



**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
July 9, 10, 11, 2024, Montreal, QC

**Resolution no. 59/2024**

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Political Support for Energy Security for First Nations in Saskatchewan</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Energy, Infrastructure, Economic Development
<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Chief Edwin Ananas, Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation, SK
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Chief Melissa Tavita, Muscowpetung Saulteaux First Nation, SK
<b>DECISION</b>	Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. Due to the rising costs of home heating and electricity prices, inadequate housing due to overcrowding and the reduced quality and quantity of available housing stock, and lack of energy efficiency programming tools for First Nations households, there is an immediate need for the installation of natural gas service and related infrastructure for those First Nations that do not currently enjoy the benefits of this alternative heating source.
- C. The First Nations Power Authority (FNPA), created in 2011 to help green the electricity grid, is North America's only Indigenous-owned, led and controlled not-for-profit entity developing power projects with Indigenous communities on behalf of its 165 First Nations General Members and Industry Members.
- D. In April 2024, the FNPA signed an MOU with SaskEnergy to advance economic reconciliation and meaningful participation in cleaner energy initiatives; facilitate collaboration between SaskEnergy, FNPA, and Saskatchewan First Nations; and assist in increasing economic participation through cleaner energy initiatives.
- E. The parties listed above participated in a Leadership Roundtable meeting with AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak to identify and explore alternative heating sources and solutions for rural First

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 9th day of August, 2024 in Ottawa, Ontario**

*C. Woodhouse*

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**CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**59 – 2024**  
Page 1 of 2

Nations communities with the goal of increasing energy security; promoting energy efficiency programs and community energy planning for First Nations communities, especially those that currently do not have access to natural gas, and assist First Nations communities to utilize natural gas in their cleaner energy transition.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief and the Executive Committee to express their support through correspondence to Indigenous Services Canada and other key federal departments for First Nations in Saskatchewan that desire to have the installation, transportation, and delivery of natural gas service to those communities where appropriate.
2. Call on the Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan to support the establishment of a Saskatchewan First Nations Working Group to identify and collaborate with key federal and provincial funding partners work with First Nations, the First Nations Power Authority, and SaskEnergy, outlining a plan to extend natural gas infrastructure to each participating First Nation.
3. Direct the AFN to call on the federal government to immediately enhance First Nations' access to financial supports through Environment and Climate Change Canada's Futures Electricity Fund and Indigenous Services Canada's Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund to ensure they can pursue more desirable energy security measures, such as natural gas service for home heating, access available energy efficiency programs, and support community energy champions to advance other energy security and efficiency initiatives.

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*Cindy Woodhouse*

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59 – 2024  
Page 2 of 2