



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 Winter Conference Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #07 – 01

"FEDERAL ACF TRIBAL TANF CONSULTATION"

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 representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, the TANF Committee (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) meets to share information on all Tribal TANF issues in the 7 States of the ATNI Region: and

WHEREAS, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Federal Health and Human Services Department has from the outset, administered Tribal

TANF programs through a Tribal TANF Team in Washington D.C. and through the Regional Offices of HHS; and

WHEREAS, ACF has made major changes to the administration of Tribal TANF programs without adequate and reasonable tribal consultation, incorporating Tribal TANF into other programs and changing the Regional Offices of ACF-TANF so that Tribal TANF is now administered by the same personnel who have jurisdiction over State programs and that Regional TANF Staff have been removed from working with tribes; and

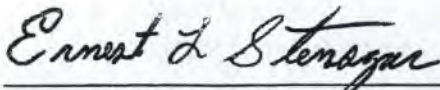
WHEREAS, Tribal TANF's now are reviewed and receive authority directly from Washington D.C. with limited participation of the Regional personnel along with reduced Tribal TANF personnel at national headquarters; and

WHEREAS, within the spirit of government-to-government relations with the United States (Article I Section 8 Clause 3, U.S. Constitution) it is the right of the tribes, on behalf of their programs, to examine federal regulations that impact federal and state-tribal relations and the administration of tribal programs and that tribal consultation was further articulated by the Executive Orders of Presidents Clinton and Bush; now

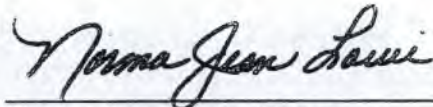
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby strongly objects to the lack of tribal consultation by ACF in making major changes in the administration of Tribal TANF and demands that the Administration for Children and Families maintain the Tribal TANF Team in Washington D.C., and that any changes to Tribal TANF Personnel at Headquarters be made with the advisement of the Federally Recognized Tribes.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2007 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Holiday Inn Airport Hotel in Portland, Oregon on February 15, 2007, with a quorum present.



Ernest L. Stensgar, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary