ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 20, 21 & 22, 2010, WINNIPEG, MB

Resolution no. 20/2010

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| TITLE: | Support for Recognition of Nationhood of Iroquois Hotinonsionne Confederacy and the Validity of Indigenous Passports |
| SUBJECT: | Indigenous Border Crossing Rights and Secure ID Cards and Passports |
| MOVED BY: | Grand Chief Mike Mitchell, Mohawks of Akwesasne, ON |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Joseph B. Gilbert, Walpole Island First Nation, ON |
| DECISION: | Carried by Consensus |

WHEREAS:

A. British settlement in North America was possible only through the friendship and military alliance of the Iroquois Confederacy who established a "Silver Convenant Chain of Friendship" with the Imperial Crown to protect British settlement.

B. In the disputes between the British with the French it was the support of the Iroquois Confederacy that ensured the existence of a "British North America", leading to the British committing themselves in many councils and treaties to perpetual recognition of the Hotinonsionne as "free and independent nations".

C. In the disputes among the British themselves in 1775 that led to the separation of the "Americans", it was the Iroquois Confederacy who remained true to its promise to keep the Silver Convenant Chain of Friendship strong, thereby losing their own homelands and causing their relocation into what later became "Canada", not as "British subjects" but as British allies.

D. It was the Iroquois Confederacy and other First Nations who supported Britain in its continuing disputes with the Americans in 1812 that sustained British settlements in British North America to this day.

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E. Given that history, it is incomprehensible and insulting that the British Government today would have shown such absence of gratitude and lack of respect by refusing to recognize the Iroquois passports of the Iroquois Nationals Lacrosse Team in their participation in an international tournament in Britain.

F. In these modern security-conscious times the United States of America has worked with First Nations to provide for border-crossing identification that does not require a declaration of Canadian citizenship.

G. Canada dishonours its own obligations to the Iroquois Confederacy and international law by insisting that the Iroquois people declare themselves to be "Canadian citizens" as a condition of obtaining a passport.

H. The peoples of the Iroquois Confederacy to this day remain citizens of their own nations.

I. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People implicitly supports the right of the Iroquois Confederacy to have its own identity as Indigenous Nations of the Americas.

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

1. Stand in strong solidarity with the nations of the Iroquois Confederacy to preserve their status as Indigenous Nations, using their own passports for international travel.

2. Call upon the National Chief and all officials of the Assembly of First Nations to utilize every opportunity to support the position of the Iroquois Confederacy.

3. Call upon the Government of Canada to work closely with all First Nations in establishing a system of secure identification which does not require people of First Nations to declare that they are merely "Canadian citizens".

4. Support all First Nations who wish to act on and strengthen their own inherent and Treaty rights to border-crossing based on their own nationhood.

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