

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Approval of Chairperson

BE IT RESOLVED, that Kevin O'Reilly act as Chairperson for the 22nd Dene National Assembly, July 13 - 17, 1992; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Rene Lamothe act as Co-Chairperson for the 22nd Dene National Assembly, July 13 – 17, 1992.

MOVED BY: Chief Tim Lennie, Wrigley

SECONDED BY: Chief Gerry Antoine, Fort Simpson

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 14TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KIE, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved as amended.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome by Host Chief
3. Approval of Chairpersons
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Executive Reports
6. Audit Approval
7. Historical Background (update)
8. Treaty Rights
9. Denendeh in the 90's/Regional and National Perspectives
 - a) Self-Government/Constitutional Development
 - b) Canadian Constitutional Amendments (update)
 - Metis Accord
 - Federal Government's Offer to Negotiate
 - c) AFN First Nations Circle on the Constitution (information)
 - d) Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (information & update)
 - e) Commission for Constitutional Development
 - Phase I Report
 - f) GNWT Transfer of Programs and Services, and Federal Devolution
 - g) Boundary Plebiscite
10. Dene Nation Constitution and By-law Amendments
 - Saskatchewan and Manitoba Dene Membership
11. Other Business
12. Closing Prayer

MOVED BY: Henry Beaver, Fort Smith Delegate

SECONDED BY: Chief Gerry Antoine, Fort Simpson

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 14TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Approval of Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ending March 31, 1992

BE IT RESOLVED, that the audited financial statements of the Dene Nation for the year ending March 31, 1992 be approved.

MOVED BY: Chief Gerry Antoine, Fort Simpson

SECONDED BY: Chief Jonas Sangris, Dettah

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 14TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Approval of Auditors for the Fiscal Year 1992/93

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Leadership Management Committee be authorized to select the auditors for the Dene Nation during the fiscal year 1992/93.

MOVED BY: Henry Beaver, Fort Smith Delegate

SECONDED BY; Chief Tim Lennie, Wrigley

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 14TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Sayisi Dene First Nations Membership in the Dene Nation

WHEREAS, request for membership in the Dene Nation has been made by the Sayisi Dene First Nation of Ts'eh Ol'eh Twa'he; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Dene Nation have considered this request and have expressed a desire to consider them as part of the Dene Nation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Assembly agrees that the members of the Sayisi Dene First Nation be admitted as full members of the Dene Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dene Nation be directed to change the constitution to reflect their membership.

MOVED BY: Irvin Norn, Fort Resolution, Delegate

SECONDED BY: Victor Marie, Fort Smith, Delegate

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KIE, DENENDEH
JULY 13 -17, 1992

RE: Dene/Metis Claim Funding

WHEREAS, it has always been the understanding of the Dene Nation that monies received for the purpose of negotiating the Dene/Metis Comprehensive Claim was not a debt to be repaid; and

WHEREAS, the Dene Nation reject the notion of the Federal Government that the monies expended is a debt; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has extracted revenues from the Dene Nation lands for which there has been no compensation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive of the Dene Nation is hereby given authority to give notice to the Federal Government that the Dene Nation will not repay any monies received for the Dene/Metis Comprehensive Claim.

MOVED BY: Henry Beaver, Fort Smith, Delegate

SECONDED BY: Gabe Hardisty, Wrigley, Delegate

FOR:

AGAISNT:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: RCMP Posting for Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley)

WHEREAS, it is the proposal of the government to complete the Mackenzie Highway to Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley) by 1995; and

WHEREAS, this proposed construction will have an adverse social impact on the community of Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley); and

WHEREAS, the community of Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley) has been without a permanent RCMP member since 1991;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dene National Office assist the Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley) Dene Band in their request to have the RCMP member position reinstated as soon as possible.

MOVED BY: Victor Marie, Fort Smith, Delegate

SECONDED BY: Chief Steve Kotchea, Fort Liard

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 -17, 1992

RE: Willow Lake River Construction

WHEREAS, the Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley) Dene Band has been discussing the Construction of the Willow Lake River Bridge with the Territorial administration; and

WHEREAS, the Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley) Dene Band desires to negotiate directly with the Ministers of Transportation, Public Works and Education to ensure employment and training opportunities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dene National Assembly support the Pehdzh Ki (Wrigley) Dene Band in their negotiations with the Territorial administration on the proposed Mackenzie Highway projects.

MOVED BY: Chief Gerry Antoine, Fort Simpson

SECONDED BY; Chief Darrell Beaulieu, Ndilo

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Dissatisfaction with Federal Officials

WHEREAS, the Dene of the 22nd Dene National Assembly have the inherent right to develop and practice governance of themselves; and

WHEREAS, the role of the Government of Canada is to assist the Dene people in realizing their aspirations towards self-government; and

WHEREAS, the behaviour of some federal government officials, who are in a position to assist Dene people to achieve their aspirations, in particular the NWT Regional Director of DIAND, are either refusing or failing to do so;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive of the Dene Nation convey to the Minister of DIAND the dissatisfaction of the Dene people with federal officials and that the Minister be requested to instruct his officials to cease working against the attempts of the Dene to achieve self-government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minister be directed to meet with the Dene Leadership to discuss those officials that are blocking progress on Dene Self-Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Den must be directly involved in hiring individuals who work with the Dene communities.

MOVED BY: Henry Beaver, Fort Smith, Delegate

SECONDED BY: Gabe Hardisty, Wrigley, Delegate

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Federal Government Offer to Negotiate

WHEREAS, the Government of Canada has offered, in their letters of December 19, 1991, May 29, 1992 and May 30, 1992, to recommence or begin negotiations with the Dene Nation on the Following basis:

- regional Claims based on the April 1990 Final Agreement initialled by the government and the Dene/Metis,
- acceptance by the Dene of the extinguishment of aboriginal rights, and
- acceptance by the Dene (and other northern aboriginal associations) of attainment of provincehood without an aboriginal veto; and

WHEREAS, this offer was taken to the Fort Simpson Leadership meeting June 1 – 5, 1992 and the Leadership decided the Dene are not prepared to relinquish their inherent right to self-government, not prepared to negotiate self-government principles or the settlement of outstanding land claims issues on the basis of the April 1990 Agreement and not prepared to extinguish treaty and aboriginal rights; and

WHEREAS, the National Constitutional process is recognizing and protecting the inherent right of First Nations to self-government; and

WHEREAS, the letters of offer are not consistent with the principles of the inherent right of Dene people to self-government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1992 Assembly of the Dene Nation do not accept the present offer of the Government of Canada to negotiate.

MOVED BY: Chief Gerry Antoine, Fort Simpson

SECONDED BY: Victor Marie, Fort Smith, Delegate

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY, 13 -17, 1992

RE: Dene Nation Constitution & By-Laws

WHEREAS, there has been considerable discussion on the role of the Dene Nation over the past few years; and

WHEREAS, some of the member First Nations and regions of the Dene Nation have embarked on or expressed a desire to enter into negotiations of regionally based aboriginal land claims;

THEREFORE BE IT REOLVED, that the Leadership Management Committee be directed to form a committee to consult the First nations in all regions of Denendeh in relation to the following areas of proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Dene Nation:

- the goals and objectives of the organization,
- the name and description of the geographic area to be covered by the organization,
- the people who should be included as members in the organization and different classes of membership including the rights and obligations of each class,
- the levels of representation and the procedures by which they are selected for office,
- any other issues the committee feels are necessary or relevant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this committee prepare a report with specific recommendations on changes to the constitution and by-laws for submission to the next Assembly of the Dene Nation.

MOVED BY: National Vice-Chief Felix Lockhart, South Slave

SECONDED BY; Chief Tim Lennie, Wrigley

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 -17, 1992

RE: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

WHEREAS, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples was established to examine a number of issues including Aboriginal Self-Government, questions of land and economy, social and cultural issues and the particular concerns of Aboriginal peoples; and

WHEREAS, a variety of different groups including community aboriginal organizations, regions, aboriginal cultural organizations, aboriginal women's groups etc. within First Nations have been invited to submit proposals for funding for research and preparation of submissions to the Royal Commission on any aspect of their terms of reference; and

WHEREAS, there are several issues which Dene throughout Denendeh feel should be addressed in this process and which should be co-ordinated where there is a comprehensive approach and that to ensure there is no duplication or omission of critical topics and to ensure maximum use of resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive of the Dene Nation be directed to assist in the co-ordination of activities in relation to preparation and submission of proposals to the Royal Commission with the communities, regions, and aboriginal associations of the Dene Nation in order to ensure that all outstanding issues affecting Denendeh are addressed in a comprehensive manner.

MOVED BY: Gabe Hardisty, Wrigley, Delegate

SECONDED BY: Chief Antoine Michel, Lutsel K'e

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Circumpolar De-Militarization Zone

WHEREAS, the world is entering into a new time of seeking peace between the East and the West; and

WHEREAS, the aboriginal people of the Circumpolar North are forming coalitions to press for de-militarization of our northern lands; and

WHEREAS, the Dene have consistently opposed militarization throughout Denendeh;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dene Nation research and advocate public policy options for establishing a Circumpolar De-Militarized Zone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dene Nation work to establish a coalition with other aboriginal people of the circumpolar North: the Saami of Scandinavia, the Chukchi and other aboriginal people of Russia's North, and the Inuit of Alaska, Nunavut, Greenland and Siberia through the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to advocate this zone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dene Nation begin extensive lobbying of the territorial administration and the government of Canada in support of this zone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dene Nation work with other circumpolar aboriginal people to lobby their governments in support of this zone.

MOVED BY: National Vice-Chief Felix Lockhart, South Slave

SECONDED BY: Chief Gerry Antoine, Fort Simpson

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 -17, 1992

RE: Boundary Plebiscite of May 1992

WHEREAS, the Dene Nation passed a resolution at the 1991 National Assembly in Bell Rock, Denendeh declaring that we would if necessary proceed to the courts to protect our lands in relation to any overlap with the Inuit; and

WHEREAS, the plebiscite on the boundary for division of the NWT has proceeded; and

WHEREAS, the results of that plebiscite went against the wishes of the Dene Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Dene people of Saskatchewan have initiated legal proceedings against the Government of Canada to protest infringement of their treaty and aboriginal rights by the TFN Agreement; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dene Nation intervene in the legal action to protect and preserve the treaty and aboriginal rights of the Dene in Denendeh to their traditional lands.

MOVED BY: Chief Antoine Michel, Lutsel K'e

SECONDED BY: Henry Beaver, Fort Smith, Delegate

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PEHDZEH KI, DENENDEH
JULY 13 – 17, 1992

RE: Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Policy

WHEREAS, the Supreme court of Canada and the senior Ministers of the Federal and Provincial governments and the territorial administrations are continuing to increase their recognition of the inherent right of Aboriginal First Nations to govern themselves;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive of the Dene Nation insist that the Minister of DIAND exercise his authority and responsibility to ensure the department's policies accommodate and promote the spirit and the reality of the Dene peoples desire for Self-Government.

MOVED BY: Henry Beaver, Fort Smith, Delegate

SECONDED BY: Chief Darrell Beaulieu, Ndilo

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 1992

ORIGINAL CERTIFIED BY: Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus