
Assembly of First Nations

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5
Telephone: 613-241-6789 Fax: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

55, rue Metcalfe, Suite 1600
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6L5
Téléphone: 613-241-6789 Télécopieur: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca

**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 11, 12, & 13, 2023; HALIFAX, NS**

Resolution no. 62/2023

TITLE: Support for the Development of Hockey Indigenous

SUBJECT: Health, Sports, and Recreation

MOVED BY: Chief Rachel Manitowabi, Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: David Pratt, proxy, James Smith Cree Nation, SK

DECISION Carried; 1 abstention, 1 opposed

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
 - ii. Article 31 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional expressions, as well as the manifestations of their science, technologies, and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicine, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control and protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional culture expressions.
 - iii. Article 31 (2): In conjunction with Indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.
- B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action states:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 13th day of July 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia

JOANNA BERNARD, INTERIM NATIONAL CHIEF

62- 2023
Page 1 of 3

- i. Call to Action #66, Youth Programs: We call upon the federal government to establish multiyear funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation and establish a national network to share information and best practices.
 - ii. Call to Action #90: Sports and Reconciliation: We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:
 - a. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
 - b. An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
 - c. Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.
 - d. Anti-racism awareness and training programs.
- C. Hockey Indigenous is an incorporated non-profit entity and is 100% First Nations owned.
- D. The goal of Hockey Indigenous is to promote Hockey Indigenous in North America and provide a whole new generational direction toward youth empowerment. Hockey Indigenous wants to use its platform to bring inclusion, motivation, and confidence, boost self-esteem, and support healthy and versatile athletes. Additionally, Hockey Indigenous will provide information news related to Indigenous Hockey and our mission to stop the stigma of Discrimination and Racism.
- E. First Nations hockey teams and players continue to seek opportunities to build capacities, such as access to training, equipment, apparel, coaches, travel, mentoring, officials, sponsorship, funding, and education support at the local community and individual levels.
- F. The game commonly known as ice hockey is recognized and declared to be the national winter sport of Canada by the federal government's National Sports of Canada Act. Hockey is a favourite sport in Canada with its origins tracing back to Indigenous roots, specifically the Mi'kmaq people. Largely credited as the inventors of the hockey sticks, the evolution of the game has been tracked back consistently to the Mi'kmaq people.

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

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 13th day of July 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia



JOANNA BERNARD, INTERIM NATIONAL CHIEF

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to draft a letter of support to the federal government, Hockey Canada, the International Ice Hockey Federation, the National Hockey League, and other appropriate government ministries, organizations, and individuals in support of Hockey Indigenous to access financial resources from those parties to support its operations and development.
2. Call on the Government of Canada, Hockey Canada, the International Ice Hockey Federation, the National Hockey League, and the provinces and territories to provide the necessary funding to Hockey Indigenous for the development of regional and national strategies, including but not limited to an awareness campaign, capacity building, youth hockey skills clinic, and sensitivity cultural training in hockey to educate appropriate hockey bodies across Canada.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 13th day of July 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia



JOANNA BERNARD, INTERIM NATIONAL CHIEF

62 – 2023
Page 3 of 3