



**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE
FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION**

- WHEREAS,** This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and
- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes, generally authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arickara Elders Organization is an officially chartered Tribal corporation by Tribal Resolution #00-125-DS B dated May 4, 2000. and
- WHEREAS,** This corporation is organized to advocate and plan programs and services on behalf of Tribal members 60 years of age and older, and
- WHEREAS,** This age group of tribal members experienced the greatest impact of the flood control act of 1944, Construction of the Garrison dam flooded the rich bottom lands that supported our ranching and farming economy, and
- WHEREAS,** Reports by the Missouri River Investigation Group and the Joint Tribal Advisory Group document that in the 1940's before the flood, the Three Affiliated Tribes were economically self-sufficient; as the bottom lands of Fort Berthold were characterized in these reports as a "natural factory," or "a productive engine," that provided for all the economic needs of the Tribal members and the bottomlands of the Fort Berthold reservation, as utilized by the tribal members, made a self-generating economy possible; and
- WHEREAS,** Today MHA Elders major source of income is social security. According to a recent survey, the average monthly social security benefit of MHA elders is approximately \$369.00 per month compared to the national average social security benefits \$895.00 per month, (See Attachment), and,
- WHEREAS,** Most MHA elders are no longer in the labor force due to age and physical infirmities and have not been able to fully participate in these tribal plans; and
- WHEREAS,** The MHA elders have advised the Tribal Business Council that their greatest need today is for adequate income to provide for their basic needs of housing, subsistence, utilities and health care; and,



WHEREAS, In the past the Social Security Administration has amended their rules and regulations or changes have been made to the authorizing legislation to extend benefits to special groups of people such as farmers, ranchers, religious and charitable groups; and

WHEREAS, The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arickara elders organization has requested the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Tribal Business Council to seek ways to "buy back" social security benefits for MHA tribal elders or to either negotiate on their behalf with the social security administration to increase their monthly social security benefits to the national average of \$895.00 or to seek legislative changes in the Social Security Act; and

WHEREAS, The Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara Elders Organization as advocates for the elders of the Fort Berthold Reservation has respectfully requested the Three Affiliated Tribes to seek ways to provide financial assistance to purchase remaining quarters of the social security benefits of elders.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribal Business Council hereby approves the request of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arickara elders organization to seek ways to "buy back" social security benefits for MHA tribal elders and to either negotiate on their behalf with the Social Security Administration to increase our monthly social security benefits to the national average of \$895.00 or to seek legislative changes in the Social Security Act or if necessary the Equitable Compensation Act; and

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Business Council hereby resolves to seek ways to provide financial assistance to the elders of the Tribe to purchase remaining quarters of the social security benefits of the elders so as to increase their total benefits.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 7 members of whom 5 constitute a quorum, 7 were present at a Regular Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 13th day of February, 2003; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such Meeting by the affirmative vote of 7 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Chairman Voting. [] Not Voting.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2003.

Randy Phelan
Secretary, Randy Phelan
Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:

Tex G. Hall
Chairman, Tex G. Hall
Tribal Business Council