



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #NGF-09-032

TITLE: Tribal Consultation on Border Crossing Issues

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NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the territory of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, represented in part by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, has been bisected by the border of the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Roosevelttown United States Border Port of Entry at Akwesasne remains closed as it has been since June 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Native American and First Nations peoples possess border crossing rights which are inherent and which are recognized by treaty and statute; and

WHEREAS, the closure of this port of entry, which is located on Mohawk land, is having serious economic impacts on both sides of the border, is affecting the day to day living of all Mohawks of Akwesasne, and impinges on border crossing rights of all Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Article 19 of the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples calls upon Nation States to consult with Indigenous people on decisions that directly affect them; and

WHEREAS, is necessary for the governments of the United States and Canada to implement formal consultation policies to address matters affecting Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a meaningful consultation policy for Native issues will create a framework for Tribes and the United States and Canadian federal governments to work cooperatively to ensure the safety and security of both our peoples and thus recognizing the unique government to government relationship that exists between us; and

WHEREAS, the following governments or entities have issued statements or releases calling upon the government of Canada to commence dialogue with the Mohawks of Akwesasne to resolve their issues and to reopen the Rooseveltown Port of Entry into the United States: the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, the Assembly of First Nations, the Oneida of the Thames, the Chiefs of Ontario, the City of Cornwall, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, the Mohawks of Kahnawake, and the Cornwall and Area Chamber of Commerce.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the rights of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawks of Akwesasne, and of all Native Americans, to cross the United States-Canada border as guaranteed to Native people by treaty and statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby call upon the Canadian officials to commence meaningful dialogue with the Mohawks; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby call upon United States agencies and representatives to request the Canadian government engage in meaningful consultation with Tribes affected by border policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby offer support to the Assembly of First Nations in its effort to help resolve the present border crisis in Mohawk Territory; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

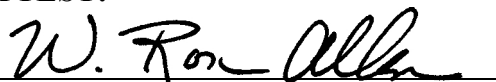
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2009 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at Conference Center Niagara Falls in Niagara Falls, New York on June 14-17, 2009, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary