

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

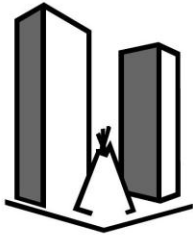
38th Annual General Meeting

July 14-17, 2009

RESOLUTIONS



Niagara Falls, Ontario



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 14 – 17, 2009

NIAGARA FALLS

RESOLUTION # 09 - 01

STATEMENT ON PAN-ABORIGINALISM

WHEREAS: Friendship Centres exist for the improvement of the quality of life of all urban Aboriginal people on a Status-blind basis, meaning that culture-based programmes and services are offered to all who come through the doors of a Friendship Centre;

AND WHEREAS: Friendship Centres reflect the specific cultures of the communities in which they are located, as can be seen by the cultural differences between Friendship Centres across Canada and even within provinces and territories;

AND WHEREAS: The term Pan-Aboriginal is used in a derogatory manner to describe lack of differentiation between cultures;

AND WHEREAS: Friendship Centres are accused of being Pan-Aboriginal even though Friendship Centres clearly differentiate between different Aboriginal cultures;

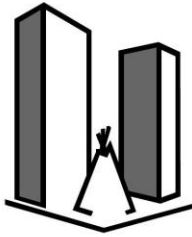
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC adopt and promote an explicit position to facilitate awareness of the negative connotation of using the term Pan-Aboriginalism and that which it implies in all its dealings with government, Aboriginal organisations and others which rejects the accusations of Pan-Aboriginalism and all that it implies;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC begin this process by giving formal expression to this resolution by sending letters to all of our major partners in government and Aboriginal organizations, and that this position be consistently pursued and put forward.

MOVED BY: Sheila McMahon, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

SECONDED BY: Paul Lacerte, BCAAFC

CARRIED: X **DEFEATED:** **WITHDRAWN:** **TABLED:**



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NIAGARA FALLS**

**RESOLUTION # 09 - 02
INCOME TAXATION**

WHEREAS: Section 35 of the repatriated Constitution of Canada confirms that Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are recognized and affirmed and Revenue Canada willingly agreed to enter into a Test Case Agreement with OI (Native Leasing Services and OI Employee Leasing Inc) and its employees to seek clarification from the courts on the bureaucratic interpretation of First Nation taxation immunity;

AND WHEREAS: Many Friendship Centres have leased employees, of which 74% are female low income sole supporters, negatively impacted by the current court ruling and as a result may adversely affect their operations and capacity;

AND WHEREAS: The employees of OI entered into the Test Case Agreement in good faith with the expectation of receiving the same treatment accorded to previous Test Case Agreement participants when completed;

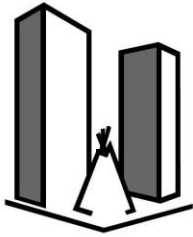
**THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC, exercising the Protocol Agreement it has signed with the AFN, initiate a meeting at the earliest opportunity with the new leadership of AFN for the purpose of creating a Joint National First Nations Tax Working Group:

- (i) to examine the issue of off-reserve First Nation taxation;
- (ii) to seek to have a remission order passed which forgives the accumulated tax liabilities of past and current employees and partners affected;

**FINALLY, BE
IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC meet with the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister of Indian Affairs at the earliest opportunity for the purpose of obtaining the support of the Ministers for the above-mentioned Remission Order and to obtain a commitment that the Ministers will personally intervene on this issue with the Minister of Revenue Canada and other Ministers as necessary.

MOVED BY: Inga Nielsen, Tillicum Haus Friendship Centre, Nanaimo, BC
SECONDED BY: Debra Fairbanks, United Native Friendship Centre, Fort Frances, ON

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



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RESOLUTION # 09 - 03

ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING OF GENETIC RESOURCES

WHEREAS: Aboriginal people have self determination and the inherent right to maintain and protect their traditional knowledge and practices as well as their cultural resources that include human, plant and genetic resources;

AND WHEREAS: Canadian federal, provincial and territorial governments are currently considering how Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources policies could accommodate the traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by Aboriginal communities and local communities;

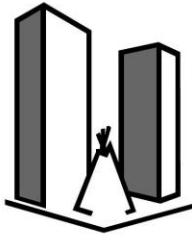
AND WHEREAS: Genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are being accessed for research and commercial purposes, although there is currently no official legal framework to protect our traditional knowledge and genetic resources from exploitation and illegal access;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That NAFC support and collaborate with National Aboriginal organizations to further provide information to the Friendship Centre Movement and other organizations on all aspects of governmental and multi-national initiatives related to Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic resources and traditional knowledge in Canada and advocate for the protection and preservation of our traditional knowledge, cultural practices and resources including human, plant and genetic resources.

MOVED BY: Sylvia Maracle, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

SECONDED BY: Oscar Kistabish, Centre d'amitié autochtone de Val d'Or, Québec

CARRIED: X DEFEATED: WITHDRAWN: TABLED:



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RESOLUTION # 09 - 04

ABORIGINAL DIABETES INITIATIVE (ADI)

WHEREAS: Diabetes has been, and continues to be one of the most significant health risks for Aboriginal people throughout Canada;

AND WHEREAS: There have been continual efforts by Friendship Centres to decrease the number of cases of diabetes and its complications through the use of prevention, intervention, and management activities;

AND WHEREAS: Diabetes programs delivered by Friendship Centres, and that are funded through Health Canada, are ending prior to the program going before the Federal Parliament in 2010 for discussion on renewal;

AND WHEREAS: Friendship Centres will have lost the capacity in the form of staffing, clientele, partnerships and other resources if the program sunsets with no certainty with respect to renewal;

AND WHEREAS: It is estimated that the number of cases and the cost of treatment services for Aboriginal people will significantly increase should renewal of this program not occur;

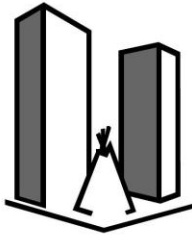
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC take the appropriate actions with Health Canada and other governmental and political authorities to ensure the renewal of the ADI beyond March 31, 2010;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: The NAFC include in its lobbying plan a strategy for ensuring the renewal of the ADI beyond March 31, 2010.

MOVED BY: Inga Nielsen Cooper, Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre, Nanaimo, BC

SECONDED BY: Edith Cloutier, RCAAQ President

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RESOLUTION # 09 - 05

**COMBAT AGAINST POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION AMONG
URBAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE**

WHEREAS: Poverty is significantly present among urban Aboriginal people, which is a situation due to a number of individual and environmental factors including, among others, employment inequality, difficulties in obtaining housing, a low level of educational attainment, a high number of single-parent families, and health inequalities;

AND WHEREAS: Several of the United Nations *Millennium Development Goals* are concerned with the combat against poverty, for example, by working to reduce extreme poverty and hunger, ensure an elementary-level education for all, promote gender equality and empowerment of women, reduce infant mortality, improve maternal health, etc.;

AND WHEREAS: In 1989, the Parliament of Canada made the unanimous commitment to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000, i.e., within 11 years, but this objective remains unattained;

AND WHEREAS: Numerous urban Aboriginal children in Canada live in conditions of extreme poverty, presently an extremely low level of educational attainment and a low rate of literacy, and face the risk of homelessness, as stated in a UNICEF report entitled *State of the World's Children 2009 – Aboriginal Children's Health: Leaving No Child Behind*;

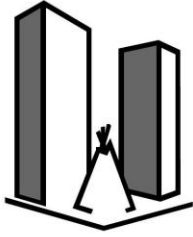
AND WHEREAS: Poverty is one of the factors that leads to social exclusion;

**THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC seek funding from governments and others to pilot an awareness campaign about the situation of poverty and social exclusion affecting our Aboriginal populations in urban areas;

**FINALLY, BE
IT RESOLVED:** That the NAFC compile the fight against poverty and social exclusion initiatives in Friendship Centres in order to support those Centres in their efforts and that the NAFC support the initiatives to be developed.

MOVED BY: Josee Goulet, RCAAQ Executive Director
SECONDED BY: Juliette Nicolet, Kapuskasing Indian Friendship Centre

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RESOLUTION # 09 - 06

2011 NAFC AGM

WHEREAS: The 2011 NAFC Annual General Meeting will see the NAFC celebrate its 40th anniversary;

AND WHEREAS: The NAFC held its 1st Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS: The IMFC of Winnipeg has recently celebrated its 50th anniversary;

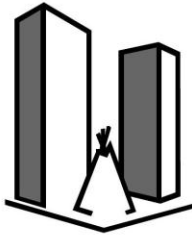
AND WHEREAS: The IMFC has submitted a letter of intent to host the NAFC 40th anniversary Annual General Meeting

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 2011 NAFC AGM be hosted by the IMFC of Winnipeg in the beautiful and cost effective city of Winnipeg.

MOVED BY: Dennis Sinclair, Indian and Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg

SECONDED BY: Kama Steliga, NAFC Secretary

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RESOLUTION # 09 - 07

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC)

WHEREAS: The Government of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations have entered into the Residential School Settlement Agreement;

AND WHEREAS: The Residential School Settlement Agreement provides for the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC);

AND WHEREAS: The TRC has a mandate to facilitate the telling of the true history of the residential school system and the systematic attack on our Indigenous Peoples, our families, and our way of life;

AND WHEREAS: The TRC will be holding community hearings across Canada for the term of the existing agreement;

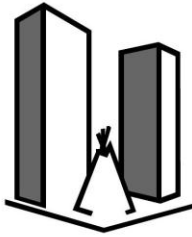
AND WHEREAS: The TRC hearings, while important, have an impact on our communities and our families and this impact needs to be mitigated by Friendship Centres where possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Association of Friendship Centres establish a working relationship with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC provide information to member Friendship Centres in a timely fashion regarding the schedule and location of TRC hearings.

MOVED BY: Paul Lacerte, BCAAFC
SECONDED BY: Wedlidi Speck, Wachiay Friendship Centre Society, Courtenay, BC.

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RESOLUTION # 09 – 08

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

WHEREAS: The United Nations passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on September 13, 2007;

AND WHEREAS: The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was the result of many years of hard work by the members of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples;

AND WHEREAS: The Government of Canada has refused to endorse the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

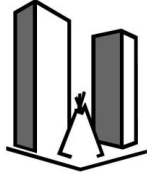
AND WHEREAS: The Government of Australia has signed and the Government of the United States has indicated that it is giving consideration to signing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Association of Friendship Centres continually call on the Government of Canada to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples until such time as Canada signs;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC formally endorse the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and send a letter to the United Nations, the Government of Canada, the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, and organizations for Non-Status, stating our endorsement and our commitment to share in its implementation.

MOVED BY: Paul Lacerte, BCAAFC
SECONDED BY: Kama Steliga, NAFC Secretary

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RESOLUTION # 09 - 09

NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS (NIHB)

WHEREAS: Health Canada has made steady and significant reductions in the level of benefits available to First Nations Peoples under Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) over the past number of years;

AND WHEREAS: Many First Nations Peoples have been impacted negatively by these reductions in NIHB eligibility;

AND WHEREAS: The NAFC does not currently have the ability to quantify the impact of these eligibility reductions upon the people we serve;

AND WHEREAS: The NAFC has an opportunity and responsibility to address this on-going challenge through research and advocacy;

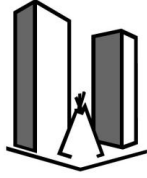
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Association of Friendship Centres, upon successfully obtaining funding, develop and implement a research project, in partnership with the regions, which analyzes the NIHB program over the past 10 years with specific attention to the erosion of specific benefits;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC, upon successfully obtaining funding, conduct a survey regarding the level of access to NIHB by urban Aboriginal Peoples, and the impact of reductions in NIHB eligibility and benefits levels on urban Aboriginal Peoples.

MOVED BY: **Marg Ahdemar, Cariboo Friendship Society, Williams Lake, BC**

SECONDED BY: **Christopher Phillips, Interior Indian Friendship Society, Kamloops, BC**

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RESOLUTION # 09 - 10

NATIONAL DAY OF HEALING AND RECONCILIATION (NDHR)

WHEREAS: May 26th has been declared the International Day of Healing and Reconciliation by the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Society;

AND WHEREAS: Many Friendship Centres in Canada already participate in NDHR activities in their communities;

AND WHEREAS: The principles behind the NDHR are shared principles with the Friendship Centre movement;

AND WHEREAS: Participation in the NDHR by the Friendship Centres of Canada would be beneficial for the people we serve;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Association of Friendship Centres endorse and declare May 26th as the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC provide information to all member Friendship Centres regarding NDHR in a timely fashion and on an annual basis;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED: That the NAFC seek funding from the Government of Canada to support NDHR related activities within Friendship Centres.

MOVED BY: Susan Tatoosh, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre

SECONDED BY: Ron Rice, Victoria Native Friendship Centre

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