
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 6,7,8, 2022, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 26/2022

TITLE: Plan for National Community Safety Reform: Political Support and Resourcing

SUBJECT: Policing

MOVED BY: Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Kevin Hart, Proxy, Little Grand Rapids First Nation, MB

DECISION Carried; 1 abstention

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
 - ii. Article 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.
 - iii. 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 recent tragedy in the James Smith Cree Nation and the recent epidemic of suicides, public safety, and substance abuse issues, which are faced by First Nations, are illustrative of the requirement for a broad, considered, and meaningful response by First Nations that will provide for the safety, policing, and health of First Nations and First Nations citizens.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of December, 2022 in Ottawa, Ontario

ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD, NATIONAL CHIEF

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- C. First Nations across Canada are calling for the creation of a pragmatic and effective plan for addressing safety, policing, and well-being wherever we may be.
- D. First Nations are in dire need of resources, staffing, and facilities, which include policing centers, places of safety, health centers, recreational infrastructure, substance abuse treatment facilities, and emergency housing.
- E. First Nations-in-Assembly are supportive of fostering these investments in infrastructure and other community supports to address these concerns around safety, policing, and health.

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

1. Call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to support First Nations-led solutions in responding to the epidemic of suicides, public safety challenges, and substance abuse issues faced by First Nations and First Nations citizens.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for and seek appropriate resources to:
 - a. Engage in or carry out activities for the creation and implementation of a *Plan for National Community Safety Reform*, which is intended to assess the need to provide resources and support to First Nations to address community safety, policing, and wellbeing wherever we may be, to be presented to First Nations-in-Assembly; and
 - b. Support the establishment of a Chiefs Committee on Community Safety, which will provide advice and direction on the development and implementation of a national survey to be distributed to First Nations that will assess the priorities of First Nations in relation to their community wellbeing, safety, and policing needs, with the results informing the drafting of the *Plan for National Community Safety Reform*.
3. Direct that the Chiefs Committee on Community Safety will be comprised of one (1) Chief representative from each AFN Region, who shall be appointed in collaboration with Chiefs, former RCMP and Justice workers.
4. Direct the Chiefs Committee on Safety Committee to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly upon their progress, such as indicators of advances made, funding sources, and the priorities of First Nations (in aggregate).

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