



2009 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 59

“REQUESTING TIMELY NOTICE OF HEAD START CONSULTATION AND A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RAISED”

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, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of Head Start (OHS) recently conducted a round of consultations with tribes and tribal programs in

various locations around the country, consistent with the U.S. government's unique trust obligation to Indian Tribes and the requirements of the Head Start Act; and

WHEREAS, this consultation process is of great importance to tribes and tribal programs, but due to short notice, participation in these consultations varied substantially from session to session; and

WHEREAS, the value of the sessions depends in no small part on the reports prepared by DHHS and OHS from prior consultations; and

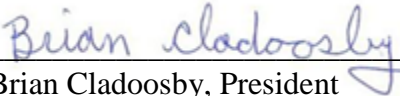
WHEREAS, last year's reports principally summarized prior consultations and did not provide adequate responses from DHHS and OHS to the key questions and issues raised by consultation participants; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge that DHHS and OHS follow the minimum notice timeline for future Regional consultation to provide adequate time for tribal leaders and tribal programs to make necessary arrangements and to be prepared; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges DHHS and OHS to provide comprehensive responses in their written reports to issues raised by consultation participants, whether or not the comments are accepted or rejected, and make readily available the comments made at these sessions to tribal participants.

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