



UNITED LEAGUE OF INDIGENOUS NATIONS TREATY - DRAFT

PREAMBLE

We the Indigenous Nations and Peoples of the Pacific Rim hereby pledge mutual recognition of our inherent rights and power to govern ourselves and our ancestral homelands and traditional territories. Each signatory nation, having provided evidence that their respective governing body has taken action in accordance with their own custom, law and or tradition to knowingly agree to and adopt the terms of this treaty, hereby establishes the political, social, cultural and economic relations contemplated herein.

PRINCIPLES

Recognizing each other as self-governing indigenous nations, we subscribe to the following principles:

1. The Creator has made us part of and inseparable from the natural world around us. This truth binds us together and gives rise to a shared commitment to care for, conserve and protect the land, water and animal life within our usual, customary and traditional territories.
2. Our inherent customary rights to self-governance and self-determination have existed since time immemorial, have been bestowed by the Creator and are defined in accordance with our own laws, values, customs and mores.
3. Political, social, cultural and economic relationships between our indigenous nations have existed since a time immemorial and our right to continue such relationships are inseparable from our inherent indigenous rights of nationhood.
4. No other political jurisdiction, including nation states and their governmental agencies or subdivisions, possess governmental power over any of our indigenous nations, our people and our usual, customary and traditional territories, except in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of such indigenous nation.
5. Our inherent, aboriginal control and enjoyment of our territories includes our collective rights over the environment consisting of the air, lands, inland waters, oceans, seas, sea ice, flora, fauna and all other surface and sub-surface resources.



6. Our indigenous rights include all traditional and ecological knowledge derived from our contact with our lands for time immemorial, the exercise of conservation practices, traditional ceremonies, medicinal and healing practices and all other expressions of art and culture.

GOALS

This Treaty is for the purpose of achieving the following goals:

1. To establish a supportive bond between each signatory indigenous nation in order to secure and promote, through political, social, cultural and economic unity, the rights of all our peoples and for the well-being of all our future generations.
2. To establish a foundation for the exercise of contemporary indigenous nation sovereignty, without regard to existing or future international boundaries, for the following purposes: (a) protecting our cultural properties, including but not limited to sacred songs, signs and symbols, traditional ecological knowledge and other forms of intellectual property rights by jointly asserting the principle that our own indigenous laws and customs regarding our cultural properties are prior and paramount to the application of any other sovereign's laws or jurisdiction including international bodies and agencies, (b) protecting our indigenous lands from environmental destruction through asserting our rights of political representation as indigenous nations before all national and international bodies that have been charged, through international treaties, agreements and conventions with environmental protection responsibilities, (c) engaging in mutually beneficial trade and commerce between indigenous nations and the economic enterprises owned and operated collectively by indigenous peoples and by individual citizens of our indigenous nations, and, (d) Preserving and protecting the human rights of our indigenous people from such evils as involuntary servitude, human trafficking, etc..
3. To develop an effective and meaningful process to promote communication and cooperation between the indigenous nations on all other common issues, concerns, pursuits, and initiatives.
4. To ensure that scholarly exchanges and joint study on strategies of self-determination are undertaken by indigenous scholars.

MUTUAL COVENANTS

We, the signatory indigenous nations, are committed to providing the following mutual aid and assistance, to the best of our ability and in accordance with our own prior and paramount indigenous laws, customs and traditions:

1. Exchanging economic, legal, political, traditional and technical knowledge regarding the protection of indigenous cultural properties.
2. Collaborating on research on environmental issues that impact indigenous homelands including baseline studies and socio-economic assessments that consider the cultural, social and sustainable uses of indigenous peoples' territories and resources.
3. Participating in trade and commerce missions to lay a foundation for business relations and the development of an international, integrated indigenous economy, and

Each signatory indigenous nation shall:

1. Appoint a coordinator or responsible official for Treaty matters;
2. Identify and establish an inter-Nation (i.e., US, Canada, NZ, etc.) coordination office and communication network to assist in assembling data, information, knowledge and research needed to effectively address substantial issues of common concern (i.e., NCAI, AFN, etc.);
3. Coordinate statements of policy and information on Treaty matters, especially information to be disseminated to the media;
4. Participate in periodic reviews and strategy planning sessions as needed.

RATIFICATION

This Treaty shall “come into force” when formally ratified, in accordance with their customary or constitutional processes, by two or more of the indigenous nations residing within the various nation states of the Pacific Rim. Following the coming into force of the Treaty, any other indigenous nation may ratify this Treaty at their pleasure provided that there are no objections by the indigenous nations already signatory to this Treaty. Each ratifying indigenous nation may attach explanations or clarifications expressing different meanings associated with the provisions of the Treaty through a Statement of Understandings. These Reservations of Understandings shall become a part of this Treaty and receive full respect by other ratifying Nations.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The proposed “United League of Indigenous Nations Treaty”, is a proposal of the Special Committee on Indigenous Nations Relationships of the National Congress of American Indians (USA). This October 6, 2006 draft was prepared by a drafting committee convened initially at the 2004 Annual Conference of the NCAI in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Fort Lauderdale draft was subsequently modified and amended by a special “treaty drafting committee” that met on the Tulalip Indian Reservation, USA, on August 10-11, 2006 and was comprised of NCAI Special Committee co-chair, Alan Parker, AFN Special Assistant to the National Chief, Sheldon Cardinal, Mataatua Assembly delegate, Graham Smith (Maori) and the following US tribal representatives; Terry Williams and Preston Hardiston, Tulalip, Jeffrey Thomas, Puyallup and Celine Volger, Cowlitz. This 2nd draft was subsequently presented for discussion at the 2006 Annual Conference of the NCAI in Sacramento, CA and further modified and amended. The NCAI Executive Committee has now charged the Special Committee on Indigenous Nation Relationships with the task of convening a special meeting on this draft of interested parties and US tribal representatives before the end of this calendar year (2006) The purpose of this special meeting is to provide an opportunity for broad based participation by US tribal nation representatives in a detailed discussion of this draft, consideration of additional amendments to the draft by such representatives prior to finalization and the development of a Treaty Ratification and Implementation Plan.