



**2024 Annual Convention  
Ridgefield, Washington**

**RESOLUTION #2024 – 40**

**“RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS INDIGENOUS PREPAREDNESS MONTH  
TO PROMOTE RESILIENCE AND STRENGTHEN EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPACITY”**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for natural, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Academies Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies held a workshop in July 2024 with representatives from Tribal Nations, American Indian/Alaska Native communities, and Forum membership to discuss the strengths and gaps in the capacity of American Indian/Alaska Native communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and public health emergencies, and where workshop

participants emphasized the need for persistent focus and action to strengthen preparedness and resilience in these communities and proposed designating an annual month to bring awareness to Indigenous disaster management and training efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian/Alaska Native communities have been negatively impacted by historical trauma and cultural loss as a result of colonization, the lasting effects of which are further exacerbated during disasters and public health emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian/Alaska Native communities are disproportionately harmed by public health emergencies, environmental disasters, and ongoing emergencies such as the opioid epidemic, due to historical trauma, discrimination, and systemic inequalities; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian/Alaska Native communities face unique challenges of geography, infrastructure, and information access that affect emergency preparedness and response capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian/Alaska Native communities possess the inherent authority to protect the public health and welfare of their citizens and territorial lands and to implement tribally-appropriate activities to mitigate disasters and to prepare for public health emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, learning lessons from COVID-19 and other emergencies and collaboration between tribal, federal, state, and local entities are essential to developing and implementing effective emergency response plans that are responsive to the specific needs of American Indian/Alaska Native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to support American Indian/Alaska Native communities' operational capacities and capabilities for emergency preparedness and response; develop meaningful models, approaches, actions, and mechanisms to improve tribal preparedness capacity and resiliency; and determine how tribal medicine and cultural customs interact with emergency management; now

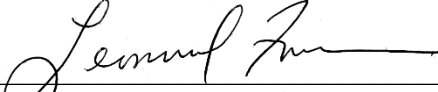
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI declares that Indigenous Preparedness Month be recognized annually in the month of January (and following may change to September in alignment with National Preparedness Month) and be supported by appropriate partners, including but not limited to FEMA, HHS, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, to raise awareness, promote resilience, and ensure that American Indian/Alaska Native communities are better equipped and prepared to face future crises, with adequate resources and support to protect their health, safety, and well-being; and

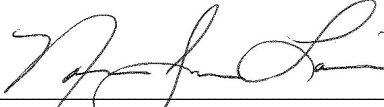
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI encourages Tribes to actively be involved in emergency preparedness during Indigenous Preparedness Month and throughout the year; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by a subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, held at ilani Casino Resort, Ridgefield, Washington on September 29 – October 3, 2024 with a quorum present.

  
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Leonard Forsman, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary