
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 12, 13, & 14, 2016; NIAGARA FALLS, ON

Resolution no. 23/2016

TITLE: Support for the National Indian Football Association Canada

SUBJECT: Sport, Health and Wellness

MOVED BY: Chief Bob Chamberlain, Kwikwasuti'nuxw First Nation, BC


SECONDED BY: Chief Harvey Underwood, Tsawout First Nation, BC

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The Native Indian Football Association (NIFA) has been in existence for 25 years and has developed players and coaches to ensure First Nations athletes gain equal opportunity to strive towards the highest levels of national and international teams and competitions and to organize and host soccer camps and elite tournaments that will enhance development of youth players within First Nations communities in Canada. For the first time ever in the sport of soccer, the NIFA Indigenous Ladies Team Canada won the inaugural 2015 World games gold Medal, a monumental time in history.
- B. The NIFA is in a position to take First Nations soccer programs to the highest level of development and competition and wishes to use a holistic approach based on traditional methods and technical skill development. Working with First Nations and soccer specific organizations, NIFA will develop the highest standard of traditional and technical training plans available to athletes and coaches.
- C. NIFA is working to build the capacity of its elite coaches through workshops, who will in turn coach First Nation youth elite teams regionally and nationally and assist in selection at national identification camps that lead to national and international competitions.
- D. NIFA have built international partners via international soccer tours and cultural exchanges around the world, have developed a memorandum of understanding with our USA counterparts, provided technical soccer information and created technical packages for Brazil at the first world Indigenous games in 2015.

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

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- E. NIFA has created a National Working Group that will assist in the development of soccer and, as a group, provide leadership, advocacy and a voice regionally and nationally to create opportunities for First Nations communities in Canada.

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

1. Support the Native Indian Football Association NIFA as they work to build on the 25 years of football (soccer) in First Nations in Canada and North America in the development of coaches at both the grassroots level to international levels of competition. The approach will be a holistic one offering relevant traditional philosophies that integrate with universal elite sport development models.
2. Call on the national soccer organization, regional soccer organizations, First Nations sport organizations and business corporations to assist NIFA with financial support to develop short and long term football (soccer) development programs for First Nations youth and their coaches in Canada.
3. Call on First Nations sport organizations to support and assist in the development of national level Indigenous teams (men and women, boys and girls) who will participate in international friendly competitions and compete at on-going World Indigenous Games and World Indigenous Soccer Cups in the future.
4. Support the NIFA development of long term program strategies to create sport and soccer infra-structure that will give opportunity for First Nations youth to pursue academic excellence through soccer at the level of their choice that lead to careers, healthy lifestyles, and wellness and help them to become positive role models.
5. Support NIFA, as a leading soccer organization globally, to host and organize soccer events in Canada, be a resource internationally and to work in partnership with Soccer Canada and regional soccer bodies and First Nations sport groups across Canada.

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF