

Whereas, the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations are an association of First Nations with the purpose of advancing issues of common concern to individual First Nations and Tribal Groups.

Whereas, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C infections are growing at an alarming rate amongst Aboriginal peoples and recognizing that HIV affects not only the individual's life but the well-being of children, Elders, their family and the whole community.

Recognizing that the ongoing effects of colonization, residential schools, poverty, lack of housing and education have made Aboriginal peoples vulnerable to HIV infection.

Recognizing that First Nation communities cannot tolerate further stigmatization and that keeping silent will only burden Aboriginal peoples more.

Recognizing the fundamental importance of strengthening First Nation communities in order to effectively combat HIV/AIDS will require increased and sustained human, financial and technical resources through strengthened regional, national and international cooperation.

Recognizing that our leaders must take primary responsibility for the improvement of the health and well-being of their communities.

Therefore be it resolved that the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations will provide the necessary political pressure at all levels of government for sustainable human, financial and technical resources to address the growing HIV epidemic amongst First Nation communities.

Therefore, be it also resolved that the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations will urge member Nations to end the silence of HIV infections amongst Aboriginal peoples and support education, awareness and prevention programs in First Nation communities.

Finally be it also resolved that the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations will support all efforts to improve the overall health and well-being of First Nation communities in order to halt the further spread of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in our communities.