
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 12, 13, & 14, 2016; NIAGARA FALLS, ON

Resolution no. 01/2016

TITLE: Support for First Nations Youth Life Promotion Calls to Action

SUBJECT: Youth, Mental Wellness

MOVED BY: Chief Andrea Paul, Pictou Landing First Nation, NS

SECONDED BY: Chief Roy Fabian, Katlodeeche First Nation, NT

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The following articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

- i. Article 18: 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.
- ii. Article 24, (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- iii. Article 21, (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

B. Suicide rates are five to seven times higher for First Nations youth than for non-Aboriginal youth and are considered to be among the highest in the world.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 12th day of July 2016 in Niagara Falls, Ontario


PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

01 - 2016
Page 1 of 2

Head Office/Siège Social

Unit 5 —167 Akwesasne International Rd., Akwesasne, ON K6H 5R7 Telephone: 613-932-0410 Fax: 613-932-0415
Suite no 5 —167, chemin Akwesasne International, Akwesasne (ON) K6H 5R7 Téléphone: 613-932-0410 Télécopieur: 613-932-0415

- C. At most levels of life, promotion and suicide prevention policy and programming, youth are largely absent.
- D. The Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council, in collaboration with youth representatives across Canada, have developed several Calls to Action on Life Promotion for First Nations youth aimed at sparking meaningful action on these issues.
- E. It is expected that without drastic efforts in life promotion that involve and empower youth, youth suicide and its consequent impacts will continue to increase and impair First Nations communities.

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

1. Direct the National Chief to advocate to the federal government to support the implementation of the National Youth Council's Calls to Action on Life Promotion recommendations.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to communicate the National Youth Council's Calls to Action on Life Promotion with new and existing partners.
3. Endorse youth involvement in the entire process of life promotion work amongst and within the federal government and First Nations leadership.
4. Direct the AFN to advocate for increased funding to address mental wellness through a continuum of care across the lifespan, using the First Nation Mental Wellness Continuum framework as a lens, so First Nations communities can have access to resources to develop or expand life promotion initiatives.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 12th day of July 2016 in Niagara Falls, Ontario


PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF