

Assembly of First Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 47/2026

TITLE: **Etsy Ban on Fur Products**

SUBJECT: Economic Development

MOVED BY: Chief Jenny Brake, Qalipu First Nation, NL

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

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- 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.
- ii. Article 20(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
- iii. Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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.

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- B. On April 2, 2026, the online retail platform, Etsy, announced that it will prohibit the sale of “products made from or containing natural fur from animals killed primarily for their pelts, regardless of age or origin. This includes products like raw pelts, finished garments, and accessories made with real fur from animals such as mink, fox, and rabbit.” This new policy will come into effect on August 11, 2026.
- C. This change was framed as an update to Etsy’s “biodiversity policy”. Given the particular focus on fur products, impacts of this ban will be felt acutely by First Nations artisans on the platform.
- D. Etsy’s policies were previously updated in 2017 to ban the sale of seal products on their platform, which negatively impacted First Nations and Inuit artisans working with sealskin in Canada.
- E. Etsy’s new policy has already been opposed by the International Fur Federation, the Fur Institute of Canada, the Fur Takers of America, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- F. The Legislative Assembly of the Yukon unanimously passed a motion on April 22, 2026 that “THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to communicate to the e-commerce platform Etsy that: (1) sustainable trapping conducted using modern, humane methods is an evidence-based wildlife management practice; (2) fur harvesting and craftsmanship are part of the rich cultural heritage of Yukon First Nations; and (3) bans on fur products cause harm to Yukon trappers and artisans who rely on this vital source of income.”
- G. This resolution aligns with previous AFN Resolutions passed by First Nation-in-Assembly, including:
 - i. AFN Resolution 71/2025 *European Union Ban on Seal Products*, which directed the AFN to engage with the European Commission advocate for the full cessation of the European Commission’s ban on seal products from Canada; and
 - ii. AFN Resolution 48/2021 *Traditional Occupations and Traditional Economies* which directed the AFN to advocate for the elimination of all forms of discrimination faced by Indigenous peoples exercising traditional occupations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Call on Etsy to reverse their decision to ban fur from their platform.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to write a letter calling on Etsy to reverse their decision to amend their Animal Products Policy to ban the sale of products made of natural fur.
3. Call on the AFN to advocate for the recognition, protection, and advancement of First Nations traditional occupations and traditional use of resources in contemporary markets, consistent with section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

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