



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

### RESOLUTION #MSH-01-031

#### **Title: Support for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Indian Youth Conference**

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**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American 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 the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest, largest, and most representative national American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Indian and Alaska Native Youth need leadership experience to prepare them for future roles; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal youth should be provided the opportunity to communicate needs and views that would contribute to positive changes in Indian communities; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal youth, through their collective action and knowledge, will serve as a catalyst to bring about more unity and harmony in Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for interaction and communication among tribal youth representing the various tribes and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, NCAI has declared that the spiritual, mental, physical, and social well being of tribal youth is a high priority; and

**WHEREAS**, NCAI recognizes the importance of the potential of tribal youth to provide them with the essential knowledge and skill experience to become effective leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Indian Youth Conference hosted by the American Indian Youth Leadership Institute is convening in Billings, MT April 15-19, 2002, in its continuing effort to promote self empowerment amongst the tribal youth; and

**WHEREAS**, in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, the Northwest Indian Youth Conference is the oldest and largest gathering of tribal youth in America; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Youth Conference is "Cultural Integrity in Education: Our Path to Intellectual Sovereignty"; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association has endorsed and forwarded a partnership with the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Indian Youth Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, member tribes of NCAI have, since its inception, supported the Northwest Indian Youth Conference, by sponsoring delegations of youth from their respective tribes to attend; and

**WHEREAS**, elected officers of NCAI have historically contributed to Northwest Indian Youth Conference by facilitating workshops on sovereignty and tribal government issues and delivering key note addresses.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Indian Tribal Youth Conference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI strongly encourages the member tribes to send delegates of youth to the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Indian Youth Conference; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution NCAI encourages the youth of tribal America to participate in all opportunities available to enhance their knowledge and skills to be effective leaders and champion tribal sovereignty.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001, with a quorum present.



Susan Masten, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001.