

HEAD OFFICE:  
ONEIDA NATION OF THE THAMES  
[www.aiai.on.ca](http://www.aiai.on.ca)



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**Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians**  
**51<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Resolution No. 001/2020**

Passed by consensus

**Subject: ICES – AIAI Research Project**

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**MOVED BY:**  
Chief R. Don Maracle  
Mohawks of the Bay of  
Quinte

**WHEREAS**, the member First Nations of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) affirm their sovereignty, founded in the responsibilities provided to their respective Nations by the Creator;

**SECONDED BY:**  
Chief Philip Franks  
Wahta Mohawks

**WHEREAS**, First Nations' self-determination pre-exists contact with external governments and entities. That self-determination and sovereignty remains today, and has not and cannot be surrendered;

**Certified Copy of a  
Resolution Adopted on:  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) developed baseline scorecard reports in 2015, 2017, and 2018 describing the state of child, youth, and adult mental health and addictions in Ontario based on healthcare system usage within the province;

**WHEREAS**, the initial baseline scorecard research results did not include Indigenous-specific mental health and addictions information and data;

**WHEREAS**, since 2017, the ICES has been working with First Nations communities and the Chiefs of Ontario to respond to the research priorities pertaining to mental health and addictions through data governance agreements and processes that ensure adherence to OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) Principles;

**Grand Chief Joel Abram**

**WHEREAS**, in partnership with the Chiefs of Ontario and guided by a regional First Nations steering committee, the ICES is undertaking an Indigenous-specific baseline mental health and addictions scorecard research project, *Mental Health and Addictions System Performance for First Nations People in Ontario* that mirrors the scorecard project completed for the mainstream population;

**WHEREAS**, preliminary results from the *Mental Health and Addictions System Performance for First Nations People in Ontario* research project indicate significantly increased incidences of mental health and addictions issues amongst First Nations populations in comparison to the general population based on the same indicators, clearly demonstrating the acute need for mental health and addictions services for First Nations;

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**Resolution No. 001/2020**

**Passed by consensus**

**Subject: ICES – AIAI Research Project**

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**WHEREAS**, mental health and addictions remains one of the AIAI Health and Social Advisory Board's top five priorities and the AIAI member First Nations continue to identify mental health and addictions as a priority issue within their communities, persistently calling for additional resources and supports to address mental wellness service gaps within the communities;

**WHEREAS**, data and research are critical for both understanding, demonstrating, and addressing specific areas of need and are powerful tools for advocacy and community level planning;

**WHEREAS**, the HSAB has identified a research partnership with the ICES as an opportunity to ascertain AIAI specific data for mental health, passing by consensus a motion in support of an AIAI-specific research project with the ICES.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Assembly directs AIAI to work with the ICES in partnership with the AIAI Health and Social Advisory Board on an AIAI specific Mental Health and Addictions Scorecard Project;

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Assembly permits the ICES to access the AIAI member First Nations' Indian Registry System data for the purposes of the AIAI Specific Mental Health and Addictions Scorecard Project;

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Assembly directs the AIAI to report back to the General Assembly on the status and findings of the AIAI Specific Mental Health and Addictions Scorecard Project at the Annual General Assembly 2021.

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Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians  
51<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resolution No. 002/2020

Passed by consensus

Subject: COVID-19 Related Response Funding

MOVED BY:  
Councillor Kathryn Wilson  
Hiawatha First Nation

SECONDED BY:  
Councillor Todd Cornelius  
Oneida Nation of the  
Thames

Certified Copy of a  
Resolution Adopted on:  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Grand Chief Joel Abram

**WHEREAS**, the member First Nations of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) affirm their sovereignty, founded in the responsibilities provided to their respective Nations by the Creator;

**WHEREAS**, First Nations' self-determination pre-exists contact with external governments and entities. That self-determination and sovereignty remains today, and has not and cannot be surrendered;

**WHEREAS**, First Nations are at a greater risk of COVID-19 due to the ongoing failure of Canada to provide necessary levels of funding to address impacts of colonization that directly result in lower determinants of health and wellness, including higher instances of chronic illness, infrastructure issues, housing issues and overcrowding, high levels of poverty, and mental wellness and addictions issues in First Nations communities;

**WHEREAS**, existing mental health and social issues in First Nations communities throughout the province significantly increase the need for additional resources to address mental health and wellness during the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, northern and remote communities may have different challenges and costs associated with addressing their needs, but all First Nations face similar issues and challenges pertaining to health and wellness within their communities;

**WHEREAS**, AIAI member First Nations' proximity to urban centres comes with specific challenges, such as increased incidence of drugs use, human trafficking, gang violence, mental health issues, homelessness, and visitors within the community, all of which drastically increase the chances of COVID-19 entering the communities and creates additional challenges related to community wellbeing;

**WHEREAS**, AIAI member First Nations have found themselves extremely close to the epicenters of outbreaks and have had to commit significant resources, often out of their own pockets, to ensure the services their communities deserve and require are in place;



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**51<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Resolution No. 002/2020**

Passed by consensus

**Subject: COVID-19 Related Response Funding**

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**WHEREAS**, the distribution process for finite resources amongst First Nations requires careful consideration of the wide variety of factors that impact each geographical locale and unique community circumstances as it pertains to pandemic responses;

**WHEREAS**, First Nations have jurisdiction to determine the health and safety needs of their communities and require financial support to implement measures in accordance with these needs;

**WHEREAS**, First Nations' COVID-19 related response measures vary according to the unique circumstances of their communities. Additional costs may be incurred for response measures including, but not limited to: security, community screening, sanitization and cleaning, staffing requirements, COVID-19 coordinator positions, social distancing retrofitting, education and awareness campaigns, communications, food and essentials, mental health and wellness responses, life promotion initiatives, technology advancements and equipment, domestic violence responses, transportation, shelter supports, homeless supports, housing, door-to-door deliveries, senior supports, student supports, health centre capacity, contact tracing and testing capacity, personal protective equipment, and pandemic coordinators;

**WHEREAS**, federal and provincial funding allocations for First Nations have proven insufficient to cover costs incurred for First Nations' COVID-19 related response measures;

**WHEREAS**, confirmed federal and provincial funding allocations will not cover costs for future COVID-19 related response needs, especially for education, mental health, and capital requirements for social distancing and other protective measures required while delivering services;

**WHEREAS**, proposal-based processes for COVID-19 related emergency response funds are unnecessarily burdensome and time-consuming for AIAI member First Nations, limiting the ability to implement measures required to ensure the health and safety of our citizens;

**WHEREAS**, correspondence has been issued to Indigenous Services Canada Minister Marc Miller speaking to COVID-19 funding needs and concerns brought forward by the First Nations leadership with no response;

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**51<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Resolution No. 002/2020**

Passed by consensus

**Subject: COVID-19 Related Response Funding**

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**WHEREAS**, several AIAI member First Nations are forecasting financial deficits due to their COVID-19 emergency response and may be forced to make cuts in other areas if their emergency expenditures are not reimbursed and all COVID-19 related response funding is not increased, resulting in a significant negative impact on AIAI member First Nation citizens and communities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Assembly calls on the federal and provincial governments to provide all COVID-19 related response funding in a manner that is needs-based, flexible, adequate, and responsive to the unique health and wellness needs of each First Nation through allocation processes that are direct, expedient, transparent, and equitable across all regions;

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Assembly calls on the federal and provincial government to report funding allocation breakdowns for all COVID-19 related response funding according to region in order to hold them accountable for funding dispersals and improve allocation processes moving forward;

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Assembly directs the AIAI political executive to advocate for AIAI member First Nation funding needs as outlined above and report back to the General Assembly at the next Annual General Assembly in June 2021.

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51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly

Resolution No. 003/2020

Subject: Hydro One & Capital Costs for First  
Nation-Owned Buildings

Passed by consensus

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**MOVED BY:**  
Councillor Kathryn Wilson  
Hiawatha First Nation

**SECONDED BY:**  
Chief Denise Stonefish  
Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit

**Certified Copy of a  
Resolution Adopted on:  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Grand Chief Joel Abram

**WHEREAS**, the member First Nations of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) affirm their sovereignty, founded in the responsibilities provided to their respective Nations by the Creator;

**WHEREAS**, First Nations have a right to self-determination and continue to exercise that right. First Nations' self-determination pre-exists contact with external governments and entities and cannot be surrendered;

**WHEREAS**, since July 1, 2017, on-reserve First Nation Hydro One consumers have received a credit equal to 100% of delivery charges;

**WHEREAS**, the First Nations delivery credit, under Section 79.4 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act* (the Act), covers the following eligible costs:

- all variable and fixed distribution charges
- all charges based on the retail transmission network service rate
- all charges based on the retail transmission connection service rate
- all charges related to losses incurred in the distribution of electricity
- any other charges that may be prescribed in the regulations;

**WHEREAS**, the First Nations delivery credit does not apply to all First Nation band-owned buildings and buildings designated for retail businesses located on-reserve;

**WHEREAS**, First Nations do not receive adequate operation and maintenance funding from federal or provincial governments for First Nation band-owned buildings.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly direct AIAI political executive and technicians to advocate for amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, to ensure all First Nation band-owned buildings and building designated for retail located on-reserve qualify for a credit equal to 100% of eligible costs outlined in the previous section;

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**51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly**

**Resolution No. 003/2020**

**Subject: Hydro One & Capital Costs for First  
Nation-Owned Buildings**

**Passed by consensus**

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**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the General Assembly direct AIAI to advocate for needs-based funding for all operation and maintenance expenditures for First Nation band-owned buildings.

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51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly

Resolution No. 004/2020

Subject: Opposition to the UNDRIP Act (Canada)

Passed by consensus

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**MOVED BY:**  
Chief R. Donald Maracle  
Mohawks of the Bay of  
Quinte

**SECONDED BY:**  
Councillor Gordon Peters  
Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit

**Certified Copy of a  
Resolution Adopted on:  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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Grand Chief Joel Abram

**WHEREAS**, the member First Nations of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) affirm their sovereignty, founded in the responsibilities provided to their respective Nations by the Creator;

**WHEREAS**, First Nations have a right to self-determination and continue to exercise that right. First Nations' self-determination pre-exists contact with Crown governments and settler entities and cannot be surrendered;

**WHEREAS**, Canada and the United States have endorsed and voted for the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), after confirming that the "International right to self determination" could be different for Indigenous Peoples who are now constrained by settler-colonial state governments on Turtle Island;

**WHEREAS**, Canada's Minister of Justice is attempting to engage the AIAI member First Nations and other First Nations across Ontario and Canada in a process to review draft legislation called the United Nations Declaration of Rights Act (UNDRIP Act);

**WHEREAS**, the Ontario region, AIAI, and several First Nations have refused to engage in a process that takes a state-subject approach to consulting First Nations on this very important and potentially antagonistic UNDRIP Act;

**WHEREAS**, legal counsel has reviewed the UNDRIP Act and a presentation, legal analysis (document), and draft letter to oppose the UNDRIP Act have been provided to the General Assembly;

**WHEREAS**, the intent of UNDRIP was to bring international human rights and customary law into Canada for Indigenous Peoples.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the General Assembly rejects the UNDRIP Act, as s.2(2) of the UNDRIP Act is hostile to Indigenous Peoples' understanding of the role of UNDRIP; renders UNDRIP Articles subservient to s.35 of the Constitution Act, 1982; and is restricted by the common law rules of s.35 litigation.



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**Resolution No. 004/2020**

**Subject: Opposition to the UNDRIP Act (Canada)**

**Passed by consensus**

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**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly calls for a more formal process of creating legislation to implement priority Articles within the Declaration as defined through Nation-to-Nation agreements;

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly call on AIAI leadership to ensure that the letters in opposition to the UNDRIP Act are shared widely across First Nation leadership in Canada;

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that AIAI demand that Canada focus on their commitments to Indigenous Peoples through Nation-to-Nation relationships in Canada by transferring capacity to our Nations to engage in undoing settler-colonial impacts within their communities and develop our own Indigenous institutions of governance and law-making;

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly call on AIAI leadership and technicians to develop a strategy to ensure that the UNDRIP Act does not receive Royal Assent, including the following components:

- Development of information and analysis documents for circulation
- A social media campaign
- Outreach to First Nations and Indigenous organizations in the Ontario region and across Turtle Island
- Establishment of political tables with relevant federal ministries, including the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.