**MEDIA RELEASE**

**A.I.A.I. CHIEFS REJECT FEDERAL INDIGENOUS RIGHTS FRAMEWORK**

London, Ontario June 7th, 2018 – The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (A.I.A.I.) Chiefs Council met to discuss the implications of Canada’s Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework. The Chiefs Council agreed, by consensus, that the Framework was a threat to the inherent rights of First Nations. The council committed to advocate to the General Assembly, that will meet on June 11th – 13th, that they reject the Framework and all its associated processes.

Presentations were provided on the contents and potential impacts of the Framework and on an alternative approach for moving forward. The Rights Framework, as guided by the Liberal government’s *Ten Principles* document, continues to emphasize the supremacy of the Canadian constitutional framework and constrains the possibilities for self-determination among First Nations. Deputy Grand Chief Gordon Peters states “The Framework is not about reconciliation. The Feds have failed First Nations in their duty to protect their lands and resources while continuing to reap benefits. Canada must end their oppressive actions.” This process continues to undermine the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and purposely sidelines important questions of Aboriginal title, consent, treaty obligations, land rights, and access to natural resources.

Grand Chief Joel Abram stated, "Canada's Framework for Rights Recognition is not reflective of what a true nation to nation relationship looks like.  Instead it encourages self-subjugation within the constraints of Canadian law, in exchange for money.  Despite all the rhetoric of reconciliation, this is nothing more than the old 'extinguishment' policy in sheep's clothing, and yet another attempt to solve the 'Indian problem'."

The Chiefs Council determined that the Framework is another attempt by the Government of Canada to deal with the “Indian Problem” and shirk its fiduciary responsibilities and Treaty relationships with First Nations.

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AIAI is mandated as a Political Territorial Organizations (PTO) to defend and enhance the Indigenous and Treaty rights of our seven member First Nations. Our member nations include: Batchewana First Nation, Caldwell First Nation, Delaware Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and the Wahta Mohawks. Learn more at [www.aiai.on.ca](http://www.aiai.on.ca), on twitter @AIAI\_comms and on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/aiai.pto/)

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