

**SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE
RESOLUTION NO. A05-14-066**

WHEREAS, the Spirit Lake Tribe of Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe acting under a revised Constitution dated May 5, 1960, approved by the Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs, July 14, 1961, and as subsequently amended which amendments were approved by the Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and August 19, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Spirit Lake Tribe generally authorizes and empowers the Spirit Lake Tribal Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in to the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribe and of the enrolled members thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Spirit Lake Tribal Council (hereinafter the Tribal Council) is the governing body of the Tribe and is empowered to administer the economic resources, natural & cultural resources and financial affairs of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life terms in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and

WHEREAS, appellate courts have repeatedly acknowledged evidence of U.S. government misconduct—including knowingly presenting false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier to the United States, forcing witnesses to lie at trial, and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting Mr. Peltier's innocence from the jury; and

WHEREAS, according to official court records, the United States prosecutor in the Peltier case has twice admitted that no one knows who fired the fatal shots; and

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WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier has maintained his innocence, yet expressed remorse for the loss of life for the federal agents and the young American Indian man killed on June 25, 1975; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier is an accomplished author and artist and is renowned for his humanitarian achievements for which, in 2009, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for the sixth consecutive year; and for which he has been awarded the Human Rights Commission of Spain International Human Rights Prize (1986); North Star Frederick Douglas Award (1993); Federation of Labour (Ontario, Canada) Humanist of the Year Award (2003); Silver Arrow Award for Lifetime Achievement (2004); First Red Nation Humanitarian Award (2009); Kwame Ture Lifetime Achievement Award (2010); Fighters for Justice Award (2010); and Mario Benedetti Foundation (Uruguay) - First International Human Rights Prize (2011); and NCAI 2011 Annual Resolution PDX-11-082; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier has fulfilled his federal sentencing guideline requirements and maintained a clean prison record for 15+ years yet, on August 21, 2009, the U.S. Parole Commission denied his application for parole; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier is a great-grandfather who is 67 years old and in poor health, and at risk for premature death due to his harsh living environment; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier's unjust imprisonment has been recognized by national and international human rights organizations, luminaries and dignitaries, 55 Members of the U.S. Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier's appeals—who have all called for his immediate release; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI previously has adopted resolutions requesting Executive Clemency for Leonard Peltier and, in 1999, supported the Assembly of First Nations in the same; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI acknowledges that the authority to grant clemency belongs only to the President of the United States (under Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution) and, while an unconditional commutation of Mr. Peltier's sentence is most desirable, supports consideration of conditions of release including releasing Leonard Peltier on house arrest or into the custody of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, a sovereign nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI welcomes the opportunity to directly develop a strategy with members of his legal defense team, as well as the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, to secure Leonard Peltier's freedom; and plan and coordinate a meeting with President Barack Obama and/or members of his Administration to secure

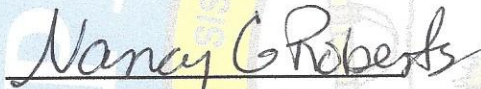
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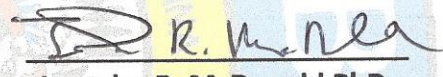
a grant of Executive Clemency to Leonard Peltier on constitutional and overriding human rights and compassionate grounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Spirit Lake Tribal Council, pursuant to their vested authority hereby approves support for clemency for Leonard Peltier.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Secretary-Treasurer of the Tribal Council, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of six (6) members of whom six (6) were present, constituting a quorum for a Meeting duly called and convened on this 7th of January, 2014, and approved this resolution by an affirmative vote of four (4) in favor, none (0) opposed, none (0) abstaining, and none (0) absent (the Secretary-Treasurer does not vote and the Chairman votes only in case of a tie.)


Nancy Greene-Robertson
Secretary-Treasurer


Leander R. McDonald PhD
Chairman