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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
DECEMBER 6, 7, & 8, 2016; GATINEAU, QC**

**Resolution no. 70/2016**

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**TITLE:** Inequitable Funding of On Reserve Women's Shelters

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**SUBJECT:** Violence against Women and Children

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Randy Ermineskin, Ermineskin Cree Nation, AB

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Irvin Bull, Louis Bull First Nation, AB

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**DECISION** Carried by Consensus

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. The Government of Canada has endorsed the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). The UN Declaration states:
  - i. Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, to ensure that Indigenous Women and Children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B. The four First Nations women's shelters of Neepinise Family Healing Centre, Ermineskin Women's Shelter Society, Eagle's Nest Stoney and Sucker Creek Emergency Women's Shelter in Treaty 6, 7 and 8 in Alberta are funded by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.
- C. The First Nations Women's Shelters provide a vital component in the prevention of domestic violence and the protection of women and children in crisis within their respective communities.
- D. The lack of adequate funding causes on-reserve First Nations women's shelters to operate contrary to provincial legislation requiring two Crisis Intervention Workers (CIW) between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to midnight, as shelters can only afford one CIW at times to remain open.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of December 2016 in Gatineau, Québec**

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**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

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- E. In 2006, the federal government funded the *Johnston Research Inc. Report* that included recommendations from the First Nation's shelter directors, including a formula for increased funding.
- F. In 2011, the *Moving Forward! Planning for Self Determination Johnston Research Inc. Report* found that on-reserve First Nations shelters were underfunded by 50 percent, compared to off-reserve shelters.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:**

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to respectfully call upon the Government of Canada to:
  - a. Address the funding shortfall of on-reserve First Nations women's shelters as compared to off-reserve women's shelters.
  - b. To ensure Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada staff work with the on-reserve First Nations women's shelter directors to develop a new funding formula that reflects the actual costs to run viable, safe and legislatively compliant shelters, and to ensure annual increases in cost-of-living are factored in the formula.
  - c. Implement the recommendations in the 2006 and 2011 *Johnson Research Inc. Reports* to ensure the funding formula for on-reserve First Nations women's shelters is predictable, sufficient and sustainable.
2. Direct the AFN to report back to Chiefs-in-Assembly on the progress of this work at the 2017 Annual General Assembly.

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF