

**DECLARATION of the Members of the Iroquoian Caucus
To the Special General Assembly of the
Assembly of First Nations
March 28, 2006**

We the members of the Iroquoian Caucus make this declaration this 28th day of March with respect to the Report and Recommendations of the AFN Renewal Commission.

It is with respect for all those Nations present at this Special General Assembly and;

With recognition and honour for those who have worked to bring this report forward;

We make this declaration by building on a previous Statement of Solidarity amongst and between the Elected Councils of Kahnawà:ke, Kanehsatá:ke, Akwesáhsne, Tyendinaga, Wahta, Six Nations of the Grand River and Oneida Nation of the Thames Council made in December of 2005. Although we are separated by distance, we recognize that we are one People who share a common identify, common responsibilities and our own system of Governance:

Iroquoian people have always had a strong voice and we will continue to work under the principle of Unity to bring our Nations together;

We are engaged in a process of strengthening our own governing structures and relationships amongst ourselves;

We are travelling on a road of learning and adherence to our own principles and laws and;

We are not prepared to establish a new relationship with an organization whose function is unknown and may not adhere to our Nation's principles and laws;

We could support a renewed relationship with an organization that can advocate for and provide the kind of support we need to strengthen our own governing structures. However, it is our Nation who must define this relationship;

We are encouraged by other Nations, who like us, are engaged in similar activities that will lead to stronger Nations.

We acknowledge your efforts and the work of the Commission, but at this time we must continue on our own path.

We will continue to speak and represent ourselves and therefore cannot support any change or process that may effectively diminish our voice.