

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 18 / 2018

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, December 4-6, 2018, Ottawa, ON

TITLE: North American Caribou Protection, Conservation, Management and Recovery

SUBJECT: Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Adrienne Jerome, Lac Simon First Nation, QC

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.
 - ii. Article 7 (1): Indigenous peoples have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty, and security of the person.
 - iii. Article 29 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programs for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
 - iv. Article 32 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
- B. Caribou are an iconic species integral to the existence of many First Nations across North America for food, social, ceremonial, and economic purposes.
- C. Caribou across North America have seen up to 99% reduction in population in some herds since 2001.
- D. Effective protection, conservation, management, and recovery of caribou will require First Nations traditional knowledge be considered and applied collaboratively with western science.
- E. In the face of rapid climate change and increased human disturbance, ensuring the health of all caribou herds is of utmost priority to First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the Government of Canada to immediately address the crisis facing caribou populations in full consultation and partnership with First Nations and all relevant stakeholders.

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2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada to ensure the full and effective participation of First Nations in all aspects of caribou protection, conservation, management, and recovery action.
3. Direct the AFN to work collaboratively with all concerned First Nations, regional organizations, relevant federal, provincial and territorial governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, and academia to participate in existing and or develop new multi-lateral processes for First Nations to inform action on protection, conservation, management planning, and recovery of all North American caribou.
4. Direct the AFN to call upon the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and other relevant Ministers to allocate adequate resources to support First Nations nationally and regionally, as well as women, Elders, and youth to participate in these activities and to maintain their important role as stewards of the environment and the biodiversity found therein.
5. Direct the AFN to facilitate a National dialogue on the North American Caribou emergency.