



2009 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 57

**“ACKNOWLEDGE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENNEDY REPORT ON INDIAN
EDUCATION TITLED, ‘INDIAN EDUCATION:
A NATIONAL TRAGEDY, AND NATIONAL CHALLENGE’”**

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, ATNI 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI deems the spiritual, mental, physical and intellectual wellness of Native children and youth a high priority, and

WHEREAS, ATNI acknowledges the vital role of Indian education in the advancement of tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has made a commitment to youth and children's issues by supporting legislation and tribal efforts that protect and advance the needs of Native children and youth; and

WHEREAS, ATNI does hereby recognize the landmark congressional investigation on Indian education conducted by the Special Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education launched in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Senator Robert Kennedy chaired this committee and implored his senatorial colleagues to venture into Indian country and in an unprecedented effort the committee conducted over a dozen field hearings and numerous site visits throughout Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, following the tragic death of Senator Robert Kennedy, his brother Senator Edward Kennedy completed the work of the committee and released its findings and recommendations to Congress on November 3rd 1969; and

WHEREAS, the Kennedy Report on Indian education titled "*Indian Education: a National Tragedy, and National Challenge*" highlighted the conditions of Native children and youth and their educational environment; and

WHEREAS, the Kennedy report offered a stinging critique of both federal and state policy regarding Indian education and called for sweeping reforms in Indian education; and

WHEREAS, numerous recommendations from the report were adopted and enacted into law culminating with the passage of the Indian Education Act; and

WHEREAS, the Kennedy Report launched the modern movement for tribal control of Indian education, the report also inspired the founding of the National Indian Education Association; and

WHEREAS, November 3rd 2009 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Kennedy Report on Indian education and the anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate the growth and improvements in Indian education, it also allows for reflection and a reinvigorated effort to complete the business of the Special Subcommittee on Indian education and once again raise the awareness of Indian education needs and the overall needs of Native children and youth; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby acknowledge and celebrate the crucial work which culminated in the Kennedy Report and supports further Congressional efforts to improve the lives and learning conditions of Native children and youth; and

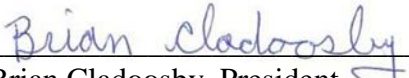
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI hereby supports a 40th Anniversary celebration of the Kennedy Report on November 3rd 2009 at the federal, state and tribal levels for the purpose of engaging congress, federal/state officials and tribal leadership on the crucial matter of Indian Education; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, ATNI hereby encourages the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to sponsor a listening session on November 3rd 2009 or next available date with tribal leaders concerning Indian education and the needs for Native children and youth.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that due to the National scope of this issue, ATNI is instructed to submit this Resolution to the National Congress of American Indians at the 2009 Annual Session in Palm Springs, CA.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, Tacoma, Washington on September 21 - 24, 2009 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary