
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
October 16, 17, 18, 2024, Calgary, AB

Resolution no. 62/2024

TITLE: Support for the family of Mr. Jon Wells of the Kainai/Blood Tribe

SUBJECT: Justice; Policing

MOVED BY: Chief Roy Fox, Blood Tribe, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames, ON

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 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
 - ii. Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
 - iii. Article 22 (2): 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. Mr. Jon Wells, a beloved member of the Kainai/Blood Tribe, lost his life in a tragic incident with the Calgary Police Service on September 17, 2024.
- C. The Family of Jon Wells and the Kainai/Blood Tribe will be pursuing a formal complaint against the three (3) officers involved in Mr. Wells' death.
- D. Mr. Wells' Family and Kainai/Blood Tribe Chief and Council will pursue every path towards ensuring a fair, equitable and independent investigation occurs with respect to police accountability and actions taken by all three officers involved in Mr. Well's death.
- E. The Kainai/Blood Tribe offers their support to the other First Nations seeking justice for community members who have lost their lives due to incidents with law enforcement.
- F. Systematic discrimination and racial bias have contributed to increased interactions with the criminal justice system, including over-policing, systemic racism and experiences with police misconduct.

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Chixelhouse.

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

1. Support the Family of Jon Wells and the Kainai/Blood Tribe in seeking an adequate public inquiry into the incident.
2. Support the Family of Jon Wells and Kainai/Blood Tribe in seeking an unbiased and impartial investigation and timely reports provided by the *Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT)* in allowing justice to prevail.
3. Call on the Chair of the Calgary Police Commission, Shawn Cornett, to undertake a thorough and transparent investigation into the fatal incident between the Calgary Police Service and Mr. Jon Wells.
4. Call on the Mayor of the City of Calgary, Mayor Jyoti Gondek, for support and to ensure an adequate public inquiry into this incident is undertaken.
5. Call on the Provincial Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to enact or amend legislation, regulations, and/or policies that directly address systematic racism and discrimination by establishing a stricter screening process for officers based on racial bias or discriminatory views and providing mandatory training on First Nations, diversity, and social issues arising from colonization.
6. Call on the Provincial Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to enact or amend legislation, regulations, and/or policies that provide for mandatory de-escalation techniques and involvement of additional resources such as mental health professionals for crisis intervention.

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