
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 5, 6 & 7, 2017, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 90/2017

TITLE: Support for a Cannabis Working Task Force

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Chief Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: George E. Daniels, Proxy, Long Plain First Nation, MB

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the area of education, employment vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
- B. Call to Action #18 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to calls upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to acknowledge that the current state of unfavourable Indigenous health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including Indian Residential Schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Indigenous people as identified in International law and constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
- C. The Government of Canada will be legalizing Cannabis via Bills C-45 and C-46 in July 2018.
- D. The Government of Canada implemented the Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations and more recently the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations for the purpose of ensuring access to quality-controlled cannabis products by individuals with medical needs.

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- E. That as self-determining Indigenous Nations, which is a cornerstone of the UN Declaration, First Nations people across Canada require the appropriate time and capacity to determine a response and action plan to the legalization of cannabis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Chiefs in Assembly:

1. Support the establishment of an Assembly of First Nations Cannabis Task Force (Task Force) comprised of leadership, technicians and knowledge keepers to undertake the work required to formalize a response and position on the legalization of cannabis and implementation of new laws.
2. Direct that as a priority, the Task Force begin their work immediately, including research on revenue generated by Canada, provinces, and territories.
3. Direct the working group to hold their inaugural meeting at the Chippewa's of Rama First Nation.
4. Direct the Task Force to report to the Chiefs on a monthly basis.

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