



## Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

### 2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

#### RESOLUTION #08 - 02

#### "CEDAR TREE FUND"

#### 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 Potlatch Fund assists Tribes and Native non-profits to be more successful in terms of attracting funding from mainstream foundations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Potlatch Fund has been successful in receiving grants from mainstream foundations to support the Inter-tribal Canoe Journeys, Native artists and certain community building projects; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a growing demand from Tribes, Canoe Families, Native non-profits and Traditional Carvers for old growth and large second growth cedar and other suitable trees to be used for carving of canoes and totem poles; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for a pragmatic means to expedite the access to such trees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Potlatch Fund can assist with facilitating a process to get cedar and other suitable trees to Tribes, Canoe Families, Native non-profits and Traditional Carvers through the development of a grant program; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians supports the Potlatch Fund in its efforts to raise and solicit funds from mainstream Foundations and other funding institutions; and that the focus of the funds gathered will be used to assist Tribes, Canoe families, Native non-profits and Traditional Carvers to gain access to Old Growth and large second growth cedar trees and other suitable trees (as outlined in the attached Potlatch Fund Cedar Tree Concept Proposal) to be used for carving of canoes and totem poles; and

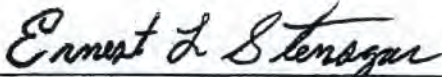
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that it be formally recorded that support of this proposal is in no way an abrogation of Treaty rights or a waiver of the sovereign immunity held by Tribes; and

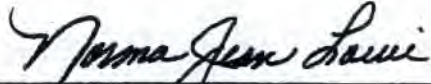
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that it also be recorded that every effort should be made when harvesting cedar, and other suitable trees, to honor traditional practices associated with the taking of trees and to also utilize all parts of the tree for appropriate cultural purposes; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that due consideration of conservation processes, educational opportunities and utilization of the trees be considered by the grant committee as a part of the process of deliberating on grant requests.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.

  
Ernest L. Stensgar, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary