

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

July 11-14, 2006

Saskatoon, SK

RESOLUTION #06-01

International Perspectives

- WHEREAS:** The NAFC has been involved in a number of International initiatives including: World Urban Forum (2006), World Conference Against Racism (2001), Racism Experts Advisory Committee (2003) which builds upon a long standing commitment to address Indigenous issues worldwide;
- AND WHEREAS:** The NAFC has received an increasing number of requests to provide policy advice and recommendations in addressing urban Aboriginal issues from international stakeholders;
- AND WHEREAS:** Urban and Indigenous issues will continue to dominate the domestic and international agenda, creating a unique opportunity to bring forth our unique expertise and insight to the international level.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC consult on an ongoing basis with its regional partners in formulating our responses to international initiatives and policy activities.

MOVED BY: Kama Steliga-National Association of Friendship Centres
Ottawa, ON.

SECONDED BY: Kelly L'Hirondelle, Vancouver, BC

CARRIED: X **DEFEATED:**____ **WITHDRAWN:**____ **TABLED:**____

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RESOLUTION #06-02

Lifetime Membership of Raymond Chambers

WHEREAS: Raymond Chambers was a formidable man, with a great spirit who possessed a huge heart, with an abundance of room for youth, elders and those seeking information or in need;

AND WHEREAS: Raymond Chambers was instrumental in the engagement, inclusion, growth and development of many individuals currently involved in the Friendship Centre Movement;

AND WHEREAS: Raymond Chambers has left a legacy of youth engagement, empowerment through support, as well as one of caring and compassion for all those people who cross our paths;

AND WHEREAS: Raymond Chambers lived a life that embodied the philosophy of Friendship Centres and his spirit will always be with us;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Association of Friendship Centres honour Ray Chambers after his passing as a Lifetime Member In Memorial.

MOVED BY: Paul Lacerte, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC

SECONDED BY: Ella Mayer, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB

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RESOLUTION #06-03

Child Sexual Exploitation

- WHEREAS:** Within some regions of Canada, there are significant instances of child sexual exploitation;
- AND WHEREAS:** Recent studies in the province of Manitoba have indicated that there is a linkage between increased instances of sexual exploitation of youth, dependent on and use of illicit drugs, gang activities and rise in the use of guns.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC develop a national working group to research and develop a national action plan and program for implementation in our communities to address the issues of and related to child sexual exploitation.
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MOVED BY: Sheena Reed-Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB

SECONDED BY: Paul Lacerte-BCAAFC, BC

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RESOLUTION #06-04

Hinton Friendship Centre Hosting 39th Annual General Meeting

WHEREAS: The Hinton Friendship Centre, Hinton, Alberta, wishes to host the National Association of Friendship Centres' 39th Annual General Meeting in 2010;

AND WHEREAS: The Hinton Friendship Centre has the capacity to host the National Association of Friendship Centres' 39th Annual General Meeting;

AND WHEREAS: The Hinton Friendship Centre has never hosted the National Association of Friendship Centres' Annual General Meeting;

AND WHEREAS: The 2008 and 2009 National Association of Friendship Centres' Annual General Meetings will be hosted by two eastern Friendship Centres;

AND WHEREAS: The Board of Directors has reviewed the submission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 39th Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Friendship Centres be hosted by the Hinton Friendship Centre.

MOVED BY: Judy Gingell, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, YK

SECONDED BY: Sheralle Graystone, Red Deer Native Friendship Centre, AB

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RESOLUTION #06-05

National Urban Housing Strategy

- WHEREAS:** The NAFC has been directed to secure greater resources for urban Aboriginal specific control and access to affordable housing, services and support most recently as directed by resolution (#03-04, #02-02);
- AND WHEREAS:** The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, United Nations released its latest report urging Canada to address the 'national emergency' in homelessness and inadequate housing (May 22, 2006);
- AND WHEREAS:** The single biggest cause of poverty in urban Canada is the high cost of shelter impacting hundreds of thousands of families who pay more than half of their income in rent, making it extremely difficult to build a better life for urban Aboriginal families;
- AND WHEREAS:** There remains an increasingly disproportionate number of urban Aboriginal peoples whose access to affordable housing is but a distant reality;
- AND WHEREAS:** Many PTAs and Friendship Centres throughout Canada have provided leadership in developing, managing and administering urban Aboriginal housing programs, services and support for many years.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC develop a National Urban Aboriginal Housing Strategy ('Strategy'); and,
- FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That a National Working Group, composed of representation from each region, be established to facilitate the development of the Strategy; and,
- FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC continue to work with its community partners in these efforts.
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MOVED BY: Cyndi Stevens, Port Alberni Friendship Centres, BC

SECONDED BY: Josée Goulet, National Association of Friendship Centres, Ottawa ON

CARRIED: **DEFEATED:** _____ **WITHDRAWN:** _____ **TABLED:** _____

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RESOLUTION #06-06

Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy Renewal

WHEREAS: The NAFC has been directed to secure greater control and access to human resource development services and supports most recently as directed by resolution (#04-03, #03-12, #02-05);

AND WHEREAS: It is anticipated that the Government of Canada will commence preliminary discussions on renewing the existing Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS);

AND WHEREAS: Many PTAs and Friendship Centres throughout Canada have provided leadership in developing, managing and administering Aboriginal human resource programs, services and supports for many years.

**THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC develop a National Urban Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy ('Strategy'); and,

**FURTHER BE
IT RESOLVED:** That a National Working Group, composed of representation from each region, be established to facilitate the development of the Strategy.

MOVED BY: Bruce Parisian, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC

SECONDED BY: Sheena Reed, Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, MB

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RESOLUTION #06-07

Urban Aboriginal Mental Health Strategy

WHEREAS: The Government of Canada released its report, 'Out of the Shadows at Last: Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness and Addiction Services in Canada, The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, May 2006 ('Mental Health Report');

AND WHEREAS: The Mental Health Report made many recommendations for increased funding, better coordination of services and supports including recommendations focused on the unique challenges faced by Aboriginal peoples;

AND WHEREAS: Many Friendship Centres have developed promising practices and model programs and services in tackling mental health and wellness within their respective local communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC develop a National Urban Aboriginal Mental Health Strategy ('Strategy'); and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That a National Working Group, composed of representation from each region be established to facilitate the development of the Strategy.

MOVED BY: Barb Ward-Burkitt, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, BC

SECONDED BY: Loretta Wycotte, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, AB

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RESOLUTION #06-08

Urban Aboriginal Strategy

WHEREAS: The Urban Aboriginal Strategy ("UAS) is to be renewed this year;

AND WHEREAS: Currently, the UAS is not available across Canada;

AND WHEREAS: Where the UAS is currently available it is not meeting the needs of urban Aboriginal people in those communities;

AND WHEREAS: The Friendship Centre Movement is the original urban Aboriginal strategy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Association of Friendship Centres ("NAFC") lobby for an expanded Urban Aboriginal Strategy to include access to funding all across Canada;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC lobby for UAS programming to include access to national policy funding.

MOVED BY: Kelly L'Hirondelle - Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society,
Vancouver, BC

SECONDED BY: Sean Vanderklis – Niagara Native Friendship Centre, ON

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RESOLUTION #06-09

Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres (UMAYC) Funding Cuts

- WHEREAS:** Urban Aboriginal youth are the fastest growing population in Canada;
- AND WHEREAS:** The statistics for Urban Aboriginal youth indicate over-representation in areas such as teen pregnancy, suicide, drop-out rates, contact with the justice system, etc;
- AND WHEREAS:** The UMACY Initiative is integral to urban Aboriginal youth in developing healthy lifestyles and deterring risky behaviours;
- AND WHEREAS:** The NAFC recently underwent a 2.95% funding cut from the Department of Canadian Heritage.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC Executive Committee forward correspondence within two weeks of this AGM requesting a meeting as soon as possible with Minister Beverly Oda of the Department of Canadian Heritage and officially conveying the membership's rejection of the funding cut;
- FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC Executive Committee develop a lobbying strategy to rescind the funding cuts and re-enforce enhancement needs;
- FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC Executive Committee in direct collaboration with the Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC) Executive Committee establish a mobilization plan that focuses on a personal approach that is youth driven, which allows the local Friendship Centres to directly participate in a national response to the funding cuts.

MOVED BY: Tanya McKenzie, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, BC

SECONDED BY: Kelly L'Hirondelle, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, Vancouver, BC

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RESOLUTION #06-10

Vision: One Mind, One Heart, One Voice

WHEREAS: The AFCM does not have a vision statement that clearly identifies an “ideal place of being” where we hope to arrive because we have chosen to have a mission statement with a number of commitments to action;

AND WHEREAS: It would be prudent for us to have a greater purpose for agreeing to ‘do’ the things we commit to do.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we undertake a national visioning exercise that includes a gathering of all Friendship Centre and PTA vision statements, where they exist;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we task the Senate, as members of our founding Grandmothers and Grandfathers of this Movement, to guide and coordinate this effort;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That we seek, secure and allocate resources towards this resolution as soon as possible.

MOVED BY: Richard Jenkins, Mannawanis Native Friendship Centre

SECONDED BY: Sheralle Graystone, Red Deer Native Friendship Centre

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RESOLUTION #06-11

Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) Review

- WHEREAS:** The NAFC had previously been directed to advocate for community youth justice initiatives by resolution (#02-08) as contemplated by the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA);
- AND WHEREAS:** The Government of Canada has expressed an intent to undertake an examination of the YCJA as early as Fall 2006 which creates the opportunity to bring forth Aboriginal specific recommendations and action;
- AND WHEREAS:** Reports such as the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, Manitoba, Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform, Saskatchewan, and the Premier's Task Force on Crystal Meth, Alberta all recognize the unique needs of Aboriginal youth and cultural distinctiveness in addressing criminality;
- AND WHEREAS:** The Government of Canada's review of those provisions and measures contained within the YCJA that recognize the cultural distinctiveness of Aboriginal peoples will generate considerable scrutiny and debate;
- AND WHEREAS:** Many Friendship Centres have developed promising practices and model programs and services that mitigate and offer alternatives to criminality.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC develop a National Urban Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy ('Strategy'); and,
- FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That a National Working Group, composed of representation from each region be established to facilitate the development of the Strategy.

MOVED BY: Kama Steliga, National Association of Friendship Centres, Ottawa ON

SECONDED BY: Kelly L'Hirondelle, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centres, Vancouver, BC

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