
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. 20/2022

TITLE: Charter Amendment - Corporate Name Change

SUBJECT: Amending the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Charter to update the corporate name for the Assembly of First Nations (also known as the National Indian Brotherhood) and providing direction to the AFN Executive Committee and AFN Secretariat to support a corporate name change.

MOVED BY: Council Chairperson Khelsilem, Squamish Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Naa Sháade Eric Háni Morris, Teslin Tlingit, BC

DECISION Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Charter is a living document that can be amended from time to time.
- B. First Nations leaders believe in the importance of First Nations women and gender-diverse people in our national organization and in the need to use welcoming and inclusive language that promotes harmony and equality.
- C. Article 18 of UNDRIP states: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
- D. Formed in 1978, the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB) was an umbrella group for provincial and territorial organizations (PTOs) that acted as a national political body comprised of the leadership of the various PTOs, which lobbied for changes to federal and provincial policies.

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- E. After its creation, the NIB was not meeting the needs and interests of member First Nations, as their only access to influencing the national First Nations agenda was through their respective PTOs. The chiefs, as elected representatives of their nations, wanted a seat at the table and their voices to be heard.
- F. First Nations Chiefs held their first assembly as "the Assembly of First Nations" (AFN) in Penticton, British Columbia, in April 1982, where, at that time, First Nations leaders established a political arm to the organization as the AFN and correspondingly retained the NIB as a corporate entity overseen by a board of directors, which was responsible for the administration of the organization.
- G. The new structure, adopted in July 1985, gave membership and voting rights to individual First Nation Chiefs rather than PTOs through the adoption of the AFN Charter.
- H. In 2005, an AFN report that reviewed AFN's operating structure made recommendations for the renewal of the national organization, including a name change to the corporate/administrative arm of the organization.
- I. Recommendation #24 in the 2005 Renewal Commission Report states:
 - a. The National Indian Brotherhood applies for a corporate name change and files supplementary articles of incorporation consistent with the recommendations of this report.
 - b. The National Indian Brotherhood be renamed the Assembly of First Nations Secretariat.
- J. The AFN Charter establishes the board of directors for the NIB corporation (commonly known as the AFN) as being comprised of the National Chief and the Regional Chiefs.
- K. The NIB operates and is known as the AFN, but the official legal name remains "National Indian Brotherhood".
- L. First Nations leaders have identified a need to align the corporate name for the administrative secretariat that serves the AFN with its commonly known name in order to better reflect the values and composition of the AFN and the communities it serves.

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

- 1. Direct that the Assembly of First Nations Charter and corporate registration be amended to remove the term **National Indian Brotherhood** and replace it with **Assembly of First Nations**.

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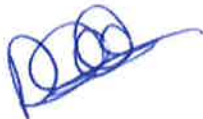
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2. Direct the AFN Executive Committee in its capacity as the National Indian Brotherhood (to be renamed AFN) board of directors to:
 - a. Apply for a corporate name change of the National Indian Brotherhood to be officially named the Assembly of First Nations Inc., and file supplementary articles of incorporation consistent with the intent of this resolution, and
 - b. Do all such acts and things, provide such instructions and execute and deliver all such other documents and instruments as necessary or advisable to carry out the resolution's intent.
3. Supports the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund board of trustees in its efforts to identify and register a name change that reflects the organizations goals, purpose, and mandates.

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