
Assembly of First Nations

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5
Telephone: 613-241-6789 Fax: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

55, rue Metcalfe, Suite 1600
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6L5
Téléphone: 613-241-6789 Télécopieur: 613-241-5808
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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 5, 6 & 7, 2017, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 82/2017

TITLE: Support the Inclusion of Lacrosse as a Sport in the Canada Summer Games

SUBJECT: Health, Sport

MOVED BY: Chief Ava Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, B.C.

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

- i. Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.
- ii. Article 31 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
- iii. Article 31 (2): In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

82 - 2017
Page 1 of 2

Head Office/Siège Social

Unit 5 —167 Akwesasne International Rd., Akwesasne, ON K6H 5R7 Telephone: 613-932-0410 Fax: 613-932-0415
Suite no 5 —167, chemin Akwesasne International, Akwesasne (ON) K6H 5R7 Téléphone: 613-932-0410 Télécopieur: 613-932-0415

- B.** Lacrosse is the official Canadian National Summer Sport; *National Sport Act of Canada* – S. C. 1994, c. 16. Assented to 1994-05-12:
- i. This Act may be cited as the National Sports of Canada Act:
“The game commonly known as ice hockey is hereby recognized and declared to be the national winter sport of Canada and the game commonly known as lacrosse is hereby recognized and declared to be the national summer sport of Canada.”
- C.** Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action: Sports and Reconciliation:
- i. Call to Action 87: We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports hall of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.
 - ii. Call to Action 90: We call upon the federal government to ensure national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:
 - i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
 - iii. Call to Action 91: We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am, and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to work with Canada Games host committees to support the inclusion of lacrosse prominently in the 2021 Canada Summer Games and all future Canada Summer Games going forward.
2. Direct the AFN to call upon federal and provincial governments to include increased funding to accommodate the inclusion of lacrosse in the 2021 Canada Summer Games and provide stable future funding for lacrosse to be included in future Canada Summer Games.

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