

Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 46/2025

TITLE: Re-establishing Inter-Tribal Harvesting Protocols

SUBJECT: Rights, Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Cheryl Casimer, ʔaq̓am, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Heidi Gravelle, yaq̓it ʔa·knuq̓il'it, BC

DECISION: Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirms that:

- i. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.
- ii. Article 24(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.
- iii. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

B. The Ktunaxa Nation Governments have collectively issued a Land Declaration affirming the Ktunaxa Peoples' Inherent, sovereign rights, and inalienable title to the whole of ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa; lands that the Ktunaxa have used and occupied since time immemorial. Further, declaring the Ktunaxa right/responsibility to govern and steward Ktunaxa territory in accordance with Ktunaxa laws and traditions, and the right to use and occupy Ktunaxa lands and waters to decide how Ktunaxa lands will be used, and share in the wealth that comes from our lands.

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- C. Ktunaxa Peoples are stewards of ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. Ktunaxa people know their responsibilities and assert that they are accountable to: ʔa·knumuʔtiʔiʔ (Ktunaxa law), ʔa·kxamʔis qapi qapsin (all living things) and ʔamak Ɂ wuʔu (land and water), the ancestors, youth, and the Creator.
- D. Ktunaxa people are intimately connected to the flora, fauna and resources; to the waterways and those that live within. Ktunaxa people are on the land and waters, acting as guardians and are responsible for reporting abuses of ʔa·knumuʔtiʔiʔ to the Ktunaxa Governments.
- E. An unprecedented number of non-Ktunaxa peoples have been found harvesting resources such as medicinal plants and other materials within ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa without authorization and in a manner that has caused harm to the resources.
- F. Ktunaxa medicines are integral to the Ktunaxa health and wellbeing, spirituality and integrated into daily life. Ktunaxa have strict rules on how medicines are to be used.
- G. These non-Ktunaxa harvesters have disregarded traditional protocols between Nations, disrespected Ktunaxa rights to protect and conserve Ktunaxa medicines and failed to respectfully seek permission for harvesting.

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

1. Recognize and affirm the Inherent right of First Nations Peoples to defend their territories, govern according to their own laws, establish and uphold inter-tribal protocols governing access to, and limitation of, harvesting of plants, animals and other materials, within their territories.
2. Call upon all First Nations to recognize historic treaties between Nations by offering education to their people on how to respect the harvesting laws and protocols of other Nations, and how to seek consent before accessing resources within another Nation's territory.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to gather samples of educational materials on harvesting laws and protocols that can be used to raise awareness and promote respect for inter-tribal protocols, and to share best practices rooted in First Nations' law and stewardship.
4. Direct the National Chief and Assembly of First Nations to advocate for recognition of inter-tribal harvesting protocols in federal, provincial, and territorial policy and law, consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

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