



2006 RESOLUTIONS

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples'
Annual General Assembly

November 2 – 4, 2006

Ottawa, Ontario

Resolution 2006-1
Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association (OMAA)

Whereas, the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association (OMAA) has been a constituent member of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) since its beginning; and

Whereas, its current problems which have been based on a number of “draft” audits which are being answered; and

Whereas, the Congress is the national representative voice for all of OMAA’s 30,000 plus members;

Be it hereby resolved, that immediately following this Assembly, the Executive of CAP arrange a meeting to be held in OMAA’s Head Office in Sault-Ste-Marie, Ontario between CAP executive and OMAA executive to determine a proper course of action aimed at bringing OMAA back into good standing with the Congress.

Moved by: Carol Labillois Slocum
New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council

Seconded by: Hayward Young Jr.
Federation of Newfoundland Indians

Defeated.

Resolution 2006-2
Bill C-31

Whereas, Indian women and their children lost Registered Indian Status as a result of Section 12.1:B of the Indian Act prior to Bill C-31; and

As a result of this loss of Status, Non-Status Indian women and their children were denied access to numerous benefits, services and programs that otherwise they would have been entitled to had they not faced sexual discrimination under the Indian Act; and

Whereas, other groups in Canadian society who faced discriminatory treatment by the actions of the state, such as Residential School Survivors, Japanese-Canadians, Chinese-Canadians, Ukrainian-Canadians, etc., have all received various forms of either individual and/or collective compensation; and

Whereas, no individual or collective compensation has been offered or given to Indian women, who suffered legislated sexual discrimination, loss of Status and benefit as a result of provisions of the Indian Act prior to Bill C-31;

Be it resolved, that the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples immediately undertake necessary steps required to correct this glaring inequality of treatment of Indian women and their children with the intent of obtaining compensation for loss of benefit.

Moved by: **Betty Ann Lavallée**
 New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council

Seconded by: **Grace Conrad**
 Native Council of Nova Scotia

Carried.

**Resolution 2006-3
CAP-Canada Accords Implementation**

Whereas, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) have entered into discussions for the renewal of the Congress-Canada Political Accord, last renewed in 1998, and the Congress-Canada Cooperative Policy Development Accord, entered into in May of 2005; and

Whereas, Canada and the Congress have agreed to a process to guide joint policy development and Political Accord implementation, including the establishment of an on-going Committee of officials at the Directors-General level, as well as regular accountability and governance through Ministerial-Executive meetings; and

Whereas, officials of Canada and the Congress have met continuously since early 2006 to refine and develop a workplan for activities in 2006/2007 and beyond, and have agreed to an interim workplan and budget for priorities, subject to further agreements being arrived at during the fiscal year and for the next fiscal years;

Therefore, be it resolved, to accept the National Chief's and the Portfolio Chief's report on the Political Accords, and accepts the proposed interim workplans and budgets for the balance of the fiscal year; and

Authorizes the Executive, as represented by the National Chief and the Portfolio Chief, in consultation with the relevant Board Committees, to prepare a multi-year workplan and budget for on-going activities under the Political Accords with federal officials, for presentation and consideration of the Board of Directors no later than March of 2007.

Moved by: **Brendan Sheppard**
 Federation of Newfoundland Indians

Seconded by: **Lillian George**
 United Native Nations

Carried.

Resolution 2006-4

Support for Youth Intervenor Project

Whereas, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the sole National Aboriginal Organization representing off-reserve non-status Indians and Métis; and

Whereas, Aboriginal youth represent the fastest growing demographic group in the Canadian population; and

Whereas, the Youth Intervenor project is a unique national initiative that enables the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the other five Aboriginal Organizations (AFN/MNC/ITK/NWAC/NAFC) to address youth employment issues; and

Whereas, the Youth Intervenor project provides capacity and assistance to the National Youth Council, contributes to youth policy and development, and represents youth issues on a national scale, and is the only youth-specific focused position within the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples; and

Whereas, the Youth Intervenors from all six Aboriginal Organizations were informed on September 20, 2006 by HRSDC and Service Canada that the Youth Intervenor project would not be renewed in the next fiscal period, and confirmed that there were no identified funding dollars within their budgets for the continuation of the Youth Intervenor project; and

Whereas, the Youth Intervenors from all six Aboriginal Organizations recognize the important role that the Youth Intervenor project provides to Aboriginal youth and they have agreed to develop by committee a joint submission “demonstrating the continuing need for the Youth Intervenor Initiative”, and are recommending its renewal to 2009; and

Whereas, the Youth Intervenors seek the support and lobbying powers of their respective Aboriginal Organizations for this joint submission.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) support the Youth Intervenor joint submission; and

Further be it resolved, that the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples lobby for the renewal of the Youth Intervenor project until 2009.

Moved by: **Chris Montague**
 Labrador Métis Nation

Seconded by: **Lillian George**
 United Native Nations

Carried.

Resolution 2006-5
Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement Funding

Whereas, university students are no longer eligible to receive funding through the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement unless they are in the final 64 weeks of their graduate program; and

Whereas, some of our people do not receive post-Pathways funding; and

Whereas, funding is vital in aiding our youth to pursue their post-secondary goals; and

Whereas, students often choose college over university because of the 64-week rule; and

Whereas, gaps exist within the labour market, particularly within professional services fields;

Therefore be it resolved, that this Annual General Assembly call on the Board of Directors of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples to lobby the Government of Canada to amend legislation so that our youth are not limited to pursuing university programming.

Moved by: **Lisa Dempster**
 Labrador Métis Nation

Seconded by: **Chris Montague**
 Labrador Métis Nation

Carried.

Resolution 2006-6
CAP National Youth Council

Whereas, in 1987 the Aboriginal Youth Council of Canada (now known as the National Youth Council) was formed to address the concerns of Aboriginal youth from a national perspective; and

Whereas, since that time the Youth Council has not been successful in addressing this mandate because of a lack of capacity; and

Therefore be it resolved, that this Assembly direct the Executive and Board of Directors to obtain the necessary funding to hire one (1) person, on a temporary basis, to assist both the National Youth Council and the Provincial Youth Councils in their efforts to address the challenges of off-reserve Aboriginal youth (status, non-status, and Métis).

Be it further resolved, that this person be separate and distinct from the Youth Intervenor Project.

Moved by: **Jamie Gallant**
 Native Council of Prince Edward Island

Seconded by: **Lillian George**
 United Native Nations

Carried.

Resolution 2006-7
National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO)

Whereas, the Congress has joined the National Aboriginal Health Organization in order to advance its objectives; and

Whereas, the NAHO, prior to the Congress' adhesion, was structured so as to represent only the Assembly of First Nations on its Governing Committee for the First Nations Centre, and only the Métis National Council on its Métis Centre; and

Whereas, the Congress, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the MNC, ITK and NWAC all participated in the dialogue leading to agreements in Kelowna in 2005 to the effect that Métis must be operationally defined to include all Métis in Canada, consistent with the Constitution, and that First Nations must be similarly defined as inclusive of all Indian people, whether non-status or status, on or off-reserve; and

Whereas, the Congress, through consultation via its Health Advisory Committee, headed by an accountable Portfolio Chief, has consistently maintained its position in meetings of the NAHO Members and the NAHO Members/Board working group, and has consistently instructed its appointed NAHO Board appointees that they are free to act as they see fit; and

Whereas, despite repeated efforts by the Congress, and recommendations by an external advisor to NAHO and Health Canada on restructuring, and despite the express majority views of the NAHO Board, the Congress' representation on the governance committees of the First Nations and Métis Centres has been denied by the AFN and MNC Members;

Be it resolved, that the Assembly authorize the Executive, as represented by the National Chief and the Portfolio Chief, in consultation with the relevant Board Committees, to request the Minister of Health to withhold funding from the National Aboriginal Health Organization unless and until the members of the Board of that organization move to accommodate a reasonable representation of the Congress' respective First National and Métis constituencies; and

In the alternative, authorize the Executive, as represented by the National Chief and the Portfolio Chief, in consultation with the relevant Board Committees, to withdraw from the National Aboriginal Health Organization and advocate strenuously for its dissolution as an un-representative and un-accountable body, and request that the Minister and government re-direct the funding base concerned to more accountable bodies.

Moved by: Randy Drover
National Youth Representative

Seconded by: Chris Montague
Labrador Métis Nation

Carried.

Resolution 2006-8
Post-Secondary Education Entitlement

Whereas, the Congress and Canada have entered into discussions for the renewal of the Congress-Canada Political Accord, last renewed in 1998, and the Congress-Canada Cooperative Policy Development Accord, entered into in May of 2005; and

Whereas, officials of Canada and the Congress have agreed in particular to address the historic and continuing lack of equitable access to INAC's post-secondary education support funding for off-reserve status Indians and for non-status and Métis people;

Therefore, be it resolved, to accept the Portfolio Chief's Report on Post-Secondary Education; and

Authorizes the Executive, as represented by the National Chief and the Portfolio Chief, in consultation with the relevant Board Committees, to mount an impact study and report on the exclusion of un-represented First Nation and Inuit people, and Métis, from the INAC Post-Secondary Education Assistance Program, and recommend a resolution, including if necessary the costs and consequences of litigation on this matter, no later than October of 2007.

Moved by: **Betty Ann Lavallée**
 New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council

Seconded by: **Jamie Gallant**
 Native Council of Prince Edward Island

Carried.

**Resolution 2006-9
Homelessness Initiative**

Whereas, the Native Council of Prince-Edward Island (NCPEI) received funding to open shelters under the Homelessness Initiative; and

Whereas, there is no available funding for continued operations;

Therefore be it resolved that the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples immediately begin to advocate on behalf of NCPEI to initiate a trilateral process to continue discussions, regarding financial support for a continuation of operations and maintenance.

Further be it resolved that CAP lobby the Minister of INAC to ensure funding for Homeless shelters off-reserve be secured and available to our PTO's which require financial support.

**Moved by: Rikki Schock
Native Council of Prince Edward Island**

**Seconded by: Georgina Crane
Native Council of Prince Edward Island**

Carried.

Resolution 2006-10
Constituent Member Organization Status

Whereas, the reporting requirements to maintain Constituent Member Organization status within CAP does not include the submission of Provincial Territorial Organizations' membership lists; and

Whereas, CAP will be strengthening its legitimacy with respect to representation;

Therefore, be it resolved that all PTOs submit their membership lists of members in good standing to CAP and that this requirement be added under section 2.05 of the Constitution and Bylaws, maintaining Constituent Member Status.

Moved by: **Jamie Gallant**
 Native Council of Prince Edward Island

Seconded by: **Carl Dubé**
 Native Alliance of Québec

Carried.