



**2026 Midyear Convention
Ferndale, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 021

**“SUPPORT FOR 2026 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT WITH THE
NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL HEALING
COALITION AND DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR”**

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 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 the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific Tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian Tribal governments 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, efforts to preserve personal histories and support the healing journeys of Indian boarding school survivors remain an ongoing initiative through a cooperative agreement

between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition in the first-of-its-kind National Oral History Collection of Indian Boarding School Survivors, also known as the Oral History Project, which is set to culminate in 2027; and

WHEREAS, since 2024, the Oral History Project (OHP) will have interviewed close to 400 Indian boarding school survivors and conducted over 22 site visits across 19 states upon completion at the end of June 2026, while prioritizing working with Tribal leadership and Tribal communities to sustain culturally responsive gatherings to collect and preserve personal narratives, and to contribute to the intergenerational healing of sovereign Tribal citizens and the Tribal Nations they belong to; and

WHEREAS, the OHP stands as an important, on-the-ground effort to support Indian Country in addressing the harms and ongoing intergenerational impacts of the Federal Indian Boarding School era; and

WHEREAS, Indian boarding school survivors are the sons and daughters of sovereign Tribal Nations, who, as elders—some as old as 98 years of age and the youngest of whom are 57 years of age—have expressed their urgency, support, and desire to contribute to the Oral History Project; and

WHEREAS, although the current Oral History Project is coming to a close, a new phase of the Oral History project will continue to move forward with more inclusive interviews of survivors, descendants, Tribal Leaders, knowledge and history keepers throughout Indian Country, and will continue to ensure the safety and care of survivors and descendants by grounding this work in community and culture; and

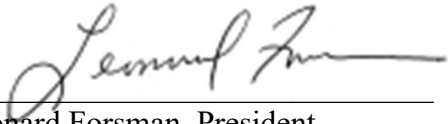
WHEREAS, ATNI encourages and supports Tribal nations in participating in the next phase of the Oral History Project (OHP) with survivors and descendants telling their stories in a dignified, culturally rooted environment; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Oral History Project (NABS OHP), following completion of the current phase in the summer of 2026, to continue collecting and preserving survivor narratives and advancing healing for survivors, Tribal nations, Tribal citizens, and Tribal communities; and

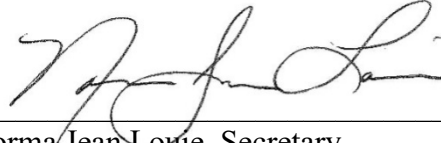
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Midyear Convention held at the Silver Reef Casino Resort in Ferndale, Washington, on May 17-21, 2026, with a quorum present.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard Forsman", written over a horizontal line.

Leonard Forsman, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Norma Jean Louie", written over a horizontal line.

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary