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TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 33 - 12 (1) TABLED ON DEC 17 1991

NOTION 91/92-025

21ST DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
 BELL ROCK, DENENDEH
 JULY 29 - AUGUST 5, 1991

RE: SOBRIETY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PERSONNEL

WHEREAS this Assembly believes that alcohol and drugs are major threats to the health and wellbeing of Dene in Denendeh; and

WHEREAS the Dene Nation recognizes the danger and harm of substance abuse, often resulting in death, physical injury and family violence; and

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories provides contribution funding to local organizations in 41 N.W.T. communities to operate alcohol and drug counselling projects; and

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is implementing a Strategic Plan for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services that will significantly increase contribution funding for existing and additional addictions treatment centres; and

WHEREAS the Dene of the Northwest Territories have traditionally valued personal honesty, effective role modelling and healthy living as the cornerstones to counselling troubled or ill members of our communities; and

WHEREAS the effectiveness of addictions counselling is reduced when the conduct of alcohol and drug workers becomes inconsistent with the philosophy of a healthy alcohol- and drug-free lifestyle; and

WHEREAS the credibility of alcohol and drug workers in community settings is significantly diminished by their personal use of intoxicants; and

WHEREAS the operation of an efficient community treatment or prevention project is hindered when employees embrace a lifestyle which places them at risk of addiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dene Nation express its unlimited support for obligating each recipient of 1991-92 contribution funding for the operation of alcohol and drug counselling projects:

- a) To ensure the effective operation of the program by hiring only employees who practice sobriety.

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Government of N.W.T.
 Northwest Territories

- b) To ensure that all employees of the project understand that sobriety means total abstinence from alcohol and drugs, and,
- c) To ensure that current employees of the project who do not practice sobriety be identified, and be provided with counselling and treatment to attain sobriety, and
- d) To ensure that the civil servants of the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Social Services, Division of Alcohol and Drug Programs adhere to the practice of sobriety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dene Nation strongly recommend to the Government of the Northwest Territories that a policy framework should be developed to ensure that such obligations are placed on recipients of alcohol and drug contribution funding in subsequent years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dene Nation communicate with aboriginal and regional organizations throughout the Northwest Territories to encourage support for the principle that alcohol and drug workers should practice sobriety.

MOVED BY: CHIEF PAT MARTEL, HAY RIVER

SECONDED BY: ERNEST TONKA, DELEGATE FORT SIMPSON

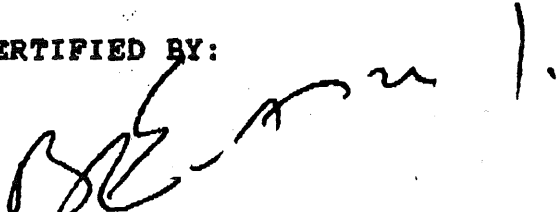
FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION IS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THIS 4TH DAY OF AUGUST 1991

CERTIFIED BY:



**BILL ERASMUS
DENE NATIONAL CHIEF**