

31st 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

Youth Commission Resolution

WHEREAS we the youth participants of the International Indian Treaty Council Conference 2005, representing the Nations of Ermineskin Cree Nation; Red Pheasant Cree Nation; Beaver Lake Cree Nation; Independent Traditional Seminole Nation; Mayan Kachiquel, Guatemala; Kuna, Panamá, Zapoteca, Mexico; Shinnecock Nation; Ngati Kahunyunu Ngati Rahginui, Aotearoa; Hawaii; Athabaskan Nation, Alaska; and Osage Nation recognize the many obstacles, challenges, problems and difficulties faced by Indigenous Youth today, including but not limited to:

- Cultural Loss;
- Language Loss and self-esteem;
- Racism and Discrimination;
- Health issues, most importantly AIDS;
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse, most importantly Methamphetamines;
- Suicide;
- Non-recognition of Indigenous Legal Systems; and
- Environmental and Ecological degradation

WHEREAS we also recognize that current initiatives and efforts on the part of IITC, our Indigenous Nations/governments, as well as the governments of settler societies of our respective states must address these issues with the participation of youth as active partners;

WHEREAS we also recognize that Indigenous youth are experiencing disenfranchisement within their own Nations as well as within wider society;

WHEREAS we also recognize the need to build upon and affirm the IITC Youth Resolutions of 2002 & 2004;

WHEREAS we also recall and recognize the extensive accomplishments of IITC, affiliate organizations and all Indigenous Nations/Peoples;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IITC and affiliate organizations create a sacred space of inclusion and learning for youth so as to provide youth with opportunities to receive traditional, cultural, linguistic and sacred knowledge, and to actively participate in the furtherance of this knowledge;

BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED that we request that the IITC continues to support the development of a youth network and development of youth leadership within IITC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IITC promote, support and work to ensure the future active participation and partnership of youth in all IITC activities, meetings, initiatives, projects, conferences and gatherings;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT IITC Youth will work towards the education of our youth and children in our cultures, oral histories, traditions, languages, and laws and specifically that we will work to ensure the recognition, both within and outside our respective Nations, of our Indigenous oral histories, traditional customs, knowledge and sacred laws.

Adopted by consensus August 7, 2005