

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

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

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**TITLE:** Indigenous Human Rights and Responsibilities for the Protection of Mother Earth within Climate Change Action

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**SUBJECT:** Climate Change

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Tony Alexis, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, AB

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief David Crate, Fisher River Cree Nation, MB

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#### WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) 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. The Government of Canada has announced their intentions to fully implement the UNDRIP;
- C. The pillars of Indigenous Peoples' identity is rooted in the land such as the language, culture, customs and heritage and traditional knowledge;
- D. Indigenous Peoples right to self-determination is a fundamental principle of international law;
- E. Indigenous Climate Action is an Indigenous led project that was created to provide a platform to disseminate information and education tools for communities to be informed on climate issues and climate policies and how they relate to the rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- F. Climate change is impacting Indigenous Peoples' efforts in protection of their cultural heritage, medicines, and Mother Earth;
- G. Indigenous communities have many challenges in their capacity to understand the full impacts of climate change;

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- H. Indigenous Peoples require the tools and knowledge to give their free, prior and informed consent on any and all forms regarding climate change policy;
- I. Indigenous Peoples require a mechanism where their full and effective participation in understanding and contributing to climate change policies;
- J. The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has recognized the importance of “incorporating Indigenous knowledge into climate change policies which can lead to the development of effective strategies that are cost-effective, participatory and sustainable”;
- K. On April 21, 2008, the United Nation Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) stated:
  - 1.Recommendation (23) :“...climate change is an urgent threat and immediate threat to human rights, health, sustainable development, food sovereignty, and peace and security and calls upon all countries to implement the highest, most rigorous and most stringent levels of greenhouse gas reduction”
- L. On January 15, 2009 the Human Rights Council, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the relationship between climate change and human rights, The Special Rapporteur on the right to food stated that:
  - 1.“...extreme climate events are increasingly threatening the livelihoods and food security” of Indigenous Peoples.

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

- 1. Call upon the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to support Indigenous-led community efforts, such as Indigenous Climate Action network, to educate and provide knowledge to Indigenous Peoples on the impacts and policies necessary to combat climate change.
- 2. Support inclusive decision making that includes all Indigenous traditional knowledge and rights-holders in the participation, creation and development of community based strategies on climate change.
- 3. Support efforts to create equity in climate action for all Indigenous Peoples’ present and future generations.
- 4. Incorporate a Indigenous human rights based approach inclusive of Indigenous customary laws that shall promote, respect, and protect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 5. Direct the AFN to support efforts to secure capacity and resources in the development of Indigenous community led climate change policy and adaptation.