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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**July 24, 25 & 26, 2018, VANCOUVER, BC**

**Resolution no. 44/2018**

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**TITLE:** Enhancing and Supporting Tribal Police Services in First Nations in Canada

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**SUBJECT:** Community Policing and Safety

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Joseph Weasel Child, Siksika First Nation, AB

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Craig Makinaw, Ermineskin First Nation, AB

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**DECISION:** Carried by Consensus

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**WHEREAS:**

- A.** The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 37: Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.
  - ii. Article 39: Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.
- B.** The Northwest Mounted Police (NWMP) was sent west to help protect the natives and smooth relations between the native people and the government agents sent to sign Treaties during the 1870's and 1880's. Colonel James Macleod, Commissioner of the force from 1876 to 1880, was known to be a good friend of Chief Crowfoot of the Blackfoot Tribe.
- C.** In 1904, "Royal" was added to the name of the North-West Mounted Police and in 1920, the force merged with the Dominion Police to form the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018 in Vancouver, British Columbia**

**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**44 – 2018**

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- D. As documented in the numbered Treaties, the Treaty Nations were to have a role in aiding and assisting the officers of Her Majesty the Queen in bringing to justice and punishment anyone infringing the laws of the Treaty and of the land.
- E. In Treaty 7, the Crown confirmed that the Chiefs and Headmen (Council) were empowered to keep peace and goodwill not only amongst our own people, but with the Queen's other subjects as well. Treaty 7 Chiefs and Headmen have always maintained this jurisdiction as evidenced by exercising traditional governance as well as enacting and enforcing bylaws.
- F. The Auditor General of Canada's Report of 2014 underscored the continued and urgent need for greater access, transparency, safe facilities and comparable level of services in the First Nations Policing Program.
- G. Community safety and policing is a major concern in First Nations throughout Canada and has been a concern for some time.
- H. First Nations policing in Canada is not viewed as an essential service but rather a program, and like other programs, the federal government has the power to cut or renew whenever the current agreement expires.
- I. First Nations policing has been chronically underfunded, which has caused Tribal Police services in Alberta to cease operations in the last number of years, putting current Tribal Police services in Alberta in jeopardy.
- J. There are currently three Tribal Policing Services in Alberta; however, other First Nations in Alberta have expressed an interest in developing self-administered police forces.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate to the federal government to deem First Nations policing as an essential service and to provide adequate funding and support similar to other police forces in the country.
2. Call upon the AFN to advocate to the federal government to support the establishment of additional Tribal Police Services on First Nations in Canada, with commensurate funding.
3. Call upon the AFN to advocate to the provincial governments to lift the moratorium on new self-administered police services in Canada.

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**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**