
Assembly of First Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 9, 10, 11, 2024, Montreal, QC

Resolution no. 17/2024

TITLE: Call for International Collaboration on MMIWG2S+ and Rescinding Support for Leonard Peltier

SUBJECT: MMIWG2S+

MOVED BY: Chief Roderick Gould Jr., Abegweit First Nation, PEI

SECONDED BY: Chief Joanne Miles, Flat Bay Mi'kmaq Band, NL

DECISION Carried; 6 Abstentions.

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 7(2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - ii. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B. The Government of Canada launched the independent National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry), which concluded in 2019 with the release of the National Inquiry's Final Report entitled *Reclaiming Power and Place* (Final Report).
- C. The Final Report explores the many intersectional issues contributing to the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and produced a supplementary report calling the tragedy a raced-based genocide of Indigenous Peoples that especially targets women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples.
- D. The Final Report also includes 231 Calls for Justice, which include:

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- i. Call for Justice 1.5: We call upon all governments to immediately take all necessary measures to prevent, investigate, punish, and compensate for violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.
 - ii. Call for Justice 9.5: We call upon all police services for the standardization of protocols for policies and practices that ensure that all cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are thoroughly investigated. This includes the following measures:
 - (ii) Improve communication between police and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people from the first report, with regular and ongoing communication throughout the investigation.
 - (iii) Improve coordination across government departments and between jurisdictions and Indigenous communities and police services.
- E.** Countless First Nations women from across Canada are missing or were murdered in the United States, and many families have received no justice or closure, while both countries argue that the other state has jurisdictional responsibility.
- F.** Jurisdictional disputes between Canada and the United States bring significant lack of justice, communication, and closure to families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples (MMIWG2S+).
- G.** Communication with Canadian families during United States criminal trials of offenders who harmed their family members is woefully inadequate.
- H.** The remains of Annie Mae Pictou Aquash, a First Nations woman from Canada, were discovered in the United States in 1976. Still today, her family continues to advocate to the Government of Canada for justice but are met with jurisdictional disputes.
- I.** On December 10, 2010, John Graham, a Southern Tutchone Athabaskan from Whitehorse Yukon, was convicted of the felony murder of Annie Mae Pictou Aquash in the United States.
- J.** The family and friends of Annie Mae Pictou Aquash have maintained that Leonard Peltier played a role in interrogating Annie Mae Pictou Aquash, whom Peltier suspected of being an FBI Informant, and that Peltier publicly supports her convicted murderer, John Graham.
- K.** Leonard Peltier is Ojibway of the Dakota Nation in North Dakota and member of the American Indian Movement who was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents in a shootout on June 26, 1975.
- L.** In 1987, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) passed Resolution 29/1987, *Return to Canada of Leonard Peltier*, demanding that Canada file paperwork to return Leonard Peltier from the United States to Canada for a fair trial.
- M.** In 1999, the AFN passed Resolution 26/1999, *Justice for Leonard Peltier*, urging the Minister of Justice Canada to make a formal request to the Attorney-General of the United States for Leonard Peltier to be freed.

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- N.** The AFN advocates for distinctions-based approaches in its work on addressing MMIWG2S+ and a First Nations-based approach that ensures the lived realities stemming from systemic and societal impacts and influences, past, present and future, are accounted for and considered in determining the best path forward to address direct needs and actions.
- O.** In 2020, the AFN passed Resolution 13/2020, *Becoming a Role Model in Ending Sexual Orientation and Gender-Based Discrimination within the Assembly of First Nations*, calling on the AFN to renew itself as a role model organization to end sexual orientation and gender-based discrimination including harassment, micro-aggressions, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny within the organization.
- P.** Reconsideration of previous political support of those convicted of violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples and those who publicly support them, is a strong first step to bring truth and healing for survivors and families of those who have experienced gender-based violence.
- Q.** In 2021, the AFN passed Resolution 08/2021, *Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA People*, calling for all activities with respect to the National Action Plan to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people be carried out using a “families first” and distinctions-based approach.

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

- 1.** Rescind previous support for the extradition of Leonard Peltier to Canada, including Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 29/1987, *Return to Canada of Leonard Peltier*, and Resolution 26/1999, *Justice for Leonard Peltier*.
- 2.** Call on the Government of Canada to review mechanisms used for international collaboration on cases of MMIWG2S+ that occur in the United States and to improve communication with survivors and families of those who have experienced gender-based violence while in the United States.
- 3.** Call on the AFN Women’s Council and AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council to establish a sub-working group focused on international collaboration to develop strategies to address MMIWG2S+ survivors and families of those who have experienced gender-based violence while outside of Canada.

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