
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 23, 24 & 25, 2019, FREDERICTON, NB

Resolution no. 02/2019

TITLE: Advancing First Nations Clean Energy Leadership for Economic Development and Action on Climate Change

SUBJECT: Environment, Economic Development

MOVED BY: Chief Gerry Duquette, Dokis First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Aaron Sumexheltza, Lower Nicola Indian Band, BC

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- 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 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
 - iii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. Canada, like many countries around the world, is undergoing a process of Energy Transition that is characterized by the decarbonization, decentralization, digitalization and democratization of energy systems and markets, which were centralized and colonialized in the past. This process offers major opportunities for First Nations to lead and own clean energy projects themselves, or with partners they select.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 23rd day of July 2019 in Fredericton, New Brunswick

PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

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- C. First Nations are already major participants and owners of clean energy project and businesses comprised of over 175 medium-large solar, hydro, wind and biomass projects, and over 2,300 small renewable energy projects. These projects have created thousands of First Nations jobs and generate substantial own source revenue for First Nations governments and development corporations.
- D. Clean energy is among the most effective means of reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to combat Climate Change, and the Canadian government has established policy and fiscal measures that provide incentives to reduce carbon emissions.
- E. Reducing reliance on diesel fuel in remote and northern First Nations is imperative to reducing local pollution and GHG emissions; and clean energy projects in these First Nations represent significant economic development opportunities.
- F. The next stage of the Canadian and global energy revolution will emphasize: further renewable energy development; enhanced energy efficiency of homes, community facilities and industry; advanced energy systems; and green energy infrastructure. These developments offer major economic development and climate action opportunities for First Nations.
- G. First Nations need to: build additional clean energy capacity; work together across the country on clean energy skills development and expanded employment; collaborate with clean energy industry and governments on clean energy projects; access financial capital for clean energy infrastructure; and share project and business experiences internationally.
- H. Over 60 First Nations have begun the process of taking clean energy participation to the next level through participation of members and citizens in the Indigenous Clean Energy 20/20 Catalysts Program, and hundreds of First Nations and governments are participating in clean energy programs.

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

1. Call on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to continue advocating for legislative, policy, fiscal, and program reforms that facilitate and empower First Nations involvement in clean energy projects and economies including access to capital and the requirement of upgraded linear structures.
2. Direct the AFN to facilitate First Nations to work in partnership with organizations, including, but not limited to the Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprise, to promote First Nations collaborative frameworks for renewable energy, energy efficiency, advanced energy systems and green energy infrastructure.

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3. Support efforts by First Nations governments to take action on housing and community facility energy efficiency to make energy more affordable, improve health conditions, and establish new and ongoing jobs.
4. Direct the AFN to encourage participation of First Nations and their citizens in clean energy capacity building initiatives, such as the 20/20 Catalysts Program.
5. Direct the AFN to seek opportunities to share First Nations experiences with clean energy projects and ventures globally, as a means to combat the climate emergency, through forums such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others.

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