
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 25, 26, & 27, 2017, REGINA, SK**

Resolution no. 22/2017

TITLE: Joint Committee on Climate Action

SUBJECT: Climate Change

MOVED BY: Chief Calvin Sanderson, Chakastaypasin First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Terrence Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band, BC

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. 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.
 - ii. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
 - iii. Article 32 (3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.
- B. Climate change is significantly altering our way of life on the lands the Creator has bestowed upon us and upon which we have inalienable rights as confirmed in Treaties between First Nations and the Crown.
- C. International leaders have set global targets to reduce carbon emissions as part of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21), which led to the Paris Agreement, signed by Canada in April 2016.

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- D. All of the parties to the Paris Agreement agreed that they should, when taking action to address climate change, recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- E. At a First Ministers Meeting in Ottawa in December 2016, the First Ministers adopted the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF), agreeing to recognize, respect, and safeguard the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- F. This was followed by a joint-statement between the National Chief and the Prime Minister, as well as a joint release of a "Process Document for Ongoing Engagement on the PCF".
- G. The Process Document outlined a commitment to establish a Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA), in order to "...contribute to, and advise the AFN and Canada on, real and meaningful approaches that support meaningful and sustained engagement between the Government of Canada and First Nations on issues related to climate change based on the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and the standard of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)."
- H. Given the diverse nature of First Nation regions and their experiences with climate change, the work of the JCCA will attempt to reflect regional differences and concerns, as well as coordinate regional engagement opportunities for First Nations.
- I. This joint commitment to climate action does not replace or alleviate the Crown of its duty to consult and accommodate First Nations at a local, regional and national level on issues related to climate change, including mitigation and adaptation activities.
- J. The AFN has passed numerous resolutions supporting First Nations involvement in Climate Change discussions including: *First Nations Full and Meaningful Inclusion in Climate Action* (Resolution 97/2016); *Engaging in Climate Action and the Environment* (Resolution 29/2016); *Indigenous Human Rights and Responsibilities for the Protection of Mother Earth within Climate Change Action* (Resolution 48/ 2016); *Support First Nations in Addressing Climate Change* (Resolution 59/ 2015); and *Inclusion of Indigenous Rights in Paris Agreement and Resulting Strategies* (Resolution 51/2015).

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to reiterate their commitment to a First Nations-led climate strategy, and instruct the AFN staff to begin coordinating regional discussions to this effect.

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2. Support the establishment of the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) between First Nations and the Government of Canada to ensure First Nations full and meaningful inclusion within the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF) and other related priorities identified by First Nations based on their inherent rights, Titles, Treaties, and other formal arrangements.
3. Direct the AFN to ensure regional First Nation representatives are appointed to the JCCA in order to reflect regional differences and concerns, as well as coordinate regional engagement opportunities for First Nations.
4. Direct the AFN to urge all Ministers involved in climate action to ensure the full and effective participation of the AFN Elders' Council and other Traditional Knowledge holders in all aspects of climate action, including mitigation and adaptation, with equal weight given as that of Western science.
5. Direct the AFN to call upon the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to provide adequate financial capacity to support First Nations, regions, provincial and territorial organizations, and women, Elders, and youth to participate in these activities and to maintain their important role as stewards of the environment in successfully managing Canada's climate action.
6. Direct the AFN to call upon the Prime Minister, Minister of Environment, and Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to support First Nations and provide financial resources for assessments of climate change impacts and for the preparation and implementation of mitigation and adaptive measures.

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