
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 25, 26, & 27, 2017, REGINA, SK**

Resolution no. 03/2017

TITLE: NIHB Coverage of Medical Cannabis

SUBJECT: Health

MOVED BY: Nathan Sack, Proxy, Sipekne'katik (Shubenacadie) First Nation, NS

SECONDED BY: Chief Calvin Sanderson, Chakastaypasin First Nation, SK

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People states:
- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
- B. Call to Action #18 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to acknowledge that the current state of unfavorable Indigenous health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including Indian Residential Schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Indigenous people as identified in international law and constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
- C. The Government of Canada implemented the Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR) and more recently the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR) for the purpose of ensuring access to quality-controlled cannabis products by individuals with medical needs.
- D. The Government of Canada has opted to reimburse Canadian veterans authorized to access and consume cannabis products for medical purposes to ensure that they are not faced with undue financial hardship.

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

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- E.** Current federal policy excludes cannabis products from the Non-Insured Drug Benefit (NIHB) formulary creating inequity amongst comparable drug benefit programs falling within federal jurisdiction.
- F.** Failure to change said policy may result in First Nations individuals being unfairly deprived of effective cannabis therapies due to the inability to bare financial costs of such therapy.
- G.** Given the emerging evidence indicating the potential positive contribution of medical cannabis to the treatment of a variety of conditions prevalent amongst First Nations, the Government of Canada has an obligation to ensure that First Nations have reasonable access to medical cannabis through the NIHB program.

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

- 1.** Direct the Assembly of First Nations to call on the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada to provide open benefit coverage of medical cannabis through the Non-Insured Drug Benefit (NIHB) program to ensure that First Nations requiring such access do not face undue financial hardship.

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF