

Keepers of the Water IV
Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, August 19-23, 2010
Resolution: *Location of Keepers of the Water V*

Whereas: Keepers of the Water conferences have now taken place in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, therefore:

Be it resolved that: the Keepers of the Water V conference should be convened in Manitoba, at a location and date to be determined by Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak.

Moved by: Roland Woodward, Keepers of the Athabasca

Second by: JB Benonie, Keepers of the Water IV Planning Committee

All in Favour (78)

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

Keepers of the Water IV
Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, August 19-23, 2010
Resolution: *Athabasca Watershed Council*

Whereas: the Athabasca Watershed Council does not currently include areas outside Alberta in its work;

Whereas: the Athabasca watershed extends beyond the Alberta border into Saskatchewan;

Whereas: Saskatchewan communities depend on the waters of the Athabasca for their livelihoods;

Whereas: Communities, governments, and organizations are working through the Keepers of the Water to create an interprovincial alliance to protect the waters of the North; therefore

Be it resolved that: Saskatchewan communities whose territories are part of the Athabasca watershed should be included as part of Athabasca Watershed Council; and

Be it further resolved that: community and First Nations leadership and non-governmental organizations should work with provincial governments to identify the appropriate mechanisms and the necessary resources for implementation.

Moved by: Roland Woodward, Keepers of the Athabasca

Second by: Harvey Scott, Keepers of the Athabasca

All in Favour (104)

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

Keepers of the Water IV
Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, August 19-23, 2010
Resolution: *Review legal and regulatory framework governing northern resource development*

Whereas: Assembled at the **Keepers of the Water IV** in Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, we have heard testimonials of damage to the environment and the health of northern peoples, and immense and growing threats for their future.

Whereas: the Government of Canada has a solemn obligation under the Constitution Act (s.35) to protect the rights, interests, and well-being of Aboriginal Peoples;

Whereas: the Government of Canada has an obligation to protect the environment and health of all residents;

Whereas: The Government of Canada has failed and continues to fail to uphold these obligations;

Whereas: The Government of Canada has abandoned and transferred many of these responsibilities to First Nations and Métis Peoples without the corresponding resources and authority, or maintaining residual liability;

Whereas: The Government of Canada has devolved many of these obligations to the Provinces and Territories, through, among others, the Natural Resources Transfer Act and administrative measures; and

Whereas: The existing legislation and regulations governing northern resource development do not adequately protect the rights and livelihoods of northern peoples, including the federal *Fisheries Act, Transportation Act, National Energy Board Act* and *Nuclear Safety Act*, the federal and provincial environmental assessment laws and regulations, and the provincial and territorial mining, energy, land use, and forestry laws, as well as the corresponding regulations and guidelines; therefore:

Be it resolved that: we call on the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to undertake a public review of their respective legal and regulatory frameworks, including agencies and tribunals, and bring them into compliance with the obligations of the Crown towards First Peoples and all residents; and

Be it further resolved that: we empower and encourage the leadership of our Nations and communities to take all necessary means to pressure the respective governments to ensure that this review and reform process proceeds in a timely manner, and to assist and participate in this process.

Moved by: Lance Laviolette, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

Second by: JB Benonie, Keepers of the Water IV Planning Committee

All in Favour (96)

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

Keepers of the Water IV

Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, August 19-23, 2010

Resolution: *Northern Saskatchewan Watershed Council*

Whereas: Assembled at the Keepers of the Water IV in Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, we have heard testimonials of the damage to the environment and the health of northern peoples, and immense and growing threats for their future.

Whereas: There is no existing watershed council for Northern Saskatchewan.

Whereas: There is no existing watershed monitoring structure for Northern Saskatchewan

Be it Resolved: The Prince Albert Grand Council supports the creation of a Northern Saskatchewan Watershed Council that will include the following watershed sub-basins; Athabasca/Slave Rivers, Churchill River, Beaver River, North Saskatchewan River Delta, Sturgeon Weir, Cree River, Clearwater River, and the Reindeer River (Wollaston Lake).

Moved by: Clemment Cummings, Elder

Second by: Mary Denechezhe, Chairperson, Keepers of the Water IV Planning Committee

All in Favour (106)

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)

Keepers of the Water IV
Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, August 19-23, 2010
Resolution: *Elders*

Whereas: Elders from across Canada gathered at **the Keepers of Water IV Conference** in Wollaston Lake, SK to guide the discussion about how to effectively protect our sacred water for future generations.

Whereas: Elders expressed grave concern over the changes that they have observed in their territories, such as; contamination of water, scarcity of animals for food and subsistence, and increased health epidemics amongst their people.

Whereas: Elders expressed frustration and growing concern over the the unfettered expansion of industrial operations and their subsequent impacts within our traditional territories historically and present day.

Be it resolved that:

We the Elders call upon the leadership and grassroots community members of our watersheds to come together and to develop effective, holistic, and intergenerational strategies to protect the watershed for our future generations.

We the Elders oppose the harmful actions that have transpired by industry and call upon and empower our young people and elected leaders to embrace traditional knowledge and take action that guides us in a new direction.

Moved by: George Tsannie, Councillor, Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation

Second by: Jerome Denechezhe, Northlands First Nation

All in Favour (110)

Opposed (0)

Abstained (0)