



## **2010 Winter Conference Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA**

### **RESOLUTION #10 - 04**

#### **“DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONSULTATION ON INDIAN EDUCATION”**

### **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 historic Indian Nations Summit held on November 5, 2009 in Washington, D.C. with the Obama Administration provided a forum to begin meaningful collaboration and dialogue on mutual goals of Indian Tribes/Alaskan Natives, and Congress to protect and advance the needs of Native children and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent passing of Senator Edward Kennedy also highlighted the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “Robert Kennedy Report on Indian Education” which brought to the attention of Congress the dismal and grossly inadequate conditions of educational institutions serving Native children and which has reinvigorated tribal interest to ensure improvement of the educational conditions of Native children and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, strides have been made in the past 40 years to secure educational opportunities at the tribal level; however, public education and federally funded schools continue to be controlled by state, regional and federal policy makers who often times impose unintended consequences, such as, inconsistent and fragmented policies, standards and unfunded mandates that are not reflective of the Indian Tribes/Alaska Native values and cultural foundations, which further diminishes Indian Tribes/Alaska Native’s role to exercise sovereignty and self-sufficiency effectively; and

**WHEREAS**, despite continuing efforts of ATNI, state and federal assessments demonstrate Indian Tribes/Alaska Native children and youth perform below their peers in academic achievement, have high drop-out rates, and a smaller percentage seeking higher education, which raises concerns about equitable and culturally responsive educational quality of federal and state support for our students in these schools; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 11, 2010, Interior Secretary Salazar held an Indian Education meeting with Assistant Secretary Larry Echohawk, National Indian Educators and U.S. Department of Education Secretary Duncan who shared plans to advance the Administrations’ version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization (No Child Left Behind); however, Indian Country has not been included in consultation planning regarding the President’s Memorandum of November 5, 2009 on Tribal Consultation or Executive Order 13175; and

**WHEREAS**, discussions and recommendations have been made by the National Indian Education Association to strengthen the Indian Education Act and other titles within the ESEA; however there are still emerging needs and issues to be incorporated within the ESEA provisions that will strengthen tribal control of Indian education; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, ATNI requests the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) to launch a series of hearings that will thoroughly investigate the education conditions of Native children and youth in Indian Country, similar to the Kennedy Report that provided a comprehensive assessment to Congress in 1969, which highlighted the educational failures affecting our Indian children and youth; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, these hearings should build on current Indian Education themes that include, but are not limited to, local control at the tribal level; governance of Reservations with multiple schools systems (public, state, federally funded, etc.); federal appropriations; Native languages revitalization; culture based education, methodology, assessments and pedagogy; impact aid and accountability; early childhood education; special education and behavioral health; adult vocational education; higher education and scholarships; tribal colleges; tribal education departments; school

and education facilities, tribal driven research on effective educational practices; and effective administrative oversight of Bureau of Indian Education funded schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, while ATNI requests these Indian Education hearings, it is understood the hearings can also take the form of, but are not limited to: site visits, teleconference, school visits, and listening sessions to comprehensively assess and make recommendations for a plan of action, including necessary legislation to strengthen and address tribal control of Indian education; and

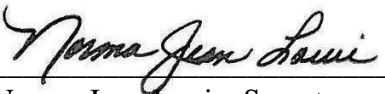
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges the SCIA to collaborate with the Secretary of Education and Interior to monitor and report to ATNI the status of the Administration's progress on the Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Consultation regarding the ESEA reauthorization and prior to Indian Education legislative recommendations being considered to be introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports the SCIA in its plans to seek tribal consultation and further requests that the SCIA appraise the Senate Health Education Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee of this effort for coordination among the ATNI, SCIA, and Senate HELP committees.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2010 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, February 8 - 11, 2010 with a quorum present.

  
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Brian Cladoosby, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary