
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 5, 6 & 7, 2017, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 107/2017

TITLE: Support of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association Resolution Calling for First Nations Policing to be Entrenched as an Essential Service

SUBJECT: Policing, Public Safety

MOVED BY: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Régis Pénosway, Conseil des Anicinapek de Kitcisakik, QC

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UN Declaration) states:
 - i. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
 - ii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B. First Nations communities require and deserve stable, adequately funded policing services that are comparable to those provided to other communities in Canada. The current First Nations Policing Program (FNPP) is failing First Nations communities by creating unsafe situations for officers and community members.
- C. First Nations police services are essential services necessary for the safety and security of First Nations citizens. As such First Nations police services must be recognized and supported as essential services. The current "grants and contribution program status" creates systemic barriers to the long term creation and sustainability of quality First Nation police services.
- D. At its Annual General Meeting in October 2017, the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association, through resolution 001-2017, called on the Government of Canada to entrench First Nations Policing as an essential

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of December, 2017 in Ottawa, ON

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service, with adequate, predictable, and sustained funding to meet the needs of each department. The resolution calls for the replacement, not the renewal, of the FNPP.

- E. The 2017 federal budget proposed investing \$102 million over 5 years, starting in 2018-19, to address the most immediate needs of Indigenous police services while the federal government considers ways to increase the effectiveness of the FNPP. The First Nations Chiefs of Police Association (FNCPA) and its member services have received no response to requests to discuss and negotiate that funding. There has been no information regarding the ways in which the government proposes to increase program effectiveness.
- F. The current funding agreement for the FNPP will end on March 31, 2018. The FNCPA and member police services have received no indication that a funding agreement for First Nations policing will be in place by April 1, 2018.

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

1. Support Resolution 001-2017 of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association (FNCPA).
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to communicate with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness on the urgent need for the First Nations Policing Program to be renewed, on an interim basis and with the funding increases committed to in the 2017 federal Budget, until such time as First Nations police services are fully entrenched as essential community services.
3. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to undertake the necessary legislative change to ensure that First Nations police services are viewed as essential services and supported equitably with federal, provincial and municipal police services.

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