

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

Resolution on the Rights of Indigenous Women,
Youth, and Children

Whereas we, the International Indian Treaty Council invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to protect, preserve, and perpetuate the inherent sovereign rights of our Indigenous Nations, rights secured under Treaties and agreements with the United States and other countries, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution

Whereas the IITC is comprised of representatives from different Indigenous peoples from North America, Central America, South America, and the Pacific since June 1974 and has received NGO (non-governmental organization) status from the United Nations since 1977; and

Whereas there is a need to protect the fundamental human rights, respect and equality of women and children in all of their respective communities within all Indigenous Nations; and

Whereas the woman's body is a sacred place, and in protection of sacred places, the woman's body, the woman's womb and the birthing places of all the Female Nations, must also be protected, and this is the first step to protect the child, to protect the future. The womb from where all children and new life comes must be protected as a sacred place; and

Whereas our traditional cultures spoke equally of the Grandmother and the Grandfather, however through colonization and trans national corporations, this was separated and a system of patriarchal society was put into place, resulting in the rape of Grandmother Earth, and this perpetuates disrespect and inequality of our Indigenous women and children; and

Whereas the grandmother and grandfather need to be recognized as equal for us to go forth equally as men and women; and

Whereas the IITC recognizes that indigenous women leaders stand at the forefront defending their families, homelands, communities, and nations, and thus must be protected as the life givers and nation builders

Whereas the IITC recognizes that it is vital to protect the innocent minds, bodies and

spirits of our children, including protecting the health of women and children against harmful toxic chemicals such as POPs – including Lindane and Mercury; and

Whereas the IITC recognizes indigenous women's efforts to protect biodiversity, stop bio-piracy, and prevent the appropriation of genetic resources and indigenous knowledge; and

Whereas the IITC recognizes that colonization, trans-national corporations, domestic violence, incest, rape and child abuse have left indigenous children traumatized resulting in devastating high rates of adolescent suicide, alcohol and substance abuse; and

Whereas the IITC Conference Commission on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Children seeks to be a voice for said Indigenous women and children; and

Whereas we recognize that the cultural and “traditional self” brings all peoples to a place of strength, and in traditional times when the core of the woman was strong, the core of the child was strong, so strong as to create a force field that could repel harm; and

Whereas the IITC recognizes and supports the Bill of Rights of the Children of Incarcerated Parents as set forth by the San Francisco Partnership for Incarcerated Parents; and

Whereas the IITC recognizes and supports the right of all Indigenous children to have the opportunity to be educated in their own language;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Indian Treaty Council designate Indigenous women who can speak to women and children's issues in all future Commissions with the intent to implement programs within the IITC which uphold the human rights of Indigenous women and children, including individuals with special needs (“disabilities”) and our two-spirited women;

Be it further resolved that women's and children's issues should be included in IITC gatherings, conferences (plenary sessions, workshops and presentations), and at IITC Offices, an Integration of change in every aspect of advocating for issues and community needs of Indigenous women and children;

Be it further resolved that IITC will advocate for culturally appropriate, safe, confidential service providers and healers be given space and opportunity at workshops to educate and inform about women's and children issues and make this information and resources accessible;

Be it further resolved that IITC will advocate for governments to phase out and eliminate toxic chemicals which contaminate women's breast milk and negatively impact our women, children, and future generations.

Be it further resolved that IITC will keep cultural ceremony in all its activities and will

honor women and GRANDMOTHER EARTH; and will encourage Indigenous women to honor their bodies as “sacred grounds”;

Be it further resolved that this Commission and the IITC hereby acknowledges the submission and expresses endorsement for the following:

The Aotearoa Women’s Wellness Conference 2004 report and its call and formal request for a host in 2006; the Resolution on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP’s) submitted by Shawna Larson; and the Resolution on the Indigenous Peoples’ Bio-Colonialism and the Human Genome Project submitted by Deborah Harry.

Be it finally resolved that this resolution shall be adopted as policy of the International Indian Treaty Council

Adopted by consensus August 7, 2005