

**31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council Conference**  
**hosted by the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations,**  
**at Ermineskin Cree Nation, Alberta Canada**

**August 3 – 7, 2005**

**Resolution in Support of the North/South  
Indigenous Network against Pesticides**  
**presented by the Commission on the Right to Food, Subsistence, and Health**

Bearing in mind the IITC's decision to support the formation of the North/South Indigenous Network against Pesticides in order to continue to exchange information among Indigenous Peoples and provide better education to our communities regarding pesticides that impact environmental justice and the right to food and health, above all for infants and children;

Reminded that the objectives of the International Indian Treaty Council include the dissemination of information on human rights and environmental justice for Indigenous Peoples, their struggles, concerns, and perspectives;

Considering that members of several indigenous communities and tribes have submitted their testimony and documentation to IITC and to the United Nations, regarding the serious effects of exposure to dangerous pesticides, which contaminate the air and waters and migrate, penetrating the food chain worldwide, causing cancer, birth defects and other serious health problems;

Considering that IITC and its affiliates continue to denounce multi-lateral Trade Agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the Latin American Free Trade Agreement (LAFTA) which fail to uphold Indigenous Peoples' Rights;

Bearing in mind that industrial countries such as the United States continue to allow the production and exportation of various toxic chemicals, including some that are prohibited for use in their own countries, to countries such as Mexico and Guatemala; and that between 1996 and 2000, the USA, for example, exported almost 1.1 billion pounds of pesticides, that is, 16 tons per hour, that were identified as known or suspected carcinogens;

Bearing in mind that many indigenous workers, families and communities who experience the direct effects have never been informed of the serious dangers of these toxins and do not receive any form of warning or protection;

Bearing in mind that many pesticides are Persistent Organic Pollutants that bioaccumulate in the bodies of humans and animals and widely disperse in the environment and contaminate foods, especially dairy products and meat including breast milk, thereby violating the right to food and traditional means of subsistence of Indigenous Peoples throughout the world, and especially in the Arctic;

Taking into account that some countries have already banned Lindane, a highly toxic Persistent Organic Pollutant, because of its known serious health effects; and

Bearing in mind that Indigenous Peoples, especially our children, continue to be severely and disproportionately impacted by Lindane which continues to be produced, exported and used in North America (Canada, Mexico and the United States) as a treatment for agricultural food crops and for head lice and scabies; and

Taking note of the negative experiences that Indigenous Peoples around the world have had with pesticides, chemical fertilizers and other man-made poisons:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL WILL continue to fulfill all international, national and local obligations and commitments it has undertaken to promote, disseminate, teach, and guarantee the use and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental liberties;

THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL WILL prioritize its continued support for the efforts of indigenous communities at the United Nations and other national and international entities and forums to prohibit the practice and policy of countries who export toxins known to be dangerous or are prohibited for use within those same countries;

THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL CALLS ON the international community, the member countries of the United Nations and its various agencies and mechanisms, NGO's, industry and civil society to recognize that this policy represents a serious violation of the rights of the child, the right to food and other fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples and other Peoples of the world, together with the health of our mother earth and all living beings;

THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL CALLS ON all governments to take into account the disproportionate impacts of pesticides and other toxic substances on Indigenous Peoples and to support the phase out and elimination of all such toxic chemicals which infringe on the rights and health of Indigenous Peoples.

THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL INVITES all organizations, communities and Nations to present and promote understanding, analysis, discussion, and dissemination of information on the effects of pesticides in their communities, exploration of safe alternatives and certain countries' policies to export pesticides and other prohibited toxins.

*Adopted by consensus August 7, 2005*