

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Sixteenth Session

Thursday April 27, 2017

Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Speaker: Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild

During this session, we have heard about the important consideration of the tenth anniversary of the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. In these discussions, a central theme that has been highlighted is the right to self-determination. An example of the implementation of the UN Declaration, that is a fundamental part of self-determination, is the cultural manifestation through traditional games and sport, as recognized under article 31.

Under this afternoon's agenda item, follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum: Empowerment of Indigenous Women and Indigenous Youth, article 31 and these associated rights can uplift the rights of Indigenous women and youth in a positive way. Indeed, the WIN Games are referenced, and recommended, in six previous Permanent Forum session reports.

In 2015, under the outstanding leadership of Marcos and Carlos Terena of the Inter-Tribal Committee, the First World Indigenous Nations Games were held in Palmas, Tocantins, Brazil. The World Indigenous Nations Games are a celebration of life that also meet all the mandated areas of this UN Permanent Forum – health, education, environment, development, culture and human rights.

We have the great honour to invite all delegations present to the second World Indigenous Nations (WIN) Games, a worldwide event that celebrates sport, traditional indigenous games and cultures of the world's Indigenous Peoples. These will be held in Treaty No. 6 Territory, co-hosted by the Enoch Cree Nation, the City of Edmonton and the University of Alberta and WIN Sports International from July 1st to the 9th, 2017. Along with traditional games and sport, the event will feature cultural celebrations and human rights conferences. To date we have strong statements of commitments from delegations of more than 30 countries. Please, come and join us in this celebration of our right to play, to be happy and to life itself!

Hai Hai (Thank you).