



INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA, INC.

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August 1, 2013

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NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DUCK VALLEY
SHOSHONE-PAIUTE
BUSINESS COUNCIL
DUCKWATER
SHOSHONE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
ELKO BAND
COUNCIL
ELY SHOSHONE
COUNCIL
FALLON BUSINESS
COUNCIL
FT. McDERMIT
PAIUTE-SHOSHONE
TRIBES
GOSHUTE BAND
COUNCIL
LAS VEGAS PAIUTE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
LOVELOCK TRIBAL
COUNCIL
MOAPA BUSINESS
COUNCIL
PYRAMID LAKE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
RENO/SPARKS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SOUTH FORK
BAND COUNCIL
STEWART
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
SUMMIT LAKE
PAIUTE COUNCIL
TE-MOAK TRIBAL
COUNCIL
TIMBISHA SHOSHONE
TRIBE
WALKER RIVER
PAIUTE TRIBAL
COUNCIL
WASHOE TRIBAL
COUNCIL
WELLS BAND
COUNCIL
WINNEMUCCA
COLONY COUNCIL
WOODFORDS
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
YERINGTON PAIUTE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
YOMBA TRIBAL
COUNCIL

Brett Lee Shelton, Staff Attorney
Native American Rights Fund
1506 Broadway
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Mr. Brett Shelton,

Attached is ITCN Resolution 13-ITCN-13 which was passed by the ITCN Executive Board.

I am sorry for the delay in getting this to you. I thank you for your patience.

Respectfully,

Daryl Crawford, Executive Director
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc.



INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA, INC.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-ITCN-13

**SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING
SCHOOL COALITION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION
TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ON THE EFFECTS OF THE
FORCIBLE REMOVAL OF CHILDREN AND SUBSEQUENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT RESULTING FROM THE
BOARDING SCHOOL POLICY ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED DURING THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES**

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COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc., is organized and operates in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, amended in November 1974; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. (ITCN), are stated in its Constitution, Preamble; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Board, a body comprised of the twenty-six (26) elected representatives of the member tribes in the State of Nevada and whose charter is ratified by these same tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada has a continuing interest in the natural resources, trust resources, and the well-being of their Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the Intertribal Council of Nevada was incorporated in 1968 to serve the needs of the member Indian reservations and colonies in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the ITCN is an Executive Board, composed of the Tribal Chairperson of each Nevada tribe; and

WHEREAS, the United States at the urging of an in support of the Christian Churches of that time adopted the Indian Civilization Act Fund of 1819 to provide financial support for church run schools to "civilize" Native American children through education; and

WHEREAS, in 1869 the United States, in concert with and at the urging of several denominations of the Christian Church, adopted the Indian the Boarding School Policy (also known as the Peace Policy) which was a deliberate policy of the removal and reprogramming of Native American children, the purpose of which was the systematic destruction of indigenous cultures and communities; and

WHEREAS, between 1869 and the 1960s as many as 100,000 Native American children were removed from their homes and families, often involuntarily, and placed in Boarding Schools operated by the federal government and the churches; and



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WHEREAS,

Native children that were voluntarily or forcibly removed from their homes, families and communities were taken to schools far away where they were punished for speaking their native language, banned from acting in any way that might be seen to represent traditional or cultural practices, stripped of traditional clothing, hair and all things and behaviors reflective of their Native culture, and commonly abused and neglected by inadequate and hostile staff; and

WHEREAS,

the prevailing attitudes of the time allowed neglect and abuse of children who were overseen but not parented, who were bullied and assaulted not only by the adults but also by older children under the modeling and instruction of the caretakers and staff, and who were neglected *en masse*. These children observed and suffered physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, punishment by physical restraints, beatings and isolation in inhospitable surroundings, such as unlighted cellars, and unlighted and unventilated outbuildings designed as jails; and

WHEREAS,

these children, their children and now their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, have become the legacy of the boarding schools and the federal policy that established and sustained those schools, where the trauma the children suffered has gone unrecognized and unresolved, and the trauma is passed onto each subsequent generation where this historical and inter-generational trauma continues to work in, undermine and devastate Native American individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS,

neither the United States nor any national denomination of the Christian churches in the United States has offered a meaningful apology or offered to provide any restitution for the generations of harm caused by the deliberate imposition of the policy of cultural genocide on the Native American children, families, communities, tribes, Pueblos or Alaskan Villages; and

WHEREAS,

the facts and history about the pervasive harm caused and continuing to be caused by the trauma and continuing intergenerational trauma attributable to the Boarding School Policy are poorly understood by the American public, the Congress or the Executive Branch of the federal government; and

WHEREAS,

in order to begin a healing process to address the harms suffered and enduring as a result of the boarding school policy, a comprehensive national study is needed of the history of the policy: such study should include complete documentation of the fate of each of the students and the events that took place at each of the schools, gathering of testimony from those that suffered from abuse, neglect or other



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trauma, and recommendations to Congress based on the information gathered from individual victims, communities and experts concerning the nature of the harms and potential paradigms for healing and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS,

similar events in the past have been successfully addressed through Congressional authorization of a Commission to study and report on the issue; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Intertribal Council of Nevada does hereby support the enactment by the United States Congress of a bill to create a Commission on American Indian Boarding School Policy substantially in the nature of the example Commission attached to this resolution.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada's Executive Board, held on the 31 day of May **2013**, by a vote of 12 **FOR**, 0

AGAINST,

0 **ABSTENTIONS.**

**Chad Malone, Secretary
ITCN Executive Board**