, to "fully adopt and implement" the Declaration as the framework for reconciliation.
- D. Prime Minister Trudeau committed to implementing the TRC'S 94 Calls to Action. Consistent with this new direction, at the 15th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York, the Honorable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada announced that Canada will officially step back from its persistent objector status and become a full, unqualified supporter of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration).
- E. Implementing the Declaration as a framework for reconciliation will usher in an era based on justice, recognition of rights, and partnership.
- F. To be clear, Indigenous Peoples and organizations must be full partners in the reform of laws and policies which impact on our lives. The Declaration provides a framework necessary law and policy

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reform to assist us in achieving justice and reconciliation, and relationship building. The dynamics in the legal and political landscape have changed, so too must our way of doing business. As the TRC suggested, "reconciliation is going to take hard work."

- G. Now that Canada officially supports the Declaration, necessary steps must be taken to ensure its full implementation. As Canada begins the hard work of translating its expression of support into an action plan, it must do so in full collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and consistent with the 46 articles of the Declaration.
- H. It is critical that provinces be involved as partners in realizing the full and effective implementation of the Declaration.
- I. In response to the TRC's final report, in Ontario, Premier Wynne recently made a "Statement of Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples" in the Legislative Assembly, and committed to making a significant financial commitment of more than \$250 million over three years to new provincial initiatives in the following areas:
 - i. Understanding the legacy of residential schools;
 - ii. Closing the gap and removing the barriers;
 - iii. Creating a culturally relevant and responsive justice system;
 - iv. Supporting Indigenous culture;
 - v. Reconciling relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
- J. Other Provinces and Territories in Canada should undertake a similar course of action as the Government of Ontario in response to the TRC's final report, and commit to work closely with Indigenous partners to help Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples move forward in the spirit of reconciliation, including financial investment in public education and other reconciliation initiatives.
- K. A national action plan needs to be developed pursuant to Paragraph 8 of the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document (A/69/2), which reads as follows: "We commit ourselves to cooperating with indigenous peoples, through their own representative institutions, to develop and implement national action plans, strategies and other measures, where relevant, to achieve the ends of the Declaration."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Fully support the Government of Canada's commitment to implement the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Canada's unqualified endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration).
- 2. Accept the federal Government's offer to work collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to ensure full implementation of the Declaration.

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3. Fully expect all provinces and territories in Canada to uphold the Government of Canada's unqualified endorsement of the Declaration and to similarly commit to the full implementation of the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
4. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to call on the provincial and territorial governments to undertake action in response to the TRC's final report and Calls to Action.
5. Support the development of a national action plan to identify solution-oriented strategies and activities to support the implementation of the Declaration at various levels, taking full advantage of this historic development in First Nations-Crown relations in Canada.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 17 / 2016

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TITLE: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 10 year Anniversary

SUBJECT: UN Declaration

MOVED BY: Chief Margaret Bear, Ochapowace Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Lynn Acoose, Sakimay Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) was adopted for implementation by the United Nations General Assembly on September 13, 2007.
- B. The UN Declaration is the most comprehensive international human rights instrument to specifically address economic, environmental, social, cultural, political, civil, spiritual and inherent rights, and sets out the minimum standards necessary for the dignity, survival and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.
- C. The UN Declaration will achieve its ten year anniversary on September 13, 2017.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations Chiefs are of the firm belief and opinion that Canada has reversed its No vote and will adopt, implement and enforce the UN Declaration without qualification and in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' expectations.
- E. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has adopted the UN Declaration for implementation and is of the firm belief and conviction that the UN Declaration, as presently stated, represents the minimum standard and cannot be defined or altered and made to fit non-Indigenous constitutions, legislation and law processes.
- F. Canadian, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Constitutions must be reformed to accommodate and be in compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

Instruct the AFN Executive to implement the following in full and meaningful participation with Canada:

- i. Formal adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) without qualifications or subjection to Canadian Constitution and Laws.
- ii. That Canada will adopt and pass legislation that will incorporate and reflect the UN Declaration before the Anniversary date of September 13, 2017 without qualifications or alterations to the UN Declaration.

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- iii. That Canada will reform its Constitution and all policies to reflect the adoption of the UNDRIP by the Anniversary date of September 13, 2017.
- iv. That a World Conference of Indigenous Nations be convened and sponsored by Canada in 2017.
- v. That preparatory conferences occur across Canada to gain the Indigenous Peoples' input to the outcome document(s) of the World Conference of Indigenous Nations.
- vi. That the proposed outcome document will instruct Canada and its provinces on methodologies and processes necessary to gain a just and equitable relationship with the Indigenous Peoples.
- vii. That Canada and its provinces and territories must cease all efforts and processes of legal and political importance that adversely affects, impacts, alters, denies or breaches Indigenous Peoples rights or the Treaties.
- viii. That Indigenous Peoples possess permanent sovereignty over natural resources and that this inherent and time immemorial belief and principle supersedes and transcends non-Indigenous colonial doctrines.
- ix. That redress, reparation, restitution, compensation and recourse are necessary interrelated, interdependent and indivisible principles to address our survival and well-being and are to be included in all developments and agreements going forward.
- x. That the Treaty principles of free, prior and informed consent together with the right to participate in decision making shall at all times be referenced and utilized to guide all interrelations with other governments.
- xi. That general public education occur and that educational material be designed and developed with Indigenous Peoples rights experts concerning the UN Declaration.
- xii. That non-Indigenous governmental and departmental representatives and staff receive critical training on the UN Declaration and other international instruments and standards from Indigenous Peoples rights experts.
- xiii. That local education boards, leaders, teachers and administration staff receive training on the UN Declaration and other international instruments and standards from Indigenous Peoples rights experts.
- xiv. That training on the UN Declaration and other international instruments and standards be provided to Indigenous Nations beginning immediately by Indigenous Peoples rights experts.
- xv. That an appropriate national action plan of strategies and other concrete measures including adequate monetary considerations to achieve the promotion and celebration of the Indigenous Peoples ten year anniversary be developed in conjunction with Indigenous Nations or their representative institution(s).

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 18 / 2016

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TITLE: Protection and Promotion of Free Prior informed Consent of Indigenous Rights holders

SUBJECT: Governance/Justice

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Joe Norton, Mohawk Council of Kahnawa'ke, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Robert Chamberlin, Kwikwasutinuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
 - i. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
 - ii. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
- B. The newly elected federal government has affirmed committing to a Nation-to-Nation relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canada.
- C. The Prime Minister has publically stated that there is no relationship more important than that of Canada's Nation-to-Nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and other National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) are advocacy organizations – none of which are a holder of any Aboriginal or Treaty rights recognized and affirmed by s.35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
- E. The AFN's membership is comprised of all First Nations in Canada, as represented by their Chiefs.
- F. Corporate entities may only enter into negotiations or legitimately engage in consultation processes on behalf of any s.35 rights-holders where such authority has been expressly delegated by the rights-holder.
- G. The Royal Proclamation of 1763, a foundational constitutional instrument, recognizes the existence of "Indian Nations."
- H. The Supreme Court has issued various decisions that read together stand for the proposition that Indigenous Nations are legitimate rights holders at law.
- I. Canada has adopted the UN Declaration without reservations, and the AFN has heralded the aforementioned Declaration as the roadmap to Indigenous/Crown relations.

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- J. In the advancement of any and all of its work, the AFN must account for the consideration of its various responsibilities as established by agreements with communities and Nations, including but not limited to the Iroquois Caucus – AFN Relationship MOU.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to only engage in Nation-to-Nation rights-based discussions where legitimately composed Indigenous Nations have explicitly provided clear, prior and informed consent to delegate that prescribed responsibility to the AFN.
2. Discourages Canada from engaging in discussions and consulting with other Aboriginal organizations that do not have a mandate from rights holders on matters which have broad and serious impacts on Indigenous Nations and their rights and freedoms as legitimate and lawful rights bearing entities.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 19 / 2016

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TITLE: Engaging in Climate Action and the Environment

SUBJECT: Climate Change

MOVED BY: Chief Rebecca Harris, Pauquachin First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Calvin Sanderson, Chakastaypasin Band, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People includes the following articles:
- i. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
 - ii. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
 - iii. Article 32 (3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.
- B. International leaders set global targets to reduce carbon emissions as part of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21), which led to the "Paris Agreement".
- C. Canada formally signed on to the Paris Agreement in April 2016, in New York.
- D. All of the parties to the Paris Agreement agreed that they should, when taking action to address climate change, recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- E. At a First Ministers Meeting in Vancouver in March 2016, the First Ministers agreed to the *Vancouver Declaration on Clean Growth and Climate Change* (the Vancouver Declaration), in a process that included limited engagement with Indigenous peoples.
- F. The Vancouver Declaration sets out a plan to achieve Canada's international commitments through the creation of a Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change through the establishment of four Working Groups focused on: clean technology, innovation and jobs; carbon pricing mechanisms; specific mitigation opportunities; and adaptation and climate resilience.

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- G. The mandate of each of the Working Groups includes engagement with Indigenous peoples.
- H. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has resolved to *Support First Nations in Addressing Climate Change* in resolution 59/2015 passed this past December.
- I. Climate change will significantly alter our way of life on the lands the Creator has bestowed upon us and we have inalienable rights as confirmed in Treaties between the Crown and ourselves.
- J. International leaders are set to meet again as part of the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) in November 2016, in Morocco.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Endorse the creation of an Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE) tasked with supporting the Charter and mandate of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in its work pertaining to Climate Action and the Environment.
2. Support the development of a Terms of Reference for the ACCAE that includes representation from across the country, including Elders, women and youth.
3. Support the ACCAE in its efforts to engage meaningfully with federal, provincial, and territorial governments in the development and implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change to ensure that First Nations are meaningfully included in all aspects of this process.
4. Support First Nations to fully engage in the exploration and implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, along with other measures meant to demonstrate First Nations' roles as stewards of their lands.
5. Direct the ACCAE to advocate for a climate plan that includes the full recognition and involvement of Indigenous peoples leading to and beyond the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22), in Morocco, November 2016.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 20 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Acting on Climate Change: Indigenous Initiatives Project

SUBJECT: Environment and Climate Change

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Serge Otsi Simon, Mohawk Council of Kanesatake, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People affirms:
- i. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
 - ii. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
- B. A partnership between McGill University and the Centre des Sciences de Montréal called *Acting on Climate Change: Indigenous Initiatives* proposes novel ways to fully engage Canada's Indigenous peoples in future climate change policy by placing Indigenous initiatives at the heart of the solutions agenda.
- C. The project's objective is to give visibility to existing Indigenous climate change initiatives and bring together Indigenous representatives and researchers to facilitate cross-cultural learning on climate change, ensuring that Indigenous peoples in Canada can become full partners in the country's transition to a low-carbon economy and sustainable society.
- D. To meet its objective, this project will develop participatory processes to identify, document, and give visibility to inspiring Indigenous peoples' climate change and sustainability initiatives as key elements of Indigenous learning.
- E. This project will create a think-tank around Indigenous institutions to support informed decision making on climate change and climate action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Express their support in principle for the *Acting on Climate Change: Indigenous Initiatives* project.
2. Call on the Assembly of First Nations to examine the development of a partnership with McGill University and the Centre des Sciences de Montréal as a basis for advancing this initiative.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 21 / 2016

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TITLE: Support for Grassy Narrows and Other Mercury Impacted Communities

SUBJECT: Health and Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Simon Fobister Sr., Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation), ON

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People includes the following articles:
- i. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
 - ii. Article 29 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources.
 - iii. Article 29 (2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
 - iv. Article 29 (3): States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.
- B. We must protect our water for future generations in the face of pollution that continues to harm First Nations across Canada.
- C. In the 1960s, nine-thousand kilograms of mercury was dumped in the English-Wabigoon River, and the health, culture, and livelihood of First Nations peoples living downstream continues to be negatively affected.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has resolved to Support Grassy Narrows and Other Mercury Impacted Communities in AFN resolution 04/2010, but there has been little action.
- E. A recent expert report found that the river is still highly contaminated, but that it can be cleaned up safely.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the people of Grassy Narrows and their demands for mercury justice.

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2. Request that the National Chief and Regional Chief health portfolio holder advocate on behalf of Grassy Narrows, including urging the federal and provincial governments to:
 - i. Clean the English-Wabigoon River without delay to such a point that the fish are safe to eat for the people of Grassy Narrows.
 - ii. Establish an endowment fund to support all future studies on the river and the implementation of the clean-up.
 - iii. Fund permanent monitoring activities through a Grassy Narrows-run environmental health centre, which includes training for youth and revival of tradition harvesting.
 - iv. Build a mercury treatment and therapy center in Grassy Narrows to provide top-quality health care for mercury survivors of all ages.
 - v. Ensure that all people impacted by mercury, directly or indirectly, are compensated and that the compensation is sufficient to meet their needs.
 - vi. Institute mechanisms to stop industry from polluting the water and air.
 - vii. Recommend the rescinding of the Whiskey Jack Forest Management plan 2012-2022 within Grassy Narrows Territory, which threatens to release more mercury into local waterways.
3. Direct the National Chief and Regional Chief health portfolio holder to continue to advocate on behalf of Grassy Narrows and present, as appropriate, the issues of mercury poisoning, water protection, and justice for Grassy Narrows and other mercury impacted communities to all relevant provincial and federal ministries.
4. Direct the National Chief and Regional Chief health portfolio holder to call on Canada and Ontario to commit to cleaning the English-Wabigoon River without delay.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 22 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women And Girls

SUBJECT: Indigenous Women and Girls

MOVED BY: Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Ian McKay, Red Earth First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms:
- i. Article 15(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information
 - ii. Article 15(2): States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.
 - iii. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
 - iv. Article 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards
 - v. Article 44: All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) urges Nations to adopt and use constitutions, legislation, and other relevant methods that embody the principle of equality between men and women.
- C. The CEDAW further urges Nations to prohibit any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities conform to this requirement.
- D. The Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission (SFNWC) acknowledges that Indigenous women hold important roles in our families and nations and in the governance of our peoples.
- E. On May 18, 2016, the SFNWC formally endorsed the *Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women and Girls*.

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- F. On May 26, 2016, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 1991 adopting the *Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women and Girls* to serve as a guide for the FSIN, its Executive, management and staff, its governing and organizational structures, and all annual sports, cultural and special events organized by the FSIN.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Adopt the *Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women and Girls* to serve as a guide for the Assembly of First Nations, its Executive, management and staff, its governing and organizational structures, and all events organized by the Assembly of First Nations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 23 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support For Bill S-215: An Act To Amend The Criminal Code (Sentencing For Violent Offenses Against Aboriginal Women)

SUBJECT: Indigenous Women and Girls

MOVED BY: Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Ian McKay, Red Earth First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms:
 - i. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B. Indigenous women in Canada are at a higher risk of being victims of violence than non-Aboriginal females, as indicated in the 2014 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) report *Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview*.
- C. The 2014 RCMP report indicated that Indigenous women accounted for 4.3% of the overall female population in Canada but made up 11.3% of missing females and 16% of all female homicides.
- D. Senator Lillian Dyck has sponsored Bill S-215 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (*sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women*) that would require a court to take Aboriginal female identity into account during sentencing of offenders to ensure that there are significant consequences for violent offenses against Aboriginal women.
- E. On May 18, 2016, the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission passed a motion to support Bill S-215: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women).
- F. On May 25, 2016, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 1990 supporting the passage of Bill S-215, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offenses against Aboriginal women).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Support the passage of Bill S-215: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offenses against Aboriginal women).

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 24 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Engagement in the Health Accord Discussions

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Elaine Johnston, Serpent River First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of Tyendinaga, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
 - i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. Call to Action # 18 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including Indian Residential Schools, and to recognize and implement the health- care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law and constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
- C. The federal government has begun negotiations on a Health Accord, which will detail the funding mechanism for provincial/territorial health systems as well as articulating national level priorities.
- D. This is the first time there has been any appetite for the inclusion of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in the agreement.
- E. The Health Accord is an historic opportunity to influence the provinces and territories to work with First Nations in their respective jurisdictions to ensure provincial and territorial systems are responsive to First Nations' needs, and to close the jurisdictional gaps between federal, provincial/territorial and First Nations health systems.
- F. Timelines are extremely tight with an expected agreement by December, 2016.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Health coordinate an expert task group and regional engagement to develop a number of priorities related to the four pillars identified by the Health Minister (home care, mental wellness, pharmaceuticals and innovation) as well as any other First Nation priorities outside of those pillars.
2. Direct that any submission of the AFN be high-level in terms of subject area and national in scope to allow for regional specificity and respect regional processes while also serving as direction for investments at the federal Cabinet table.
3. Endorse that the primary objective of the AFN contribution is to influence the provinces and territories to work with First Nations in their respective jurisdictions to ensure provincial and territorial systems are responsive to First Nations' needs, and to close the jurisdictional gaps between federal, provincial, territorial and First Nations health systems.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 25 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for the Registered Disability Savings Plan

SUBJECT: Health, Disability

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
- i. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Preamble states:
- i. (T): The fact that the majority of persons with disabilities live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities.
 - ii. (V): The importance of accessibility to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, in enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
 - iii. (X): That the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and those persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- C. Indigenous persons and families living with a disability within Canada represent a marginalized population within an already marginalized population. Disability rates among Indigenous people is over twice that of the national rate, and that at every age, Indigenous Canadians are more likely to have disabilities than Canadians who are not Indigenous.
- D. The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) was designed for individuals under the age of 60 who are eligible for the disability tax credit. The RDSP was created by the Government of Canada to help people with disabilities and their families save for their long-term financial security.
- E. The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) is a not-for-profit, Indigenous organization, supported by Assembly of First Nations Resolution 85/2004, that promotes and supports the full inclusion of all Indigenous individuals and families living with disabilities in Canada through its delivery of comprehensive, person centered, disability and health related services.

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- F. BCANDS is a member of the Government of British Columbia's RDSP Action Group, an advisory committee to government whose membership includes prominent financial and social leaders working to realize the government's commitment to build and maintain British Columbia's position as the province with the highest per capita uptake of RDSPs in Canada.
- G. The Assembly of First Nations recognizes the importance of the economic and social inclusion of all persons and families living with a disability, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and the past and current work of the BCANDS within the Indigenous disability and health sectors of Canada and its mission of: "Supporting the unique and comprehensive disability, health and resource needs of Indigenous persons and organizations through relevant, timely and accessible services," and wishes to continue to support their work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Promote and support the work of the British Columbia Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Action Group to address current gaps within this program and facilitate education/awareness opportunities for First Nations persons with disabilities; and ensure effective collaboration and implementation between Indigenous, federal, provincial and municipal governments, disability related organizations, communities, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to assist in maximizing RDSP enrollment within the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities of British Columbia and Canada.
2. Support the British Columbia RDSP Action Group's work to promote and enhance enrollment in RDSP by eligible First Nations individuals and families living with a disability within both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 26 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Declaration of November as Indigenous Disability Awareness Month

SUBJECT: Health, Disability

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John – Proxy - Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer - Proxy - Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Preamble states:
- i. (C): The universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination.
 - ii. (H): That discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person.
 - iii. (M): The valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty.
(P): Concerned about the difficult conditions faced by persons with disabilities who are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, property, birth, age or other status.
- C. Indigenous persons and families living with a disability within Canada represent a marginalized population within an already marginalized population. Disability rates among Indigenous people is over twice that of the national rate and that at every age, Indigenous Canadians are more likely to have disabilities than Canadians who are not Indigenous.
- D. The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) is a not-for-profit, Indigenous organization, supported by Assembly of First Nations Resolution.85/2004 that promotes and supports the full inclusion of all Indigenous individuals and families living with disabilities in Canada through its delivery of comprehensive, person centered, disability and health related services.

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- E. Through BCANDS service delivery and collaboration with Indigenous, federal and provincial governments and leadership, BCANDS assists to eliminate barriers, raise awareness and create opportunities for improved and responsive services, and the increased inclusion of Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability within Canada.

- F. The annual recognition and proclamation of November as Indigenous Disability Awareness Month will assist in raising awareness around the need to eliminate barriers facing the Indigenous population of Canada living with a disability and aid in the creation of new and expanded partnerships.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Recognize and declare the month of November as "Indigenous Disability Awareness Month" with the overall goals of promoting and enhancing awareness of Indigenous disability issues and building more inclusive communities through recognition of the substantial and valuable contributions of Indigenous peoples living with disabilities within Canada.
2. Support British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) and its efforts for national endorsement / recognition and declaration of the month of November, in each calendar year, as "Indigenous Disability Awareness Month" through "Proclamations / Resolutions" from Indigenous, federal and provincial governments and leadership across Canada.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 27 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering

SUBJECT: Disability, Health, Social Services

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health, and social security.
 - ii. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Preamble states:
- i. (C): The universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination.
 - ii. (M): The valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty.
 - iii. 1.7(8) Awareness-raising: (a) To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; (b) To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life; (c) To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.
- C. Indigenous persons and families living with a disability within Canada represent a marginalized population within an already marginalized population. The disability rate among Indigenous people is over twice that of the national rate and that at every age, Indigenous Canadians are more likely to have disabilities than Canadians who are not Indigenous.
- D. The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) is a not-for-profit, Indigenous organization, supported by Assembly of First Nations Resolution 85/2004 to promote and support the

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full inclusion of all Indigenous individuals and families living with disabilities in Canada through its delivery of comprehensive, person centered disability and health related services. Through service delivery and collaboration with Indigenous, federal and provincial governments and leadership, BCANDS assists to eliminate barriers, raise awareness and create opportunities for improved and responsive services, and increase inclusion of Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability within Canada.

- E. BCANDS will host its "From the Outside Looking In – Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering," in Victoria British Columbia in November 2017. The 2017 Gathering will bring together a diverse representation of disability and health related stakeholders from across Canada over a three day period to learn, inform, share, collaborate and create new and expanded partnerships to assist in addressing the barriers facing Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society's "From the Outside looking In – Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering" in 2017 and encourage the promotion and participation of community, government, service providers and other associated stakeholders.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 28 / 2016

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TITLE: Call to Action that Health Canada Non Insured Health Benefits list provide a new treatment for type 2 diabetes called Jardiance

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Charlie Boucher, Pine Creek First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Cameron Catcheway, Skownan First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 21: Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. The West Region Tribal Council (WRTC) Leadership and Health Team were supplied information from a respected Manitoba endocrinologist on a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Jardiance.
- i. A clinical trial showed that Jardiance reduced the risk for cardio-vascular death, non-fatal heart attack or non-fatal stroke by 14%.
 - ii. Jardiance reduced cardio-vascular death by 38%; improved survival by reducing all-cause mortality by 32%; prevented hospitalization for heart failure by 35%.
- C. The First Nations' population suffers from the significant complications of this illness to a greater extent than the broader Canadian population. There are 3.4 million Canadians who are estimated to be living with diabetes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to work with the Federal Government of Canada to ensure that the Non-Insured Health Benefits list provides the new treatment for type 2 diabetes called Jardiance, according to the Canadian Diabetes Association's Clinical Practice Guidelines.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 29 / 2016

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TITLE: Supporting Partnerships with Indigenous Health Organizations

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Austin Bear, Muskoday First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Kurt Buffalo, Cree Samson Nation, AB

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, states:
- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. The federal government has previously cut funding to First Nation organizations that were actively involved in developing and determining programmes for First Nations people and communities.
- C. The federal government funds numerous non-Indigenous organizations to do work on behalf of First Nations that was previously done by these same First Nations organizations affected by funding cuts. These organizations often do not fully understand First Nations priorities, do not engage with First Nations respectfully and are often not accountable to First Nations themselves.
- D. Funding First Nations organizations builds First Nations capacity and long term sustainability, as well as ensures First Nations priorities are understood and addressed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Request that the Federal Government prioritize support for First Nations organizations over mainstream organizations doing work on behalf of First Nations, in order to build capacity within First Nation communities and organizations.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to work more closely with First Nation organizations, when possible, to address the issues and priorities faced by First Nation communities in a culturally competent and relevant way.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 30 / 2016

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TITLE: Increased and enhanced flexibility of mental wellness funding to First Nation communities

SUBJECT: Health, Mental Wellness and Social Development

MOVED BY: Chief Cathy Merrick, Cross Lake Band of Indians, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Leroy Denny, Eskasoni First Nation, NS

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision making institutions.
 - ii. Article 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B. The following Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada states:
- i. #19: We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: Infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
 - ii. #66: We call upon the federal government to establish multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.
- C. First Nation communities across Canada are declaring a state of crises with regards to mental wellness, suicide and addiction in their communities. With suicide rates being five to seven times higher than the Canadian population and addiction and prescription drug abuse rates reaching crisis levels in many communities, First Nations need to come together to support a coordinated and comprehensive approach to First Nations mental wellness programs and services.
- D. Significant gaps exist in federal, provincial, territorial and community mental wellness programs and services. Many provincial/territorial services are inaccessible to those living on reserve due to location or other systemic barriers, and when access is available, these services are often not culturally competent or culturally safe. Considerable divides exist between and among jurisdictions in the delivery of mental wellness programs and services, which creates gaps in the continuum as well as in the

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continuity of care. In addition to the lack of clinical mental health services, access to cultural practitioners and cultural approaches is also limited.

- E. Funding for First Nations mental wellness is siloed within several federal departments, and provincial/territorial departments, making it challenging to address the determinants of health and develop comprehensive approaches to mental wellness. Additionally, funding is often time-limited and project-based.
- F. The combination of limited access to services and the high need in northern, remote and rural communities is not sufficiently recognized in the current funding provided to support mental health services.
- G. Population with specific and distinct needs (i.e. residential school survivors, youth, individuals in transition and away from the reserve, individuals with co-occurring mental health and addiction issues, etc.) must have access to the essential basket of services through a continuum of care across the lifespan.
- H. Unaddressed mental wellness issues are also costly to the justice, child welfare, social assistance, education and health systems.
- I. Self-determination over health program governance and other forms of increased community capacity and control is a key component of a healthy community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the National Chief to advocate with federal, provincial and territorial governments and partners to increase and enhance flexibility of mental wellness funding in order to:
 - a. Allow communities to better plan, implement and coordinate comprehensive responses to the full range of mental wellness challenges in a manner consistent with community priorities.
 - b. Support communities to use funding in a more holistic way, informed by the essential continuum of services and recognizing the impact of the determinants of health on mental wellness.
 - c. Support a shift away from fragmented, siloed programming toward a comprehensive system based on a continuum of care across the lifespan.
 - d. Support First Nations control of services and the self-determination of communities to design, deliver and evaluate their own culturally relevant and culturally safe health programs that addresses their most pressing needs.
 - e. Reorient existing resources to eliminate silos, as well as time-limited and project-based funding so that communities can make the best possible use of funds in addressing community needs while improving the coordination of programs and services to reduce administration reporting burdens.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 31 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Community-based Health Surveillance Systems

SUBJECT: Health, Mental Wellness and Social Development

MOVED BY: Chief Cathy Merrick, Cross Lake Band of Indians, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Denny, Eskasoni First Nation, NS

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B. The following Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada states:
- i. #19: We call upon the Federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: Infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
- C. First Nations communities across Canada are declaring a state of crises with regards to chronic disease, mental wellness and addiction within their communities. First Nations need to lead a coordinated and comprehensive approach to develop and measure First Nations indicators of health and mental wellness.
- D. Currently, there is little system-wide, accurate data on First Nation statistical health information. eHealth and Health Surveillance systems such as Community-based Electronic Medical Records (cEMRs), electronic medical records, First Nation-led client registries and health surveillance systems support the documentation of health services and the collection of health statistics that are necessary to monitor health trends and health outcomes.
- E. Unaddressed chronic disease, communicable disease and mental wellness issues, in conjunction with a rapidly growing population will lead to an economic tsunami impacting provincial/territorial/federal departments in the next few years. Communities across the country are facing epidemics in cancer, diabetes, environmental contamination, tuberculosis, and suicide. Statistical information combined with evidence-based planning tools are required to ensure health planning is effective to monitor outcomes and determine further health trends.
- F. A cEMR and/or First Nation-led client registry database would allow for a complete picture of where the health and mental wellness components should be focused and where points of intervention and assistance could be implemented.

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- G. First Nations inherent and Treaty rights provide for self-determination as it relates to data. cEMRs and First Nations-led client registries and databases incorporate the First Nations Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) principles and respect each First Nations ability to protect its own data. It is critical that First Nations be in a position to determine how First Nations information is collected, used, disclosed and destroyed and under what circumstances.
- H. Provincial and territorial designed information systems, Electronic Medical Records, and provincially/territorially led client registries do not meet the needs of First Nations and do not respect First Nations rights to control their own information. Stand-alone health databases are program-based and will never exchange data with other systems. Interoperability (the exchange of data) must occur between federal/provincial databases and the community-based cEMRs and client registries. Funding and supporting interoperability between community/provincial/federal systems, communities can operate their own OCAP compliant databases as the “source of truth” of client information.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Acknowledge that participating First Nations' inherent and Treaty rights provide for self-determination as it relates to data resulting from these initiatives.
2. Advocate to the federal, provincial and territorial governments to implement and financially support First Nation communities in developing Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) compliant community-based tools such as Community-based Electronic Medical Records (cEMRs), First Nation led Client Registries, and Health Surveillance systems that provide an electronic source of truth to track health status, trends and outcomes. These systems will be developed at a standard that supports interoperability with federal/provincial eHealth/Health applications, and such systems will not infringe upon current community initiatives and mental wellness planning.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 32 / 2016

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TITLE: Support for a Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital) in Island Lake Manitoba

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Sharon Mason, Wasagamack First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Marie A. Wood, St. Theresa Point First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. Since the mid 1990's, the four First Nation communities of Island Lake, Wasagamack, Red Sucker Lake, Garden Hill and St. Theresa Point have shared a vision of establishing a Primary Health Care Centre to be located between the communities of Wasagamack and St Theresa Point, adjacent to the proposed new airport site and connected by an all-weather road.
- C. The population of Island Lake has increased by 54.20% within a five-year period. The 2011 Census indicates a population of 7,805, increasing to 12,036 registered members as of March 2016, according to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Health services in the area have been strained due to the increased need from a rising population and health status of Island Lake area members continues to deteriorate.
- D. In June 2003, the four First Nations communities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Manitoba, Government of Canada, and the Assembly of First Nations, to improve access to primary health care services within the Island Lake region. In June 2008, the "Island Lake Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital) - Master Service Plan (MSP)" was submitted to Manitoba Health, Burtwood Regional Health Authority, and Health Canada.
- E. It is the intent of the Four First Nation Island Lake communities to continue efforts to establish this Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

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1. Support the four Island Lake communities and direct both Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) and Manitoba Health to give priority and project identification number under their respective Treasury Board(s) for the necessary resources required to support the development of a building design and construction of the Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital).
2. Support the establishment of a tripartite process (Island Lake First Nations Communities/Government of Manitoba/Government of Canada) that will lead and enable continued work on the development of the Island Lake Regional Health Authority/model, under Four Arrow Regional Health Authority.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief for Manitoba to work in partnership with appropriate regional and local First Nations leadership, to assist the four First Nations of Island Lake by providing political and technical support to the Island Lake leadership to ensure the establishment of this Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital) as described in its Master Service Plan (MSP) in the Island Lake region.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 33 / 2016

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TITLE: Recognizing and Protecting First Nations Sacred Heritage Sites and Ancestral Burial Grounds

SUBJECT: Heritage Protection

MOVED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
- i. Article 11: Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
 - ii. Article 12: Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
 - iii. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - iv. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
- B. The Semá:th First Nation, as part of the Stó:lō-Coast Salish Indigenous Peoples of the Salish Sea, maintain strong and ancient cultural connections to our sacred places including Sumas Mountain, and specifically Lightning Rock and associated ancestral burial grounds.
- C. Lightning Rock is a large boulder that connects us to our ancient oral history of Thunderbird, and which marks our ancestral burial grounds related to the devastating impact of the smallpox epidemic.
- D. These significant elements of our ancestral cultural heritage are under threat from development and encroachment by private property.
- E. These sacred sites are not recognized or protected by federal or provincial law.

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- F. Confederacy of Nations Resolution no. 20/2004 entitled “National Protection of Ancestral Burial and sacred sites”, instructed the National Chief to initiate the development of national legislation with the federal government and the Canadian Association of Archaeology.
- G. First Nations, as Indigenous Peoples in Canada, need to take action to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and our own Laws of the Land, to recognize and protect our sacred cultural landscapes and places of heritage value, both tangible and intangible.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Recognize the importance of and need to protect First Nations sacred cultural landscapes and places of heritage value throughout Canada, including Lightning Rock and our intangible burial grounds.
2. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to provide redress through effective mechanisms that include First Nations as decision-makers in the management of our heritage.
3. Direct the AFN to draft a declaration on the recognition and protection of First Nations sacred cultural landscapes and places of heritage value throughout Canada.

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TITLE: Wanuskewin Heritage Park UNESCO Application, "Thundering Ahead"

SUBJECT: Reconciliation

MOVED BY: Chief Ian McKay, Red Earth Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Lloyd Buffalo, Day Star First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
 - i. Article 11 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
- B. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 11.1 recognizes the right of Indigenous People to protect, maintain and develop "archeological and historical sites."
- C. The Assembly of First Nations is committed to the promotion, protection and Treaty and Inherent Rights of First Nations which includes the protection of cultural sites within Treaty territories.
- D. Wanuskewin Heritage Park was established in 1992 and is situated on Opimihaw Creek, a tributary of the South Saskatchewan River, and adjacent to the City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- E. Over 6,000 years old, Wanuskewin is the traditional gathering site of many nations of the Great Plains with evidence that predate Rome and pyramids of Egypt, the 19 active archeological dig sites continue to reveal its unique history and significance.
- F. Wanuskewin is the site of tipi rings, age old bison jumps and the northern-most placement of a medicine wheel boulder alignment.
- G. Wanuskewin Heritage Park is an interpretive center governed by the *Wanuskewin Heritage Act* and by an independent board which includes a representative of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, guided by Elders, and seeks to fulfill its potential as a gathering place of the future.
- H. "Thundering Ahead", the campaign for renewal and future development plans of Wanuskewin Heritage Park, will see a renowned center of excellence with an expanded interpretive center, research and education labs, trail renewal, and enhanced cultural and education programming.
- I. "Thundering Ahead" will support the efforts of Wanuskewin to become the first United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated heritage site in Saskatchewan.

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- J. "Thundering Ahead" will seek the repatriation of the bison from an ancestral herd to Wanuskewin, providing an enhanced opportunity to offer educational programming to the cultural significance of bison on the Great Plains.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to work with Wanuskewin Heritage Park to support the "**Thundering Ahead**" objectives and the Park's effort to seek United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization world heritage site status.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 35 / 2016

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TITLE: National Indigenous Peoples Statutory Holiday and Indigenous Peoples History Month

SUBJECT: Reconciliation

MOVED BY: Chief Margaret Bear Ochapowace Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Lynn Acoose, Sakimay First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) is the universal standard guiding Canada's efforts to renew the relationships with Indigenous Peoples and reform the Canadian Constitution.
- B. The United Nations Special Rapporteur Miguel Alfonso Martinez prepared and issued the United Nations *Study on Treaties, Agreements and other Constructive Arrangements Between States and Indigenous Populations* wherein he states at paragraph 177; "It must be borne in mind that, according to all available information, the terms "indigenous", "native", "mitayo", "Indian", "autochthonous populations" and others of a similar cast, do not come from the lexicon of those whom we today label "Indigenous peoples", but from the vocabulary utilized by the "discoverers" /conquistadores/colonizers and their descendants, to differentiate themselves --in a relationship of superiority-inferiority—from the original inhabitants of the new territories being added to the European crown jewels."
- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has produced its final report and has issued Calls to Action that are relevant to the recognition, promotion and advancement of Indigenous Peoples:
- i. # 43. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.
 - ii. # 44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measure to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- D. Canadian legislation and law together with their policies and their development processes have been identified to be an extension of the Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius, which has been repudiated and is considered by international legal opinion as the basis for all assimilation, colonization, marginalization and genocide that has been committed on Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

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1. Call on the Federal Government to recognize and honor the Indigenous Peoples of Canada through a national statutory holiday, Indigenous Peoples Day, which would replace the current Aboriginal Day observed annually on June 21st.
2. Call upon the Federal Government to declare on an annual basis a national Indigenous Peoples History Month" to promote and advance the true histories, cultures and contributions of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.
3. Call upon the Federal Government to develop an appropriate national action plan of strategies and other concrete measures, including adequate monetary considerations, to achieve the promotion of a national Indigenous Peoples Day and Indigenous Peoples History Month to be developed in concert and in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 36 / 2016

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TITLE: Responsibility to Investigate Allegations of Abuse brought against Mr. John Furlong

SUBJECT: Justice

MOVED BY: Chief Wilf Adam, Lake Babine First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cheryl Maloney, Proxy, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms through Articles 7, 8, 15, 24, 38 and 40 that Indigenous individuals have the right to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- B. There are serious concerns about the conduct of investigations into certain allegations of abuse made against John Furlong, while a teacher, by former First Nations students of Immaculata Day School in Burns Lake, B.C. and Prince George College, in which the alleged acts took place between the late 1960's to mid-1970's.
- C. These allegations were not part of the *Robinson v. Furlong* lawsuit dismissed by the B.C. Supreme Court in September 2015—see “Waiting to be Heard”: <http://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/11/26/opinion/waiting-be-heard-claimants-versus-john-furlong>)
- D. Although on November 26, 2015 various hereditary Chiefs, and other members of, Lake Babine First Nation, wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau asking that the abuse allegations be addressed, the Government's sole response—received in June 2016 (over seven months later) from The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities—is that the Court decision is definitive of the matter. Such is not so.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the federal government and the RCMP to conduct, as expeditiously as possible, a thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of abuse brought by Mr. Furlong's former students.
2. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to meet, as expeditiously as possible, with the affected members of Lake Babine Band Council, Burns Lake Band Council, and any other affected former

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students to hear their concerns about the conduct of investigations and to discuss with them acceptable remedies.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 37 / 2016

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TITLE: AFN Charter – Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring
Full Exemption: Proposed Charter Amendments Re: Confederacy of Nations

SUBJECT: AFN Renewal

MOVED BY: Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief James (Jim) Bear, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
 - i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
- B. This resolution is, in its entirety, organizational in nature, and will be addressed-in-assembly on Day 1 of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA) agenda at Niagara Falls, Ontario on July 12, 2016 as per the AFN Charter.
- C. The Assembly of First Nations is hosting the AFN AGA on July 12th, 13th and 14th, 2016 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.
- D. The Chiefs-in-Assembly and the Charter of the AFN confirm the AFN as the duly, mandated and representative organization for all First Nations.
- E. The AFN Charter confirms that the Confederacy of Nations is one of seven principle organs of the AFN.
- F. The Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed AFN Resolution 03/2014 directing the AFN secretariat to revise the AFN Charter as per recommendation by the AFN Renewal Commission (2005).
- G. The Chiefs-in-Assembly reject the National Chief's announcement of a "political advocacy role" (AFN AGA 2015) being delegated to the AFN Confederacy of Nations.
- H. Each respective region will appoint their delegation through representation by population criteria as identified in the Charter and in accordance with Article 11 – Composition.
- I. The Confederacy of Nations will convene quarterly meetings held in accordance with Article 14 of the Charter.
- J. The draft AFN resolution 14/2015 at the Special Chiefs Assembly, in December 2015, at Gatineau, QC. was Held in Abeyance Pending Further Discussion.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring to withdraw immediately from any and all current AFN Charter revision and/or amendment process particularly to the Confederacy of Nations.
2. Direct the Nation Rebuilding Task Group to withdraw immediately from any and all current AFN Charter revision and/or amendment process particularly the Confederacy of Nations.
3. Call upon all Regions to confirm their respective Confederacy of Nations delegations within the next 120 days of the date of the passing of this resolution.
4. Direct the AFN Secretariat to determine and budget for the next fiscal year, 2017/2018 AFN Budget, the AFN Confederacy of Nations Operating Costs.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 38 / 2016

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TITLE: Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring – Proposed Charter Amendments

SUBJECT: Restructuring of AFN – Proposed Charter Amendments

MOVED BY: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Nelson Genaille, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The role of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is to advocate and facilitate for First Nations based on the direction and mandates provided through resolutions of the Chiefs-in-Assembly.
- B. In January 2005, the AFN Renewal Commission released its final report regarding the restructuring of the AFN and made 47 recommendations for the renewal of the AFN.
- C. Resolutions 20/2013, *AFN Transition to Nation-Building Structures and Processes*, and 03/2014, *Confederacy of Nations and AFN Renewal and Restructuring*, directed the AFN, through the Task Group on Nation Building (now the Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring), to facilitate a process to revise the AFN Charter by moving away from regional, provincial, and territorial caucuses to one that supports Nation building.
- D. First Nations are engaged in the process of Nation building and rebuilding and are recognizing leadership structures that are distinct from those recognized under the *Indian Act*.
- E. Many First Nations recognize Traditional Chiefs/Headpersons, Hereditary Leaders or the Grand Chiefs of regional political organizations and tribal councils and there is a desire to include these leaders within the AFN structure.
- F. The Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring proposes reforming the role and composition of the Confederacy of Nations to serve as a political and cultural advisory body, to be composed of hereditary and traditional leadership and elected Grand Chiefs.
- G. The proposed amendments to the AFN Charter also address matters relating to decision-making, and the rules and procedures of the Chiefs-in-Assembly.
- H. Additional changes to support Nation-based participation in AFN decision-making will be explored and enacted through successive phases/amendments to the AFN Charter, following full consideration by Chiefs-in-Assembly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Recognize the proposed amendments to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Charter provided by the Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring for consideration.

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2. Direct the AFN Secretariat to facilitate ongoing dialogue regarding the proposed amendments to the AFN Charter with First Nations and among Regional Assemblies to obtain further comments and input with a goal to reach a consensus on an approach before the next duly convened meeting of Chiefs-in-Assembly.
3. Direct that the proposed amendments to the AFN Charter be submitted for discussion and/or approval at the next duly convened meeting of Chiefs-in-Assembly, and the AFN Secretariat comply with the 60 days advanced written notice requirements stipulated by the AFN Charter to effect such amendment.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 39 / 2016

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TITLE: Reaffirmation of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development

SUBJECT: Employment, Training

MOVED BY: Chief Stan Grier, Piikani Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Reginald Bellerose, Muskowekwan First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters that affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - ii. Article 21 (1): Indigenous Peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their social and economic conditions, including inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training, and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - iii. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
 - iv. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. First Nations peoples in Canada require a future that fosters improvements to the socio-economic circumstances of their communities and citizens by addressing personal and systemic barriers to labour market opportunities and thereby increases access to labour market opportunities.
- C. Since 1992, First Nations organizations have successfully delivered programs and services through the strategies of "Pathways," Regional Bilateral Agreements, Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDS I and AHRDS II) and currently the Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS) to improve employment opportunities for First Nations citizens.
- D. The current five-year ASETS program has been extended by two years until March 31, 2017; and First Nations are calling for a strategy that is sustained over a ten-year term.
- E. AFN Resolution 86/1998 called for the national coordination of a First Nations process on employment and training. In follow-up to the resolution, AFN Executive motion 02/2000 called for the establishment

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of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources to develop a national process and strategic plan for a First Nations Human Resource Strategy.

- F. There is a need for First Nations leadership and First Nation ASETS agreement holders to engage with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) on a longer term labour market strategy based on a nation-to-nation relationship and a new fiscal relationship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Reaffirm the establishment and mandate of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development (CCHRD) to prioritize and focus on supporting our citizenry to participate in the labour force and to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to the National Chief, AFN Executive, and Chiefs-in-Assembly on matters pertaining to structuring to support First Nations employment, skills development, and labour markets.
2. Support the CCHRD to engage with the Government of Canada on a new First Nations Labour Market and Human Resource Development Strategy that is not pan-Aboriginal in design, but appropriately based on a government-to-government /nation-to-nation relationship and upholds proper recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.
3. Support the CCHRD to fully consider the support, employment and training needs of First Nations citizens who are underrepresented in the labour force, including persons with disabilities, single parents, workers and trainees requiring child care.
4. Support the CCHRD to consider and update national resolutions on First Nations employment, First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative, literacy and essential skills, and lifelong learning.
5. Direct that the Regional Chief portfolio holder for Human Resources Development to report back on progress to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2016.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #02/2016

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TITLE: Establishing a Nation-to-Nation Process on Land, Peoples and Governance

SUBJECT: Nation-to-Nation Relationship

MOVED BY: Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) recognizes:
 - i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
- B. First Nation sovereignty and self-determination are sacred rights bestowed by the Creator; a reality revered and protected by First Nations on Turtle Island.
- C. First Nation sovereignty was reaffirmed at the Treaty of Niagara in 1764 by the Crown of England and sanctified by the Two Row Wampum Belt.
- D. British North America Act, 1867 and the Indian Act, 1876 imposed an Indian Act government on First Nations in an attempt to displace First Nation governments, jurisdiction and customary laws.
- E. First Nation's true history, spiritual beliefs and ceremonies, and the spirit and intent of Treaties will guide First Nations to disengage from the Indian Act.
- F. The Chiefs-in-Assembly desire forum to dialogue with governments at the highest level on jurisdictional matters pertinent to First Nations and to discuss the unfinished business from the Constitutional Conferences held in 1983, 1985 and 1987.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Endorse the creation of a Nation-to-Nation Process on Land, People and Governance with Canada by establishing regional processes that seek mutual understanding, consensus and solutions to matters pertinent to First Nations including decolonization, empowerment and "going beyond the Indian Act;" and direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to coordinate this process with First Nation regions and Canada.
2. Direct each participating First Nation region, with technical assistance from the AFN, to ensure the direct participation by First Nation citizens throughout the process.

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3. Call upon the Prime Minister of Canada to convene a special First Ministers Conference with full First Nation participation to discuss and reach consensus on solutions with respect to land, peoples and governance including, but not limited to, matters relating to:
 - a) Section 35(1) rights.
 - b) First Nation governments, jurisdictions & law making.
 - c) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - d) Repealing laws - unilaterally imposed and inconsistent to good governance.
 - e) Other matters pertinent to First Nations on Turtle Island.
4. Call on Canada to fully support and fund the nation-to-nation process at the regional and national level, to ensure First Nations and all other participants can complete the preparatory work and consensus building that is essential to the success of the First Ministers Conference.
5. Call on Canada to ensure that all existing First Nation programs, services and funding be considered "business as usual" and are not affected or disrupted in any way during this process.

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TITLE: Calling for a National Reconciliation Process & Implementing the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Recommendations

SUBJECT: Reconciliation Process

MOVED BY: Councillor Gilbert Fredette, Norway House Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Gilbert Andrews, Gods Lake First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. GUIDED BY the natural laws of the Creator and the spirit and intent of our Treaties which define our relationship with the state of Canada;
- B. AFFIRMING our endorsement of the spirit and intent of the Treaty of Niagara of 1764 and its constitutional principles of respect, peace and friendship that were established for Treaty relationships;
- C. WELCOMING the declarations of the federal government to implement the international standards in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples UN Declaration;
- D. WELCOMING ALSO the commitment of the federal government in the statements of the Attorney-General for Canada 'to breathe life into section 35' and to 'get rid of the shackles of the Indian Act';
- E. RECOGNIZING the unwritten principle of the Constitution of Canada that consent is the basis for constitutional legitimacy;
- F. AFFIRMING that the consent of First Nations is necessary for the legitimacy of the constitution as it is for provinces;
- G. RECOGNIZING that recent jurisprudence from Canada's courts has augmented provincial powers to infringe upon First Nations' Treaty and Aboriginal rights and imposed upon the provinces a duty to reconcile provincial interests with First Nation interests;
- H. URGING provincial governments to participate in the national project of reconciling provincial interests with First Nation interests;
- I. URGING ALSO the federal government to retain, through laws enacted jointly with First Nations, its traditional protective role mandated by imperial policy and the purposes of section 91(24);
- J. CONVINCED that a national process of reconciliation requires a national strategy and national institutions;

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K. CONVINCED ALSO that the national project of reconciliation demands local and regional negotiations to accommodate the distinct status and circumstances of distinct First Nations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly, respectfully calls upon the government of Canada:

1. To adopt, in consultation with representatives of the First Nations in Canada, a national reconciliation process having the following features and purposes: the negotiation of the contents of a new ROYAL PROCLAMATION, as recommended by the federal *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (1996) and the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* (2015), that would:
 - a. declare the commitment of the federal government to the principles of the *Royal Proclamation* of 1763 as agreed at the *Treaty of Niagara 1764*, as an expression of a new relationship with First Nations;
 - b. be accompanied, in the spirit of s.35 *Constitution Act 1982*, in accordance with the distinct needs and circumstances of First Nations, and as recommended by the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*, by legislation for 'Closing the Gap' that would identify the roles and responsibilities of the federal government respecting the delivery of social services to First Nations, including in the spheres of First Nations health and education;
 - c. be accompanied by legislation that makes the structural changes necessary for the federal government to allow it to communicate and negotiate effectively with First Nations, including the creation of a Crown Relations Office in a senior Ministry [as recommended by Canada's *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (RCAP)];

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- d. be accompanied by legislation for the creation of specialized courts or tribunals to assist the process and arbitrate or adjudicate disputes arising from negotiations on arrangements for “getting rid of the shackles of the Indian Act”.
2. To enact legislation that guarantees financial assistance for regional negotiations with distinct ‘nations’ on a nation-to-nation basis concerning arrangements and mechanisms to implement the UN Declaration standards and, in the spirit of the Treaty of Niagara, to breathe life into section 35 of Canada’s Constitution, which protects our Treaties.
3. To work with willing First Nation and provincial governments on the calling of a national conference, to be held within one year, to examine options for legitimizing the Constitution of Canada by attaching the consent of First Nations to constitutional provisions and interpretations, including, in particular, section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, and the identification of the respective roles of the federal and provincial governments in ‘nation-to-nation’ relationships with First Nations.

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TITLE: Support for First Nations Youth Life Promotion Calls to Action

SUBJECT: Youth, Mental Health

MOVED BY: Chief Candice Paul, St. Mary's First Nation, NB

SECONDED BY: Chief Roy Fabian, Katlodeeche First Nation, NT

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision making institutions.
 - ii. Article 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
 - iii. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. Suicide rates are five to seven times higher for First Nations youth than for non-Aboriginal youth and are considered to be among the highest in the world.
- C. It is widely recognized that youth have important contributions to make in developing and administering life promotion activities and their involvement is necessary to develop their sense of purpose, hope, meaning and belonging to build resilience and ultimately decrease the risk of suicide.
- D. At most levels of life, promotion and suicide prevention policy and programming, youth are largely absent.
- E. The Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council, in collaboration with youth representatives across Canada, have developed several Calls to Action on Life Promotion for First Nations youth aimed at sparking meaningful action on these issues.
- F. It is expected that without drastic efforts in life promotion that involve and empower youth, youth suicide and its consequent impacts will continue to increase and impair First Nations communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

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1. Direct the National Chief to advocate to the federal government to support the implementation of the National Youth Council's Calls to Action on Life Promotion recommendations.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to communicate the National Youth Council's Calls to Action on Life Promotion with new and existing partners.
3. Endorse youth involvement in the entire process of life promotion work amongst and within the federal government and First Nations leadership.
4. Direct the AFN to advocate for increased funding to address mental wellness through a continuum of care across the lifespan, using the First Nation Mental Wellness Continuum framework as a lens, so First Nations communities can have access to resources to develop or expand life promotion initiatives.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 5 / 2 0 1 6

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TITLE: Support for the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education 2017

SUBJECT: Education

MOVED BY: Chief Ava Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. In 2017, as Canada celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation, Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP) in partnership with TAP Resources will host the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education, *A Celebration of Indigenous Resilience*, July 24-29, 2017 in Toronto.
- B. The World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) is the largest venue for Indigenous education in the world attracting over 4,000 Indigenous delegates.
- C. WIPCE provides significant opportunity to strengthen cultural resilience, inspire cultural fluency among First Nation Youth and build understanding across cultures.
- D. Truth and reconciliation is a growing international movement and presentations at WIPCE 2017 will address the status of the reconciliation in Canada and other countries.
- E. WIPCE 2017, *A Celebration of Resilience*, will also examine the role and impacts of Indigenous knowledge and languages in reconciliation thereby providing unique opportunities to profile and share Indigenous peoples education issues and successes in Ontario, across Canada and internationally.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Provide full support to the WIPCE 2017 Host Committee in their pursuits of sponsorship for this historic celebration of Indigenous resilience.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 0 6 / 2 0 1 6

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TITLE: Support for Indigenous Ways of Knowing at the Canada Wide Science Festival

SUBJECT: Education

MOVED BY: Chief Michael Starr, Star Blanket First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Dennis Dustyhorn, Kawacatoose First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
- i. (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
 - ii. (2): States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.
- B. The Canada-Wide Science Festival is an annual science fair in Canada coordinated by Youth Science Canada and will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan on May 14-20, 2017;
- C. The Canada-Wide Science Festival does not currently incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing as a category at this annual fair;
- D. The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Science and Math Program is part of the planning team for the Canada-Wide Science Festival and sees merit in having traditional knowledge of First Nations across the Country recognized as a valid source of information and practice In promoting environmental protection.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Supports the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Science & Math Program in its request to Youth Science Canada to add a category of Indigenous Ways of Knowing to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in 2017, and for all future years.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #07/2016

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TITLE: Honourable Process to Develop a Federal Act for Funding First Nations Education

SUBJECT: Education

MOVED BY: Chief Lyndon Musqua, Keeseekoose First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief David Cote, The Key First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples declares under Article 14 that Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions and Article 19 directs Canada to consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent on legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's control and underfunding of First Nations education systems has produced many negative outcomes that First Nations understand can be remedied by a statutory guarantee of fair, predictable and sustainable funding for systems developed and maintained by First Nations.
- C. First Nations recognize federal legislation as a construct of the Government of Canada that provides a mechanism for inter-governmental transfers to occur.
- D. AFN Resolution 35/2014 supported a draft *Framework for a Federal Act for First Nation Education* and a draft *First Nations – Federal Crown Terms of Reference on Federal Act for Funding First Nations Education* as working documents to bring to the Government of Canada and develop an honourable process to develop a federal act for funding First Nations education.
- E. AFN Resolutions 01/2014 and 11/2014 also supported First Nations to call upon Canada to engage in an honourable process to develop a more streamlined and effective funding mechanism for First Nations education including a comprehensive funding formula to replace antiquated and outdated methodologies.
- F. AFN Resolutions 01/2014 and 11/2014 also called for an immediate infusion of additional funding for First Nations education to begin closing the funding gap for First Nations education until such time as a new fiscal framework is agreed upon.
- G. A new Liberal government announced its federal commitment to First Nations education through the 2016 federal budget which invested \$2.6 billion over five years for elementary and secondary education.
- H. First Nations across Canada have engaged in extensive discussions in their territories on the way forward for First Nations education and require a statutory guarantee of fair, predictable and

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sustainable funding to ensure the educational needs of First Nations learners are fully recognized and met regardless of where they reside.

- I. Responding to Resolution AFN 35/2014, AFN, the Chiefs Committee on Education and its national committee of First Nations education technicians, the National Indian Education Council (NIEC), have worked in collaboration with INAC to develop a draft *First Nations – Government of Canada Terms of Reference Joint Working Committee*, which outlines an honourable and collaborative process for ratification by Chiefs-in-Assembly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Accept the updated document, *Joint Collaboration between the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) (Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE), National Indian Education Council (NIEC), and Education Secretariat) and the Education Branch of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to develop a Federal Act for Funding First Nations Education (2016-2018)*, as the document that outlines an honourable process between First Nations and INAC to develop a draft federal act for funding First Nations education.
2. Call for the implementation of the aforementioned document through the activities and timelines therein.
3. Require the draft Federal Act for Funding First Nations Education that results from this process be ratified by the Chiefs in Assembly before being introduced into the federal House of Commons.
4. Understand that implementation of this resolution is contingent upon the Government of Canada and their provision of sufficient funding to undertake activities as outlined in the aforementioned documents.
5. Demand that Canada honours their Constitutional obligation to the Treaty right to education.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #08/2016

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TITLE: Call on Canada to update the Additions to Reserve Policy (ATR)

SUBJECT: Land Rights and Claims

MOVED BY: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Harold St-Denis, Wolf Lake First Nation, QC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms:
 - i. Article 26 (2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
 - ii. Article 26 (3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.
- B. Adding additional lands to reserve is critical to the development of First Nation communities.
- C. The federal government's Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy is inadequate and inconsistent with the UN Declaration, and contains many barriers to reserve creation which impacts the ability of First Nations to take advantage of economic or social opportunities and frustrates the implementation of claims settlements.
- D. The federal government has acknowledged the need for an updated ATR policy and process to make it more effective and transparent.
- E. A Joint AFN / Canada Technical Working Group (JTWG) was established in 2009 with representatives from AFN and Canada which included First Nation representatives from several regions across Canada.
- F. The JTWG has met regularly to discuss the development of a new policy and process that would be guided by the following principles: transparency; cooperative relationships; timelines and service standards; and adequate capacity and resourcing.
- G. In 2013, Canada released a draft version of the updated ATR policy for public comment where these comments were consistent with the guiding principles considered by the JTWG.
- H. The Chiefs Committee on Claims (CCoC) has helped to guide discussions relating to the development of the new ATR policy.
- I. After years of joint development, and a period of adjournment, the new policy has been finalized with Canada, but has not yet been released.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to call on the Government of Canada to implement the new ATR policy and related processes as soon as possible.
2. Call on the Government of Canada to engage with First Nation stakeholders at the Joint Technical Working Group table to ensure that the implementation of Canada's new ATR policy and process reflects the Honour of the Crown, Canadian law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

DRAFT RESOLUTION #09/2016

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TITLE: Support for Atlantic Salmon Emergency Critical Habitat Order

SUBJECT: Fisheries, Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Rufus Copage, Sipekne'katik (Shubenacadie), NS

SECONDED BY: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
- i. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
 - ii. Article 29 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
 - iii. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
 - iv. Article 32 (2) States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
 - v. Article 32 (3) States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.
- B. Since time immemorial, the Mi'kmaq of Mi'kma'ki have relied on salmon for subsistence, and continue to subsist on salmon today to meet the nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs of the indigenous peoples.
- C. The Sipekne'katik members have Mi'kmaq Treaty rights, Supreme Court decisions, and constitutional protection to harvest salmon for Food, Social and Ceremonial purposes and seek to preserve aquatic species for future generations.

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- D. In 2003, the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon was listed as Endangered under the *Species at Risk Act*, and released the Recovery Strategy for the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon with Critical Habitat in 2010.
- E. The Shubenacadie River System was recognized as a migration corridor for salmon which consists of the Shubenacadie and Stewiacke Rivers, including the Shubenacadie Estuary to the confluence with Stewiacke River, Minas Basin and Chignecto Bay.
- F. The Sipekne'katik Band has recently requested the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard (DFO) to recommend that the Governor in Council place a Critical Habitat destination, specifically through an Emergency Order under section 80 of the *Species at Risk Act*, to protect the migration corridor of the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon.
- G. Listing the Shubenacadie River system as Critical Habitat will aid in the protection and preservation of the Atlantic salmon species

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. To fully support the Sipekne'katik Band in its request to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to designate the Shubenacadie River system as Critical Habitat, through an Emergency Order to protect the migration corridor for the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon.
2. To mandate the National Chief to issue a letter of support to the Sipekne'katik Band's request to protect Atlantic salmon to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and other responsible federal government agencies.

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TITLE: Fish-WIKS: Fisheries Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

SUBJECT: Fisheries

MOVED BY: Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
 - i. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
- B. First Nations are the traditional stewards of fisheries and aquatic resources.
- C. First Nations require greater capacity to access, form, influence, synthesize and create knowledge about fisheries resources to support stewardship, management and informed decision making.
- D. Since 2011, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has worked collaboratively with a variety of academic partners and First Nations (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, Nipissing First Nation and Eskasoni First Nation) on the first phase of the Fish-WIKS project.
- E. The Fisheries Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Fish-WIKS) research partnership project was initiated by AFN and Dalhousie University and funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and will end in 2017.
- F. The Fish-WIKS project has bridged a gap in academic capacity, scientific data, policy, technical capacity, Indigenous Knowledge and governance with First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Call on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to provide further leadership in establishing strong and respectful relationships with academic partners to expand the amount of scientific (technical), policy and economic research carried out cooperatively with First Nations regarding First Nation fisheries.
- 2. Direct the AFN to continue its efforts as directed in Resolution 53/2012 *Support for Fisheries Research*.
- 3. Direct the AFN to support the examination and development of renewed opportunities to work in conjunction with additional academic partners and First Nations, to develop a second phase of the Fisheries Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Fish-WIKS) project to commence in 2018.

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TITLE: Support for the National Indian Football Association Canada

SUBJECT: Sports

MOVED BY: Chief Bob Chamberlain, Kwikwasuti'nuxw First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Harvey Underwood , Tsawout First Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The Native Indian Football Association (NIFA) has been in existence for 25 years and has developed players and coaches to ensure First Nations athletes gain equal opportunity to strive towards the highest levels of national and international teams and competitions and to organize and host soccer camps and elite tournaments that will enhance development of youth players within First Nations communities in Canada. For the first time ever in the sport of soccer, NIFA Indigenous Ladies Team Canada won the inaugural 2015 World games gold Medal, a monumental time in history.
- B. The NIFA is in a position to take First Nations soccer programs to the highest level of development and competition and wishes to use a holistic approach based on traditional methods and technical skill development. Working with First Nations and soccer specific organizations, NIFA will develop the highest standard of traditional and technical training plans available to athletes and coaches.
- C. NIFA is working to build the capacity of its elite coaches through workshops, who will in turn coach First Nation youth elite teams regionally and nationally and assist in selection at national identification camps that lead to national and international competitions.
- D. NIFA have built international partners via international soccer tours and cultural exchanges around the world, have developed a memorandum of understanding with our USA counterparts, provided technical soccer information and created technical packages for Brazil at the first world indigenous games in 2015.
- E. NIFA has created a National Working Group that will assist in the development of soccer and, as a group, provide leadership, advocacy and a voice regionally and nationally to create opportunities for First Nations communities in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Support the Native Indian Football Association NIFA as they work to build on the 25 years of football (soccer) in First Nations in Canada and North America in the development of coaches at both the grassroots level to international levels of competition. The approach will be a holistic one offering relevant traditional philosophies that integrate with universal elite sport development models.
- 2. Call on the national soccer organization, regional soccer organizations, First Nations sport organizations and business corporations to assist NIFA with financial support to develop short and long term football (soccer) development programs for First Nations youth and their coaches in Canada.

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3. Call on First Nations sport organizations to support and assist in the development of national level Indigenous teams (men and women, boys and girls) who will participate in international friendly competitions and compete at on-going World Indigenous Games and World Indigenous Soccer Cups in the future.
4. Support the NIFA development of long term program strategies to create sport and soccer infrastructure that will give opportunity for First Nations youth to pursue academic excellence through soccer at the level of their choice that lead to careers, healthy lifestyles, wellness and help them to become positive role models.
5. Support NIFA, as a leading soccer organization globally, to host and organize soccer events in Canada, be a resource internationally and to work in partnership with Soccer Canada and regional soccer bodies and First Nations sport groups across Canada.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 12 / 2016

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TITLE: Long Term Sustainability of Kashechewan (Albany) First Nation Reserve # 67

SUBJECT: Lands and Reserves

MOVED BY: Chief Leo Friday, Kashechewan First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Bruce Sheeshish, Attawapiskat First Nation, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - iii. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - iv. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, healthy and social security.
 - v. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. Kashechewan First Nation, located 35 feet above mean sea level in James Bay, Ontario, is a growing community of 2,300 people, the majority of which (60%) are under 25 years of age.
- C. Due to its current location on the flood plain, Kashechewan First Nation is extremely vulnerable to flooding, resulting in numerous community evacuations since 1974.
- D. In 1996, responding to major flooding which took place during the 1980s, Canada built a 7 kilometer ring dyke around the community. The dyke is 20 years old and no longer meets the standards for dyke construction or public safety.
- E. In 2006, the dyke was nearly overtopped due to flooding and ice jamming. For the last 4 years Kashechewan First Nation has been evacuated each year and 36 homes remain unusable from the flooding.

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- F. The 460 residents evacuated in 2014 are unable to return because their homes are unusable.
- G. The long term sustainability and growth of Kashechewan First Nation requires relocation from their current location on floodplain. The rationale for this move is as follows:
 - i. Kashechewan First Nation community experiences regular flooding, resulting in numerous evacuations since 1974. Major flooding occurs once every ten years, and annual flooding has occurred each of the past four years.
 - ii. A 2015 engineering risk assessment report determined the dyke and associated infrastructure to be an “Intolerable Risk” to public safety.
 - iii. A preliminary engineering report has outlined three flood risk reduction options, each with associated construction costs in excess of \$500 million, and which would have negative impacts on the traditional use and access of the Albany River by the Kashechewan First Nation.
 - iv. Since 2005, it is estimated the Government of Canada has spent between \$50 and \$100 million in evacuation costs.
 - v. Kashechewan First Nation signed relocation and development agreements with the Government of Canada in 2005 and 2007. These nation-to-nation agreements included commitments from Canada to address the areas of infrastructure, health, education, social and economic sustainability, and public safety.
- H. Kashechewan First Nation met with the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in June, 2016, to discuss the relocation of Kashechewan First Nation. The Minister committed to examine relocation options with Kashechewan First Nation, and agreed to provide immediate assistance to ensure Kashechewan First Nation is able to meet the housing, infrastructure, health and safety needs of its community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on Canada to uphold the Honour of the Crown and immediately begin working with Kashechewan First Nation to explore relocation options, and to provide ongoing emergency support to Kashechewan First Nation to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of its community.
2. Call on Canada to recognize and acknowledge the impacts of climate change on all areas of life, including infrastructure, housing, health, education, economic development and the traditional use of lands and resources.
3. Call on Canada to work with First Nations to develop sustainable approaches to combat climate change and ensure the security, health, and prosperity of future generations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 13 / 2016

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TITLE: Support for the Montreal Lake Cree Nation Emergency Response Search and Rescue Team Proposal

SUBJECT: Health and Safety

MOVED BY: A/Chief Dirk McDonald, Montreal Lake Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Cadmuss Delorme, Cowesses First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
 - i. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- B. The Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Treaty No 6 has proposed the creation of an Emergency Response Search and Rescue Team.
- C. On May 6, 2016, National Chief Perry Bellegarde was invited to the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for Emergencies where greater involvement by First Nations and their mandated organizations is needed in emergency response activities was communicated to the Minister.
- D. Search and Rescue (SAR) operations involving First Nations do not always have consideration for First Nation realities, such as set time limits for the search operation criteria by other agencies,
- E. The mandate of the Emergency Response Team is to locate, access, stabilize, rescue and transport lost, missing or injured persons to safety.
- F. The Emergency Response Search and Rescue Team would work cooperatively with other emergency agencies and police authorities and, when fully developed, would provide training to people from other First Nations communities

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Montreal Lake Cree Nation Emergency Response Search and Rescue Team proposal.
2. Support building and transferring of greater capacity and control, over all areas of Emergency Management and Response for First Nations communities in Saskatchewan including firefighting and evacuations.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to communicate this position to the federal and provincial governments as it relates to the Emergency Measures Bilateral Agreement.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 14 / 2016

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TITLE: Support for Continued Partnership between Indigenous Peoples and the Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)

SUBJECT: International, UNDRIP

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. Since 1903, the Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA) has been at the forefront of defending the rights of working men and women who have been unfairly treated by governments and industry.
- B. In 2007, at a LiUNA Canadian Conference in Lake Louise Alberta, LiUNA's leadership reached out to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) as an extension of the belief that the LiUNA movement is a natural partner with Indigenous communities. This conference marked a significant partnership as LiUNA signed a memorandum of understanding with former AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine with the thought to partner with the AFN in order to help Indigenous youth learn new skills and trade, as well address the numerous issues affecting the indigenous community.
- C. The 2007 conference served as a catalyst for LiUNA to make it a priority to do its part in addressing historical wrongs perpetuated on Indigenous communities. LiUNA supports the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) in its entirety.
- D. LiUNA strongly believes that supporting and recognizing the rights codified in the UN Declaration should not only be the role of governments but also of unions and of industry.
- E. It is in this spirit that LiUNA wishes to establish a partnership with the leadership of the Indigenous community to symbolically sign this UN Declaration between LiUNA and First Nations leadership.
- F. On May 4, 2016, a LiUNA representative met with Grand Chief Edward John, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues North American member and Political Executive member of the First Nations Summit, and discussed the significance of the Declaration and LiUNA's support for it.
- G. Following this meeting, on June 7, 2016, LiUNA sent the attached correspondence to the First Nations Summit expressing its support for the Declaration, and its wish to discuss the possibility of a partnership with the leadership of the Indigenous community to symbolically sign the UN Declaration between the LiUNA and First Nations leadership.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Welcome the strong positive support from Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA).
2. Recognize that public education is important for First Nations and Canada to moving forward as equal partners and to support healing as identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report and Calls to Action.
3. Invite other trade unions to express support for *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).
4. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to:
 - a. Jointly sign the UN Declaration as a display and affirmation of partnership.
 - b. Work with LiUNA to engage with other trade unions to honour and accept the spirit of the UN Declaration.
 - c. Work with LiUNA to construct a working relationship with the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 1 5 / 2 0 1 6

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TITLE: Support for the concept of inherent and Treaty rights card

SUBJECT: Inherent and Treaty Rights

MOVED BY: Chief Norman Whitehawk, Cote First, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Derek Sunshine, Fishing Lake First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
 - i. Article 6: Every Indigenous individual has the right to a nationality.
 - ii. Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- B. Inherent Rights are the rights that every Indigenous person is born with.
- C. Treaty rights are the foundation of the relationship between First Nations and the Crown.
- D. The issuing of Canadian government status cards is not an identification of inherent and/or Treaty rights and does not identify the inherent, tribal and Treaty territories that were in existence before the Constitution of Canada, provincial boundaries or any imposing legislation.
- E. The issuance and use of an inherent and Treaty rights card is an assertion of self-determination and governance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Support the concept of an inherent and Treaty Rights Card that sets out the inherent and Treaty Rights prior to the Constitution of Canada and the imposition of provincial boundaries and legislations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 16 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Development of a national action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

SUBJECT: Inherent and Treaty rights

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. Since the October 2015 federal election, Prime Minister Trudeau has publicly stated in mandate letters to his Cabinet Ministers that, "No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership." On November 13, 2015 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went on to publicly release all 30 ministerial mandate letters, as part of a plan for open and transparent government for Canadians.
- B. In the mandate letter to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, the Honorable Carolyn Bennett was mandated to work with her colleagues and, through established legislative, regulatory, and cabinet processes, deliver on top priorities, including supporting the work of reconciliation. This includes working with provinces and territories, and with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit, to implement recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, starting with the implementation of the Declaration.
- C. In its final report and 94 calls to action, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada called upon the federal government, among others, to "fully adopt and implement" the Declaration as the framework for reconciliation.
- D. Prime Minister Trudeau committed to implementing the TRC'S 94 Calls to Action. Consistent with this new direction, at the 15th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York, the Honorable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada announced that Canada will officially step back from its persistent objector status and become a full, unqualified supporter of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration).
- E. Implementing the Declaration as a framework for reconciliation will usher in an era based on justice, recognition of rights, and partnership.
- F. To be clear, Indigenous Peoples and organizations must be full partners in the reform of laws and policies which impact on our lives. The Declaration provides a framework necessary law and policy

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reform to assist us in achieving justice and reconciliation, and relationship building. The dynamics in the legal and political landscape have changed, so too must our way of doing business. As the TRC suggested, "reconciliation is going to take hard work."

- G. Now that Canada officially supports the Declaration, necessary steps must be taken to ensure its full implementation. As Canada begins the hard work of translating its expression of support into an action plan, it must do so in full collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and consistent with the 46 articles of the Declaration.
- H. It is critical that provinces be involved as partners in realizing the full and effective implementation of the Declaration.
- I. In response to the TRC's final report, in Ontario, Premier Wynne recently made a "Statement of Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples" in the Legislative Assembly, and committed to making a significant financial commitment of more than \$250 million over three years to new provincial initiatives in the following areas:
 - i. Understanding the legacy of residential schools;
 - ii. Closing the gap and removing the barriers;
 - iii. Creating a culturally relevant and responsive justice system;
 - iv. Supporting Indigenous culture;
 - v. Reconciling relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
- J. Other Provinces and Territories in Canada should undertake a similar course of action as the Government of Ontario in response to the TRC's final report, and commit to work closely with Indigenous partners to help Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples move forward in the spirit of reconciliation, including financial investment in public education and other reconciliation initiatives.
- K. A national action plan needs to be developed pursuant to Paragraph 8 of the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document (A/69/2), which reads as follows: "We commit ourselves to cooperating with indigenous peoples, through their own representative institutions, to develop and implement national action plans, strategies and other measures, where relevant, to achieve the ends of the Declaration."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Fully support the Government of Canada's commitment to implement the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Canada's unqualified endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration).
- 2. Accept the federal Government's offer to work collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to ensure full implementation of the Declaration.

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3. Fully expect all provinces and territories in Canada to uphold the Government of Canada's unqualified endorsement of the Declaration and to similarly commit to the full implementation of the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
4. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to call on the provincial and territorial governments to undertake action in response to the TRC's final report and Calls to Action.
5. Support the development of a national action plan to identify solution-oriented strategies and activities to support the implementation of the Declaration at various levels, taking full advantage of this historic development in First Nations-Crown relations in Canada.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 17 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 10 year Anniversary

SUBJECT: UN Declaration

MOVED BY: Chief Margaret Bear, Ochapowace Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Lynn Acoose, Sakimay Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) was adopted for implementation by the United Nations General Assembly on September 13, 2007.
- B. The UN Declaration is the most comprehensive international human rights instrument to specifically address economic, environmental, social, cultural, political, civil, spiritual and inherent rights, and sets out the minimum standards necessary for the dignity, survival and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.
- C. The UN Declaration will achieve its ten year anniversary on September 13, 2017.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations Chiefs are of the firm belief and opinion that Canada has reversed its No vote and will adopt, implement and enforce the UN Declaration without qualification and in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' expectations.
- E. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has adopted the UN Declaration for implementation and is of the firm belief and conviction that the UN Declaration, as presently stated, represents the minimum standard and cannot be defined or altered and made to fit non-Indigenous constitutions, legislation and law processes.
- F. Canadian, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Constitutions must be reformed to accommodate and be in compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

Instruct the AFN Executive to implement the following in full and meaningful participation with Canada:

- i. Formal adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) without qualifications or subjection to Canadian Constitution and Laws.
- ii. That Canada will adopt and pass legislation that will incorporate and reflect the UN Declaration before the Anniversary date of September 13, 2017 without qualifications or alterations to the UN Declaration.

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- iii. That Canada will reform its Constitution and all policies to reflect the adoption of the UNDRIP by the Anniversary date of September 13, 2017.
- iv. That a World Conference of Indigenous Nations be convened and sponsored by Canada in 2017.
- v. That preparatory conferences occur across Canada to gain the Indigenous Peoples' input to the outcome document(s) of the World Conference of Indigenous Nations.
- vi. That the proposed outcome document will instruct Canada and its provinces on methodologies and processes necessary to gain a just and equitable relationship with the Indigenous Peoples.
- vii. That Canada and its provinces and territories must cease all efforts and processes of legal and political importance that adversely affects, impacts, alters, denies or breaches Indigenous Peoples rights or the Treaties.
- viii. That Indigenous Peoples possess permanent sovereignty over natural resources and that this inherent and time immemorial belief and principle supersedes and transcends non-Indigenous colonial doctrines.
- ix. That redress, reparation, restitution, compensation and recourse are necessary interrelated, interdependent and indivisible principles to address our survival and well-being and are to be included in all developments and agreements going forward.
- x. That the Treaty principles of free, prior and informed consent together with the right to participate in decision making shall at all times be referenced and utilized to guide all interrelations with other governments.
- xi. That general public education occur and that educational material be designed and developed with Indigenous Peoples rights experts concerning the UN Declaration.
- xii. That non-Indigenous governmental and departmental representatives and staff receive critical training on the UN Declaration and other international instruments and standards from Indigenous Peoples rights experts.
- xiii. That local education boards, leaders, teachers and administration staff receive training on the UN Declaration and other international instruments and standards from Indigenous Peoples rights experts.
- xiv. That training on the UN Declaration and other international instruments and standards be provided to Indigenous Nations beginning immediately by Indigenous Peoples rights experts.
- xv. That an appropriate national action plan of strategies and other concrete measures including adequate monetary considerations to achieve the promotion and celebration of the Indigenous Peoples ten year anniversary be developed in conjunction with Indigenous Nations or their representative institution(s).

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 18 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Protection and Promotion of Free Prior informed Consent of Indigenous Rights holders

SUBJECT: Governance/Justice

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Joe Norton, Mohawk Council of Kahnawa'ke, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Robert Chamberlin, Kwikwasutinuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
 - i. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
 - ii. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
- B. The newly elected federal government has affirmed committing to a Nation-to-Nation relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canada.
- C. The Prime Minister has publically stated that there is no relationship more important than that of Canada's Nation-to-Nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and other National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) are advocacy organizations – none of which are a holder of any Aboriginal or Treaty rights recognized and affirmed by s.35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
- E. The AFN's membership is comprised of all First Nations in Canada, as represented by their Chiefs.
- F. Corporate entities may only enter into negotiations or legitimately engage in consultation processes on behalf of any s.35 rights-holders where such authority has been expressly delegated by the rights-holder.
- G. The Royal Proclamation of 1763, a foundational constitutional instrument, recognizes the existence of "Indian Nations."
- H. The Supreme Court has issued various decisions that read together stand for the proposition that Indigenous Nations are legitimate rights holders at law.
- I. Canada has adopted the UN Declaration without reservations, and the AFN has heralded the aforementioned Declaration as the roadmap to Indigenous/Crown relations.

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- J. In the advancement of any and all of its work, the AFN must account for the consideration of its various responsibilities as established by agreements with communities and Nations, including but not limited to the Iroquois Caucus – AFN Relationship MOU.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to only engage in Nation-to-Nation rights-based discussions where legitimately composed Indigenous Nations have explicitly provided clear, prior and informed consent to delegate that prescribed responsibility to the AFN.
2. Discourages Canada from engaging in discussions and consulting with other Aboriginal organizations that do not have a mandate from rights holders on matters which have broad and serious impacts on Indigenous Nations and their rights and freedoms as legitimate and lawful rights bearing entities.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 19 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Engaging in Climate Action and the Environment

SUBJECT: Climate Change

MOVED BY: Chief Rebecca Harris, Pauquachin First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Calvin Sanderson, Chakastaypasin Band, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People includes the following articles:
- i. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
 - ii. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
 - iii. Article 32 (3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.
- B. International leaders set global targets to reduce carbon emissions as part of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21), which led to the “Paris Agreement”.
- C. Canada formally signed on to the Paris Agreement in April 2016, in New York.
- D. All of the parties to the Paris Agreement agreed that they should, when taking action to address climate change, recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- E. At a First Ministers Meeting in Vancouver in March 2016, the First Ministers agreed to the *Vancouver Declaration on Clean Growth and Climate Change* (the Vancouver Declaration), in a process that included limited engagement with Indigenous peoples.
- F. The Vancouver Declaration sets out a plan to achieve Canada's international commitments through the creation of a Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change through the establishment of four Working Groups focused on: clean technology, innovation and jobs; carbon pricing mechanisms; specific mitigation opportunities; and adaptation and climate resilience.

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- G. The mandate of each of the Working Groups includes engagement with Indigenous peoples.
- H. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has resolved to *Support First Nations in Addressing Climate Change* in resolution 59/2015 passed this past December.
- I. Climate change will significantly alter our way of life on the lands the Creator has bestowed upon us and we have inalienable rights as confirmed in Treaties between the Crown and ourselves.
- J. International leaders are set to meet again as part of the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) in November 2016, in Morocco.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Endorse the creation of an Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE) tasked with supporting the Charter and mandate of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in its work pertaining to Climate Action and the Environment.
- 2. Support the development of a Terms of Reference for the ACCAE that includes representation from across the country, including Elders, women and youth.
- 3. Support the ACCAE in its efforts to engage meaningfully with federal, provincial, and territorial governments in the development and implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change to ensure that First Nations are meaningfully included in all aspects of this process.
- 4. Support First Nations to fully engage in the exploration and implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, along with other measures meant to demonstrate First Nations' roles as stewards of their lands.
- 5. Direct the ACCAE to advocate for a climate plan that includes the full recognition and involvement of Indigenous peoples leading to and beyond the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22), in Morocco, November 2016.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 20 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Acting on Climate Change: Indigenous Initiatives Project

SUBJECT: Environment and Climate Change

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Serge Otsi Simon, Mohawk Council of Kanesatake, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People affirms:
- i. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
 - ii. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
- B. A partnership between McGill University and the Centre des Sciences de Montréal called *Acting on Climate Change: Indigenous Initiatives* proposes novel ways to fully engage Canada's Indigenous peoples in future climate change policy by placing Indigenous initiatives at the heart of the solutions agenda.
- C. The project's objective is to give visibility to existing Indigenous climate change initiatives and bring together Indigenous representatives and researchers to facilitate cross-cultural learning on climate change, ensuring that Indigenous peoples in Canada can become full partners in the country's transition to a low-carbon economy and sustainable society.
- D. To meet its objective, this project will develop participatory processes to identify, document, and give visibility to inspiring Indigenous peoples' climate change and sustainability initiatives as key elements of Indigenous learning.
- E. This project will create a think-tank around Indigenous institutions to support informed decision making on climate change and climate action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Express their support in principle for the *Acting on Climate Change: Indigenous Initiatives* project.
2. Call on the Assembly of First Nations to examine the development of a partnership with McGill University and the Centre des Sciences de Montréal as a basis for advancing this initiative.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 2 1 / 2 0 1 6

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TITLE: Support for Grassy Narrows and Other Mercury Impacted Communities

SUBJECT: Health and Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Simon Fobister Sr., Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation), ON

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People includes the following articles:
- i. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
 - ii. Article 29 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources.
 - iii. Article 29 (2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
 - iv. Article 29 (3): States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.
- B. We must protect our water for future generations in the face of pollution that continues to harm First Nations across Canada.
- C. In the 1960s, nine-thousand kilograms of mercury was dumped in the English-Wabigoon River, and the health, culture, and livelihood of First Nations peoples living downstream continues to be negatively affected.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has resolved to Support Grassy Narrows and Other Mercury Impacted Communities in AFN resolution 04/2010, but there has been little action.
- E. A recent expert report found that the river is still highly contaminated, but that it can be cleaned up safely.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the people of Grassy Narrows and their demands for mercury justice.

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2. Request that the National Chief and Regional Chief health portfolio holder advocate on behalf of Grassy Narrows, including urging the federal and provincial governments to:
 - i. Clean the English-Wabigoon River without delay to such a point that the fish are safe to eat for the people of Grassy Narrows.
 - ii. Establish an endowment fund to support all future studies on the river and the implementation of the clean-up.
 - iii. Fund permanent monitoring activities through a Grassy Narrows-run environmental health centre, which includes training for youth and revival of tradition harvesting.
 - iv. Build a mercury treatment and therapy center in Grassy Narrows to provide top-quality health care for mercury survivors of all ages.
 - v. Ensure that all people impacted by mercury, directly or indirectly, are compensated and that the compensation is sufficient to meet their needs.
 - vi. Institute mechanisms to stop industry from polluting the water and air.
 - vii. Recommend the rescinding of the Whiskey Jack Forest Management plan 2012-2022 within Grassy Narrows Territory, which threatens to release more mercury into local waterways.
3. Direct the National Chief and Regional Chief health portfolio holder to continue to advocate on behalf of Grassy Narrows and present, as appropriate, the issues of mercury poisoning, water protection, and justice for Grassy Narrows and other mercury impacted communities to all relevant provincial and federal ministries.
4. Direct the National Chief and Regional Chief health portfolio holder to call on Canada and Ontario to commit to cleaning the English-Wabigoon River without delay.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 22 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women And Girls

SUBJECT: Indigenous Women and Girls

MOVED BY: Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Ian McKay, Red Earth First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms:
- i. Article 15(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information
 - ii. Article 15(2): States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.
 - iii. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
 - iv. Article 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards
 - v. Article 44: All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) urges Nations to adopt and use constitutions, legislation, and other relevant methods that embody the principle of equality between men and women.
- C. The CEDAW further urges Nations to prohibit any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities conform to this requirement.
- D. The Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission (SFNWC) acknowledges that Indigenous women hold important roles in our families and nations and in the governance of our peoples.
- E. On May 18, 2016, the SFNWC formally endorsed the *Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women and Girls*.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 2 2 / 2 0 1 6

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- F. On May 26, 2016, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 1991 adopting the *Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women and Girls* to serve as a guide for the FSIN, its Executive, management and staff, its governing and organizational structures, and all annual sports, cultural and special events organized by the FSIN.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Adopt the *Declaration to Honour Indigenous Women and Girls* to serve as a guide for the Assembly of First Nations, its Executive, management and staff, its governing and organizational structures, and all events organized by the Assembly of First Nations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 23 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support For Bill S-215: An Act To Amend The Criminal Code (Sentencing For Violent Offenses Against Aboriginal Women)

SUBJECT: Indigenous Women and Girls

MOVED BY: Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Ian McKay, Red Earth First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms:
 - i. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B. Indigenous women in Canada are at a higher risk of being victims of violence than non-Aboriginal females, as indicated in the 2014 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) report *Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview*.
- C. The 2014 RCMP report indicated that Indigenous women accounted for 4.3% of the overall female population in Canada but made up 11.3% of missing females and 16% of all female homicides.
- D. Senator Lillian Dyck has sponsored Bill S-215 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (*sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women*) that would require a court to take Aboriginal female identity into account during sentencing of offenders to ensure that there are significant consequences for violent offenses against Aboriginal women.
- E. On May 18, 2016, the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission passed a motion to support Bill S-215: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women).
- F. On May 25, 2016, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 1990 supporting the passage of Bill S-215, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offenses against Aboriginal women).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the passage of Bill S-215: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offenses against Aboriginal women).

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 24 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for Engagement in the Health Accord Discussions

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Elaine Johnston, Serpent River First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of Tyendinaga, ON

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. Call to Action # 18 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including Indian Residential Schools, and to recognize and implement the health- care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law and constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
- C. The federal government has begun negotiations on a Health Accord, which will detail the funding mechanism for provincial/territorial health systems as well as articulating national level priorities.
- D. This is the first time there has been any appetite for the inclusion of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in the agreement.
- E. The Health Accord is an historic opportunity to influence the provinces and territories to work with First Nations in their respective jurisdictions to ensure provincial and territorial systems are responsive to First Nations' needs, and to close the jurisdictional gaps between federal, provincial/territorial and First Nations health systems.
- F. Timelines are extremely tight with an expected agreement by December, 2016.

D R A F T R E S O L U T I O N # 2 4 / 2 0 1 6

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Health coordinate an expert task group and regional engagement to develop a number of priorities related to the four pillars identified by the Health Minister (home care, mental wellness, pharmaceuticals and innovation) as well as any other First Nation priorities outside of those pillars.
2. Direct that any submission of the AFN be high-level in terms of subject area and national in scope to allow for regional specificity and respect regional processes while also serving as direction for investments at the federal Cabinet table.
3. Endorse that the primary objective of the AFN contribution is to influence the provinces and territories to work with First Nations in their respective jurisdictions to ensure provincial and territorial systems are responsive to First Nations' needs, and to close the jurisdictional gaps between federal, provincial, territorial and First Nations health systems.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 25 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Support for the Registered Disability Savings Plan

SUBJECT: Health, Disability

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
- i. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Preamble states:
- i. (T): The fact that the majority of persons with disabilities live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities.
 - ii. (V): The importance of accessibility to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, in enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
 - iii. (X): That the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and those persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- C. Indigenous persons and families living with a disability within Canada represent a marginalized population within an already marginalized population. Disability rates among Indigenous people is over twice that of the national rate, and that at every age, Indigenous Canadians are more likely to have disabilities than Canadians who are not Indigenous.
- D. The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) was designed for individuals under the age of 60 who are eligible for the disability tax credit. The RDSP was created by the Government of Canada to help people with disabilities and their families save for their long-term financial security.
- E. The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) is a not-for-profit, Indigenous organization, supported by Assembly of First Nations Resolution 85/2004, that promotes and supports the full inclusion of all Indigenous individuals and families living with disabilities in Canada through its delivery of comprehensive, person centered, disability and health related services.

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- F. BCANDS is a member of the Government of British Columbia's RDSP Action Group, an advisory committee to government whose membership includes prominent financial and social leaders working to realize the government's commitment to build and maintain British Columbia's position as the province with the highest per capita uptake of RDSPs in Canada.
- G. The Assembly of First Nations recognizes the importance of the economic and social inclusion of all persons and families living with a disability, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and the past and current work of the BCANDS within the Indigenous disability and health sectors of Canada and its mission of: "Supporting the unique and comprehensive disability, health and resource needs of Indigenous persons and organizations through relevant, timely and accessible services," and wishes to continue to support their work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Promote and support the work of the British Columbia Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Action Group to address current gaps within this program and facilitate education/awareness opportunities for First Nations persons with disabilities; and ensure effective collaboration and implementation between Indigenous, federal, provincial and municipal governments, disability related organizations, communities, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to assist in maximizing RDSP enrollment within the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities of British Columbia and Canada.
- 2. Support the British Columbia RDSP Action Group's work to promote and enhance enrollment in RDSP by eligible First Nations individuals and families living with a disability within both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 26 / 2016

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TITLE: Declaration of November as Indigenous Disability Awareness Month

SUBJECT: Health, Disability

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John – Proxy - Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer - Proxy - Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Preamble states:
- i. (C): The universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination.
 - ii. (H): That discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person.
 - iii. (M): The valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty.
(P): Concerned about the difficult conditions faced by persons with disabilities who are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, property, birth, age or other status.
- C. Indigenous persons and families living with a disability within Canada represent a marginalized population within an already marginalized population. Disability rates among Indigenous people is over twice that of the national rate and that at every age, Indigenous Canadians are more likely to have disabilities than Canadians who are not Indigenous.
- D. The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) is a not-for-profit, Indigenous organization, supported by Assembly of First Nations Resolution.85/2004 that promotes and supports the full inclusion of all Indigenous individuals and families living with disabilities in Canada through its delivery of comprehensive, person centered, disability and health related services.

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- E. Through BCANDS service delivery and collaboration with Indigenous, federal and provincial governments and leadership, BCANDS assists to eliminate barriers, raise awareness and create opportunities for improved and responsive services, and the increased inclusion of Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability within Canada.

- F. The annual recognition and proclamation of November as Indigenous Disability Awareness Month will assist in raising awareness around the need to eliminate barriers facing the Indigenous population of Canada living with a disability and aid in the creation of new and expanded partnerships.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Recognize and declare the month of November as “Indigenous Disability Awareness Month” with the overall goals of promoting and enhancing awareness of Indigenous disability issues and building more inclusive communities through recognition of the substantial and valuable contributions of Indigenous peoples living with disabilities within Canada.
2. Support British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) and its efforts for national endorsement / recognition and declaration of the month of November, in each calendar year, as “Indigenous Disability Awareness Month” through “Proclamations / Resolutions” from Indigenous, federal and provincial governments and leadership across Canada.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 27 / 2016

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TITLE: Support for Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering

SUBJECT: Disability, Health, Social Services

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health, and social security.
 - ii. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Preamble states:
- i. (C): The universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination.
 - ii. (M): The valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty.
 - iii. 1.7(8) Awareness-raising: (a) To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; (b) To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life; (c) To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.
- C. Indigenous persons and families living with a disability within Canada represent a marginalized population within an already marginalized population. The disability rate among Indigenous people is over twice that of the national rate and that at every age, Indigenous Canadians are more likely to have disabilities than Canadians who are not Indigenous.
- D. The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) is a not-for-profit, Indigenous organization, supported by Assembly of First Nations Resolution 85/2004 to promote and support the

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full inclusion of all Indigenous individuals and families living with disabilities in Canada through its delivery of comprehensive, person centered disability and health related services. Through service delivery and collaboration with Indigenous, federal and provincial governments and leadership, BCANDS assists to eliminate barriers, raise awareness and create opportunities for improved and responsive services, and increase inclusion of Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability within Canada.

- E. BCANDS will host its “From the Outside Looking In – Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering,” in Victoria British Columbia in November 2017. The 2017 Gathering will bring together a diverse representation of disability and health related stakeholders from across Canada over a three day period to learn, inform, share, collaborate and create new and expanded partnerships to assist in addressing the barriers facing Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Support the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society’s “From the Outside looking In – Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering” in 2017 and encourage the promotion and participation of community, government, service providers and other associated stakeholders.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 28 / 2016

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TITLE: Call to Action that Health Canada Non Insured Health Benefits list provide a new treatment for type 2 diabetes called Jardiance

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Charlie Boucher, Pine Creek First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Cameron Catcheway, Skownan First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 21: Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. The West Region Tribal Council (WRTC) Leadership and Health Team were supplied information from a respected Manitoba endocrinologist on a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Jardiance.
- i. A clinical trial showed that Jardiance reduced the risk for cardio-vascular death, non-fatal heart attack or non-fatal stroke by 14%.
 - ii. Jardiance reduced cardio-vascular death by 38%; improved survival by reducing all-cause mortality by 32%; prevented hospitalization for heart failure by 35%.
- C. The First Nations' population suffers from the significant complications of this illness to a greater extent than the broader Canadian population. There are 3.4 million Canadians who are estimated to be living with diabetes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to work with the Federal Government of Canada to ensure that the Non-Insured Health Benefits list provides the new treatment for type 2 diabetes called Jardiance, according to the Canadian Diabetes Association's Clinical Practice Guidelines.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 29 / 2016

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TITLE: Supporting Partnerships with Indigenous Health Organizations

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Austin Bear, Muskoday First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Kurt Buffalo, Cree Samson Nation, AB

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, states:
- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. The federal government has previously cut funding to First Nation organizations that were actively involved in developing and determining programmes for First Nations people and communities.
- C. The federal government funds numerous non-Indigenous organizations to do work on behalf of First Nations that was previously done by these same First Nations organizations affected by funding cuts. These organizations often do not fully understand First Nations priorities, do not engage with First Nations respectfully and are often not accountable to First Nations themselves.
- D. Funding First Nations organizations builds First Nations capacity and long term sustainability, as well as ensures First Nations priorities are understood and addressed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Request that the Federal Government prioritize support for First Nations organizations over mainstream organizations doing work on behalf of First Nations, in order to build capacity within First Nation communities and organizations.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to work more closely with First Nation organizations, when possible, to address the issues and priorities faced by First Nation communities in a culturally competent and relevant way.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 30 / 2016

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TITLE: Increased and enhanced flexibility of mental wellness funding to First Nation communities

SUBJECT: Health, Mental Wellness and Social Development

MOVED BY: Chief Cathy Merrick, Cross Lake Band of Indians, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Leroy Denny, Eskasoni First Nation, NS

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision making institutions.
 - ii. Article 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B. The following Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada states:
- i. #19: We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: Infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
 - ii. #66: We call upon the federal government to establish multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.
- C. First Nation communities across Canada are declaring a state of crises with regards to mental wellness, suicide and addiction in their communities. With suicide rates being five to seven times higher than the Canadian population and addiction and prescription drug abuse rates reaching crisis levels in many communities, First Nations need to come together to support a coordinated and comprehensive approach to First Nations mental wellness programs and services.
- D. Significant gaps exist in federal, provincial, territorial and community mental wellness programs and services. Many provincial/territorial services are inaccessible to those living on reserve due to location or other systemic barriers, and when access is available, these services are often not culturally competent or culturally safe. Considerable divides exist between and among jurisdictions in the delivery of mental wellness programs and services, which creates gaps in the continuum as well as in the

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continuity of care. In addition to the lack of clinical mental health services, access to cultural practitioners and cultural approaches is also limited.

- E. Funding for First Nations mental wellness is siloed within several federal departments, and provincial/territorial departments, making it challenging to address the determinants of health and develop comprehensive approaches to mental wellness. Additionally, funding is often time-limited and project-based.
- F. The combination of limited access to services and the high need in northern, remote and rural communities is not sufficiently recognized in the current funding provided to support mental health services.
- G. Population with specific and distinct needs (i.e. residential school survivors, youth, individuals in transition and away from the reserve, individuals with co-occurring mental health and addiction issues, etc.) must have access to the essential basket of services through a continuum of care across the lifespan.
- H. Unaddressed mental wellness issues are also costly to the justice, child welfare, social assistance, education and health systems.
- I. Self-determination over health program governance and other forms of increased community capacity and control is a key component of a healthy community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the National Chief to advocate with federal, provincial and territorial governments and partners to increase and enhance flexibility of mental wellness funding in order to:
 - a. Allow communities to better plan, implement and coordinate comprehensive responses to the full range of mental wellness challenges in a manner consistent with community priorities.
 - b. Support communities to use funding in a more holistic way, informed by the essential continuum of services and recognizing the impact of the determinants of health on mental wellness.
 - c. Support a shift away from fragmented, siloed programming toward a comprehensive system based on a continuum of care across the lifespan.
 - d. Support First Nations control of services and the self-determination of communities to design, deliver and evaluate their own culturally relevant and culturally safe health programs that addresses their most pressing needs.
 - e. Reorient existing resources to eliminate silos, as well as time-limited and project-based funding so that communities can make the best possible use of funds in addressing community needs while improving the coordination of programs and services to reduce administration reporting burdens.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 31 / 2016

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TITLE: Support for Community-based Health Surveillance Systems

SUBJECT: Health, Mental Wellness and Social Development

MOVED BY: Chief Cathy Merrick, Cross Lake Band of Indians, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Denny, Eskasoni First Nation, NS

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
 - i. 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- B. The following Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada states:
 - i. #19: We call upon the Federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: Infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
- C. First Nations communities across Canada are declaring a state of crises with regards to chronic disease, mental wellness and addiction within their communities. First Nations need to lead a coordinated and comprehensive approach to develop and measure First Nations indicators of health and mental wellness.
- D. Currently, there is little system-wide, accurate data on First Nation statistical health information. eHealth and Health Surveillance systems such as Community-based Electronic Medical Records (cEMRs), electronic medical records, First Nation-led client registries and health surveillance systems support the documentation of health services and the collection of health statistics that are necessary to monitor health trends and health outcomes.
- E. Unaddressed chronic disease, communicable disease and mental wellness issues, in conjunction with a rapidly growing population will lead to an economic tsunami impacting provincial/territorial/federal departments in the next few years. Communities across the country are facing epidemics in cancer, diabetes, environmental contamination, tuberculosis, and suicide. Statistical information combined with evidence-based planning tools are required to ensure health planning is effective to monitor outcomes and determine further health trends.
- F. A cEMR and/or First Nation-led client registry database would allow for a complete picture of where the health and mental wellness components should be focused and where points of intervention and assistance could be implemented.

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- G. First Nations inherent and Treaty rights provide for self-determination as it relates to data. cEMRs and First Nations-led client registries and databases incorporate the First Nations Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) principles and respect each First Nations ability to protect its own data. It is critical that First Nations be in a position to determine how First Nations information is collected, used, disclosed and destroyed and under what circumstances.

- H. Provincial and territorial designed information systems, Electronic Medical Records, and provincially/territorially led client registries do not meet the needs of First Nations and do not respect First Nations rights to control their own information. Stand-alone health databases are program-based and will never exchange data with other systems. Interoperability (the exchange of data) must occur between federal/provincial databases and the community-based cEMRs and client registries. Funding and supporting interoperability between community/provincial/federal systems, communities can operate their own OCAP compliant databases as the “source of truth” of client information.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Acknowledge that participating First Nations’ inherent and Treaty rights provide for self-determination as it relates to data resulting from these initiatives.

2. Advocate to the federal, provincial and territorial governments to implement and financially support First Nation communities in developing Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) compliant community-based tools such as Community-based Electronic Medical Records (cEMRs), First Nation led Client Registries, and Health Surveillance systems that provide an electronic source of truth to track health status, trends and outcomes. These systems will be developed at a standard that supports interoperability with federal/provincial eHealth/Health applications, and such systems will not infringe upon current community initiatives and mental wellness planning.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 32 / 2016

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TITLE: Support for a Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital) in Island Lake Manitoba

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Sharon Mason, Wasagamack First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Marie A. Wood, St. Theresa Point First Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
 - i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. Since the mid 1990's, the four First Nation communities of Island Lake, Wasagamack, Red Sucker Lake, Garden Hill and St. Theresa Point have shared a vision of establishing a Primary Health Care Centre to be located between the communities of Wasagamack and St Theresa Point, adjacent to the proposed new airport site and connected by an all-weather road.
- C. The population of Island Lake has increased by 54.20% within a five-year period. The 2011 Census indicates a population of 7,805, increasing to 12,036 registered members as of March 2016, according to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Health services in the area have been strained due to the increased need from a rising population and health status of Island Lake area members continues to deteriorate.
- D. In June 2003, the four First Nations communities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Manitoba, Government of Canada, and the Assembly of First Nations, to improve access to primary health care services within the Island Lake region. In June 2008, the "Island Lake Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital) - Master Service Plan (MSP)" was submitted to Manitoba Health, Burtwood Regional Health Authority, and Health Canada.
- E. It is the intent of the Four First Nation Island Lake communities to continue efforts to establish this Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

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1. Support the four Island Lake communities and direct both Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) and Manitoba Health to give priority and project identification number under their respective Treasury Board(s) for the necessary resources required to support the development of a building design and construction of the Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital).
2. Support the establishment of a tripartite process (Island Lake First Nations Communities/Government of Manitoba/Government of Canada) that will lead and enable continued work on the development of the Island Lake Regional Health Authority/model, under Four Arrow Regional Health Authority.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief for Manitoba to work in partnership with appropriate regional and local First Nations leadership, to assist the four First Nations of Island Lake by providing political and technical support to the Island Lake leadership to ensure the establishment of this Primary Health Care Centre (Hospital) as described in its Master Service Plan (MSP) in the Island Lake region.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 33 / 2016

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TITLE: Recognizing and Protecting First Nations Sacred Heritage Sites and Ancestral Burial Grounds

SUBJECT: Heritage Protection

MOVED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
- i. Article 11: Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
 - ii. Article 12: Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
 - iii. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - iv. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
- B. The Semá:th First Nation, as part of the Stó:lō-Coast Salish Indigenous Peoples of the Salish Sea, maintain strong and ancient cultural connections to our sacred places including Sumas Mountain, and specifically Lightning Rock and associated ancestral burial grounds.
- C. Lightning Rock is a large boulder that connects us to our ancient oral history of Thunderbird, and which marks our ancestral burial grounds related to the devastating impact of the smallpox epidemic.
- D. These significant elements of our ancestral cultural heritage are under threat from development and encroachment by private property.
- E. These sacred sites are not recognized or protected by federal or provincial law.

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- F. Confederacy of Nations Resolution no. 20/2004 entitled “National Protection of Ancestral Burial and sacred sites”, instructed the National Chief to initiate the development of national legislation with the federal government and the Canadian Association of Archaeology.
- G. First Nations, as Indigenous Peoples in Canada, need to take action to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and our own Laws of the Land, to recognize and protect our sacred cultural landscapes and places of heritage value, both tangible and intangible.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Recognize the importance of and need to protect First Nations sacred cultural landscapes and places of heritage value throughout Canada, including Lightning Rock and our intangible burial grounds.
2. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to provide redress through effective mechanisms that include First Nations as decision-makers in the management of our heritage.
3. Direct the AFN to draft a declaration on the recognition and protection of First Nations sacred cultural landscapes and places of heritage value throughout Canada.

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TITLE: Wanuskewin Heritage Park UNESCO Application, "Thundering Ahead"

SUBJECT: Reconciliation

MOVED BY: Chief Ian McKay, Red Earth Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Lloyd Buffalo, Day Star First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms:
 - i. Article 11 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
- B. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 11.1 recognizes the right of Indigenous People to protect, maintain and develop "archeological and historical sites."
- C. The Assembly of First Nations is committed to the promotion, protection and Treaty and Inherent Rights of First Nations which includes the protection of cultural sites within Treaty territories.
- D. Wanuskewin Heritage Park was established in 1992 and is situated on Opimihaw Creek, a tributary of the South Saskatchewan River, and adjacent to the City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- E. Over 6,000 years old, Wanuskewin is the traditional gathering site of many nations of the Great Plains with evidence that predate Rome and pyramids of Egypt, the 19 active archeological dig sites continue to reveal its unique history and significance.
- F. Wanuskewin is the site of tipi rings, age old bison jumps and the northern-most placement of a medicine wheel boulder alignment.
- G. Wanuskewan Heritage Park is an interpretive center governed by the *Wanuskewin Heritage Act* and by an independent board which includes a representative of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, guided by Elders, and seeks to fulfill its potential as a gathering place of the future.
- H. "Thundering Ahead", the campaign for renewal and future development plans of Wanuskewin Heritage Park, will see a renowned center of excellence with an expanded interpretive center, research and education labs, trail renewal, and enhanced cultural and education programming.
- I. "Thundering Ahead" will support the efforts of Wanuskewin to become the first United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated heritage site in Saskatchewan.

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- J. “Thundering Ahead” will seek the repatriation of the bison from an ancestral herd to Wanuskewin, providing an enhanced opportunity to offer educational programming to the cultural significance of bison on the Great Plains.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to work with Wanuskewin Heritage Park to support the “Thundering Ahead” objectives and the Park’s effort to seek United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization world heritage site status.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 35 / 2016

AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: National Indigenous Peoples Statutory Holiday and Indigenous Peoples History Month

SUBJECT: Reconciliation

MOVED BY: Chief Margaret Bear Ochapowace Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Lynn Acoose, Sakimay First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) is the universal standard guiding Canada's efforts to renew the relationships with Indigenous Peoples and reform the Canadian Constitution.
- B. The United Nations Special Rapporteur Miguel Alfonso Martinez prepared and issued the United Nations *Study on Treaties, Agreements and other Constructive Arrangements Between States and Indigenous Populations* wherein he states at paragraph 177; "It must be borne in mind that, according to all available information, the terms "indigenous", "native", "mitayo", "Indian", "autochthonous populations" and others of a similar cast, do not come from the lexicon of those whom we today label "Indigenous peoples", but from the vocabulary utilized by the "discoverers" /conquistadores/colonizers and their descendants, to differentiate themselves --in a relationship of superiority-inferiority—from the original inhabitants of the new territories being added to the European crown jewels."
- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has produced its final report and has issued Calls to Action that are relevant to the recognition, promotion and advancement of Indigenous Peoples:
- i. # 43. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.
 - ii. # 44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measure to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- D. Canadian legislation and law together with their policies and their development processes have been identified to be an extension of the Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius, which has been repudiated and is considered by international legal opinion as the basis for all assimilation, colonization, marginalization and genocide that has been committed on Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

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1. Call on the Federal Government to recognize and honor the Indigenous Peoples of Canada through a national statutory holiday, Indigenous Peoples Day, which would replace the current Aboriginal Day observed annually on June 21st.
2. Call upon the Federal Government to declare on an annual basis a national Indigenous Peoples History Month” to promote and advance the true histories, cultures and contributions of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.
3. Call upon the Federal Government to develop an appropriate national action plan of strategies and other concrete measures, including adequate monetary considerations, to achieve the promotion of a national Indigenous Peoples Day and Indigenous Peoples History Month to be developed in concert and in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 36 / 2016

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TITLE: Responsibility to Investigate Allegations of Abuse brought against Mr. John Furlong

SUBJECT: Justice

MOVED BY: Chief Wilf Adam, Lake Babine First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cheryl Maloney, Proxy, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms through Articles 7, 8, 15, 24, 38 and 40 that Indigenous individuals have the right to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- B. There are serious concerns about the conduct of investigations into certain allegations of abuse made against John Furlong, while a teacher, by former First Nations students of Immaculata Day School in Burns Lake, B.C. and Prince George College, in which the alleged acts took place between the late 1960's to mid-1970's.
- C. These allegations were not part of the *Robinson v. Furlong* lawsuit dismissed by the B.C. Supreme Court in September 2015—see “Waiting to be Heard”: <http://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/11/26/opinion/waiting-be-heard-claimants-versus-john-furlong>)
- D. Although on November 26, 2015 various hereditary Chiefs, and other members of, Lake Babine First Nation, wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau asking that the abuse allegations be addressed, the Government's sole response—received in June 2016 (over seven months later) from The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities—is that the Court decision is definitive of the matter. Such is not so.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the federal government and the RCMP to conduct, as expeditiously as possible, a thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of abuse brought by Mr. Furlong's former students.
2. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to meet, as expeditiously as possible, with the affected members of Lake Babine Band Council, Burns Lake Band Council, and any other affected former

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students to hear their concerns about the conduct of investigations and to discuss with them acceptable remedies.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 38 / 2016

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TITLE: Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring – Proposed Charter Amendments

SUBJECT: Restructuring of AFN – Proposed Charter Amendments

MOVED BY: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Nelson Genaille, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, MB

WHEREAS:

- A. The role of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is to advocate and facilitate for First Nations based on the direction and mandates provided through resolutions of the Chiefs-in-Assembly.
- B. In January 2005, the AFN Renewal Commission released its final report regarding the restructuring of the AFN and made 47 recommendations for the renewal of the AFN.
- C. Resolutions 20/2013, *AFN Transition to Nation-Building Structures and Processes*, and 03/2014, *Confederacy of Nations and AFN Renewal and Restructuring*, directed the AFN, through the Task Group on Nation Building (now the Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring), to facilitate a process to revise the AFN Charter by moving away from regional, provincial, and territorial caucuses to one that supports Nation building.
- D. First Nations are engaged in the process of Nation building and rebuilding and are recognizing leadership structures that are distinct from those recognized under the *Indian Act*.
- E. Many First Nations recognize Traditional Chiefs/Headpersons, Hereditary Leaders or the Grand Chiefs of regional political organizations and tribal councils and there is a desire to include these leaders within the AFN structure.
- F. The Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring proposes reforming the role and composition of the Confederacy of Nations to serve as a political and cultural advisory body, to be composed of hereditary and traditional leadership and elected Grand Chiefs.
- G. The proposed amendments to the AFN Charter also address matters relating to decision-making, and the rules and procedures of the Chiefs-in-Assembly.
- H. Additional changes to support Nation-based participation in AFN decision-making will be explored and enacted through successive phases/amendments to the AFN Charter, following full consideration by Chiefs-in-Assembly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Recognize the proposed amendments to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Charter provided by the Chiefs Committee on Nation Building and AFN Restructuring for consideration.

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2. Direct the AFN Secretariat to facilitate ongoing dialogue regarding the proposed amendments to the AFN Charter with First Nations and among Regional Assemblies to obtain further comments and input with a goal to reach a consensus on an approach before the next duly convened meeting of Chiefs-in-Assembly.
3. Direct that the proposed amendments to the AFN Charter be submitted for discussion and/or approval at the next duly convened meeting of Chiefs-in-Assembly, and the AFN Secretariat comply with the 60 days advanced written notice requirements stipulated by the AFN Charter to effect such amendment.

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 39 / 2016

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TITLE: Reaffirmation of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development

SUBJECT: Employment, Training

MOVED BY: Chief Stan Grier, Piikani Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Reginald Bellerose, Muskowekwan First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters that affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
 - ii. Article 21 (1): Indigenous Peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their social and economic conditions, including inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training, and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - iii. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
 - iv. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. First Nations peoples in Canada require a future that fosters improvements to the socio-economic circumstances of their communities and citizens by addressing personal and systemic barriers to labour market opportunities and thereby increases access to labour market opportunities.
- C. Since 1992, First Nations organizations have successfully delivered programs and services through the strategies of "Pathways," Regional Bilateral Agreements, Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDS I and AHRDS II) and currently the Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS) to improve employment opportunities for First Nations citizens.
- D. The current five-year ASETS program has been extended by two years until March 31, 2017; and First Nations are calling for a strategy that is sustained over a ten-year term.
- E. AFN Resolution 86/1998 called for the national coordination of a First Nations process on employment and training. In follow-up to the resolution, AFN Executive motion 02/2000 called for the establishment

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of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources to develop a national process and strategic plan for a First Nations Human Resource Strategy.

- F. There is a need for First Nations leadership and First Nation ASETS agreement holders to engage with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) on a longer term labour market strategy based on a nation-to-nation relationship and a new fiscal relationship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Reaffirm the establishment and mandate of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development (CCHRD) to prioritize and focus on supporting our citizenry to participate in the labour force and to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to the National Chief, AFN Executive, and Chiefs-in-Assembly on matters pertaining to structuring to support First Nations employment, skills development, and labour markets.
2. Support the CCHRD to engage with the Government of Canada on a new First Nations Labour Market and Human Resource Development Strategy that is not pan-Aboriginal in design, but appropriately based on a government-to-government /nation-to-nation relationship and upholds proper recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.
3. Support the CCHRD to fully consider the support, employment and training needs of First Nations citizens who are underrepresented in the labour force, including persons with disabilities, single parents, workers and trainees requiring child care.
4. Support the CCHRD to consider and update national resolutions on First Nations employment, First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative, literacy and essential skills, and lifelong learning.
5. Direct that the Regional Chief portfolio holder for Human Resources Development to report back on progress to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2016.