

**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 Three Affiliated Tribes has a long history of caring for its neediest members, and has developed an extensive social services effort to assist its members in various ways, including administration of former programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs that provide direct services to members in such areas as child nutrition and general assistance, cooperation with state and federally administered programs such as food stamps, temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) and Job Service, and development of job training and employment placement programs and in many other programs; and
- WHEREAS,** The welfare reform act passed by Congress in 1996, known as the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) creates both opportunities and responsibilities for tribes and their members who have been receiving welfare assistance from the state and other sources, as the main features of the Act create a time limit for receipt of welfare assistance, thereby forcing the vast majority of welfare recipients to seek and gain employment; and
- WHEREAS,** The majority of the persons who presently receive welfare assistance from the state in the form of TANF are Native Americans, which means that Native Americans are the largest single group that will be affected by the time limits and employment requirements of the PRWORA; and
- WHEREAS,** The requirements of the PRWORA and the nature of the welfare case load in North Dakota make it essential for the Three Affiliated Tribes to develop its own jobs and job training programs and to assist in creating more job opportunities on the Fort Berthold Reservation, and to continue to cooperate with the state of North Dakota as it interacts with the tribes in North Dakota in developing appropriate services for TANF recipients who are Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** The Interim Committee of the North Dakota Legislature on Welfare Reform is now considering what legislative recommendations need to be made to the next North Dakota Legislative Assembly convening in 1999 regarding the relation of the state to the needs of welfare recipients who are located on the Indian reservations in North Dakota; and
- WHEREAS,** On the national level, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies are developing new regulations and programs concerning implementation of the PRWORA and its impact on other government programs, and are consulting with Tribes concerning these changes; and

WHEREAS, Leo Cummings, who is the Director of Tribal Employment Services, and who administers a broad array of employment training and jobs programs for the benefit of welfare recipients under the umbrella of Federal legislation allowing programs to be coordinated to achieve the maximum benefit for persons who need such assistance, has a detailed understanding of the knowledge of the PRWORA and its impact on the Three Affiliated Tribes, and also has a broad knowledge of the resources available to the Three Affiliated Tribes at the tribal, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, Leo Cummings has extensive experience dealing with tribal, state and federal officials concerning employment and other welfare assistance issues;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes hereby appoints Leo Cummings as the principal Tribal resource person on issues of welfare reform at the tribal, state and federal level, and authorizes Mr. Cummings to be the Tribe's representative concerning welfare reform issues, working in coordination with the Tribal Business Council, on the following matters: 1) The study resolution regarding the interrelationship of North Dakota and Indian tribes on welfare reform issues now pending before the Legislative Council's Interim Committee on Welfare Reform; 2) coordination of services with the North Dakota Department of Human Services, including welfare reform issues and the possibility of development of a Tribal TANF program allowed by the PRWORA, in coordination and cooperation with the Tribal Social Services Department; 3) representing the Tribe on national issues of regulatory reform affecting federal welfare programs; and 4) working with Tribal and local officials to maximize resources available to Tribal TANF recipients;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mr. Cummings will on a regular periodic basis keep the Tribal Business Council informed of his activities in regard to welfare reform issues and will not make any decisions that would affect the Tribe with regard to such issues without consultation and approval of such decisions by the Tribal Business Council.

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 24th day of June, 1998; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such Meeting by the affirmative vote of 6 members, 1 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Dated this 24th day of June, 1998.

Dayton Spotted Bear
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Chairman, Tribal Business Council