
Assembly of First Nations

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5
Telephone: 613-241-6789 Fax: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

55, rue Metcalfe, Suite 1600
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6L5
Téléphone: 613-241-6789 Télécopieur: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca

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

Resolution no. 55/2017

TITLE: First Nations Energy Strategy

SUBJECT: Economic Development, Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Christian Sinclair, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Bernice Martial, Cold Lake First Nation, AB

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The following articles of 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. All First Nations have inherent rights, Title, and jurisdiction over the lands, waters and resources within their traditional territories.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 27th of July 2017 in Regina, Saskatchewan

PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

55 – 2017
Page 1 of 3

- C. Economic benefits and revenues from energy and resource development projects could reach as high as \$675 billion over the next decade. The provinces, territories, and the Government of Canada continue to extract and develop the resources on First Nation traditional territories, and to benefit significantly without fully and properly respecting the rights of First Nations under Treaty, constitutional law, and international law. The Treaty relationship between First Nations and the Crown requires sharing of jurisdiction, resource development, and benefits.
- D. Many First Nations are pursuing business arrangements with industry partners to implement their own economic and sustainable development priorities.
- E. First Nations participation in the economy requires ongoing commitments to capacity building, employment and training strategies, access to contract supply networks and the inclusion of First Nations in economic and regulatory decision-making. International leaders set global targets to reduce carbon emissions as part of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21), which led to the *Paris Agreement* – officially signed by Canada in April 2016.
- F. The provincial and territorial governments adopted the Canadian Energy Strategy (CES) in 2015 to, in their words, “enable a cooperative approach to sustainable energy development that enhances the ways that energy is produced, moved and used in Canada.” The provincial and territorial Premiers entrench their position as the constitutional owners of Canada’s natural resources, and failed to collaborate or consult with First Nations in the development of the CES.
- G. First Nations require a concrete mechanism to ensure their full and effective participation in understanding and contributing to energy policies, as well as the tools and knowledge to give their free, prior and informed consent on all said policies.

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

1. Call on the Prime Minister and provincial and territorial Premiers to fully and meaningfully include First Nations in regional, national and international energy strategies and planning processes through, among other things, the development of concrete mechanisms to ensure our full and effective participation in the implementation of these processes.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for the creation of a First Nations Energy Strategy approach that is inclusive of the development of Indigenous laws, protocols, and processes, in full partnership with individual First Nations, and based on regional sectoral interests and activities.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 27th of July 2017 in Regina, Saskatchewan



PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

3. Direct the AFN, with support from the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development and the Chiefs Committee on the Environment, to begin discussions on a First Nations-led energy strategy plan that prioritizes First Nations issues and interests.
4. Call on the federal, provincial and territorial governments to acknowledge their support (including financial) for First Nations to gather and create the information required to frame a First Nations Energy Strategy that incorporates strategic focus on the production, transportation and trade of energy, and includes attention to the growing focus on clean energy and carbon reduction opportunities, as well as supports for non-renewables.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 27th of July 2017 in Regina, Saskatchewan



PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF