

CHIEFS IN ONTARIO



RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

APRIL 2009

Resolutions are the essential mechanism by which First Nations provide specific mandates and direction to the Chiefs in Ontario. The resolutions process serves to effectively foster and capture consensus among First Nations in Ontario during the All Ontario Chiefs Conference and at Special Assemblies of Ontario First Nation Chiefs.

Following the AOCC in 2008, the Political Confederacy has considered options and opportunities to enhance efficiencies and decision-making at Ontario First Nation Assemblies.

One of the critical challenges facing the resolutions process in the past has been an inability to process the large volume of resolutions during the course of one Assembly. The end result is often frustration and a lack of clarity regarding mandate on critical matters facing First Nations in Ontario.

The following measures have been discussed and are being implemented to mitigate this problem and to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and effectiveness of our Assemblies:

- Ensuring agenda development allows for sufficient time for consideration of resolutions through approval of Political Confederacy;
- Ensuring that all draft resolutions for consideration provide a specific mandate; and,
- Proposed resolutions that are of a support nature will be actioned as a letter of support prepared and completed during the Assembly from the Ontario Regional Chief.

ELEMENTS OF A RESOLUTION

The following elements must be present for a resolution to be considered:

A resolution must:

1. be submitted 14 days in advance of an Ontario First Nation Assembly as set out in a Call for Resolutions to all Ontario First Nations issued 30 days prior to the deadline;
2. have a mover and a seconder;
3. clearly set out the First Nation position on a specific topic;
4. reference previous mandates/ resolutions on the same topic;
5. provide a clear **mandate** for the Chiefs in Ontario and/or Regional Chief and Political Confederacy;
6. consider financial and other resource requirements;
7. provide a timeline for action to be completed; and,
8. establish the accountability requirements and identifies when and how information will be brought back to First Nations.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee manages all administrative aspects of the resolutions process from the time draft resolutions are first submitted in draft format until they are finalized. The Resolutions Committee includes designated representatives from all PTOs and Independents and is coordinated by a designated official from the Chiefs of Ontario.

The Resolutions Committee will be responsible for reviewing draft resolutions in accordance with the process outlined above. The Resolutions Committee will then work closely with their respective organizations, members of Political Confederacy and the designated Speaker(s) of the Assembly to ensure an organized and efficient processing of resolutions. Where there are divergent resolutions or positions regarding one issue, the Resolutions Committee will call for a side meeting of all concerned parties in an attempt to establish a consensus position prior to the Resolution being tabled on the floor for formal discussion.

SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions must be submitted by a Chief or duly mandated proxy of a First Nation and include the name and First Nation of a seconder, also a Chief or duly mandated proxy of a First Nation. Both the mover and seconder of a resolution must be available to speak to the Resolution at the Assembly. If the mover and seconder are not noted on a resolution submitted for consideration, then the resolution will not be recorded and entered into the process as an official draft resolution.

The format to submit a resolution is preferably by email using the draft resolution template posted on the Chief of Ontario website at www.coo.org. If it is not possible to send the draft resolution in electronic format, a copy may be faxed or mailed to the Chiefs of Ontario office.