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| TITLE: | Principles for an Exploratory Process on First Nations Citizenship |
| SUBJECT: | Citizenship |
| MOVED BY: | Chief William Montour, Six Nations of Grand River, ON |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief R. Donald Maracle, Tyendenaga Mohawk Territory, ON |
| DECISION: | Carried by Consensus |

WHEREAS:

A. On March 11, 2010, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) tabled Bill C-3 *Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act*, to respond to the BC Court of Appeal finding in the *McIvor* case that the *Indian Act* registration provisions perpetuated gender-based discrimination.
B. Upon tabling of Bill C-3, Minister Strahl announced a "joint [exploratory] process to be developed in conjunction with various national Aboriginal organizations and the participation of First Nations groups and individuals across the country."
C. The exploratory process is to examine and explore issues related to First Nation citizenship and the relationship to registration under the *Indian Act*, status and membership.
D. The role of the Assembly of First Nations is to:
    - facilitate an inclusive dialogue among First Nations, respectful and inclusive of different starting points and outcomes sought;
    - produce and share information to support First Nations in their deliberations; and,
    - develop and consider optional and existing frameworks to restore First Nations jurisdiction and transition to new approaches, in a staged and supported manner, within their own timing.

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

1. Support efforts to remove all discrimination against our people, including gender-based discrimination, from *Indian Act* registration provisions.

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2. Maintain that Canada needs to engage directly with Treaty and Rights holders themselves, i.e. First Nations governments, in a full and comprehensive consultation on First Nations Citizenship, and that any process be First Nations-specific.
3. Assert that this exploratory process represents an initial information-gathering step in a longer term process, and that dialogue take place at multiple levels – nationally, regionally and on a community, Nation or Treaty-basis.
4. Affirm that the specific and ultimate outcome sought through engagement in any process is the clear recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over citizenship and an end to the distinction between status and membership. This would mean everyone that First Nations deem a citizen is also automatically recognized as such by Canada.
5. Direct the AFN to facilitate an inclusive national dialogue and will work to create opportunities and venues for the diversity of voices and opinions to emerge through this dialogue.
6. Further direct the AFN to advocate for funding and related support to be provided to First Nations for local dialogue and decision-making with regards to membership, registration and Citizenship.

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