

Oneida Nation

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Oneida, WI 54155

BC Resolution # 10-13-21-D Support of Food Sovereignty and Food Sovereignty Policy

- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section 1, of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation community, like other indigenous communities across the globe, has suffered a history of loss due to colonization and forced assimilation in the form of land loss, culture loss, identity loss, and indigenous diet loss; and
- WHEREAS,** due to these historical traumas that continue to be intergenerationally inherited today, our indigenous populations see a disproportionately higher rate of physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual negative health impacts, including but not limited to: obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, suicide, substance abuse, alcoholism, domestic violence, sexual abuse, discrimination, dehumanization, oppression and racism; and
- WHEREAS,** indigenous peoples continue to suffer negative health consequences as they attempt to navigate themselves in a society in which health equity continues to be a systematic problem that focuses on western society disease management and prescription medication and fails to acknowledge indigenous knowledge, which leads to the continuation of these negative health consequences. Today we acknowledge a balanced approach of western medicine and indigenous medicine which include medicinal plants, medicine societies, indigenous diet, and holistic health; and
- WHEREAS,** our original instructions, our worldview as On[^]yote? aka, connects us to the land, all of creation and ties us to the Kanehelat&hsla and the spirituality of farming, hunting, gathering, growing, harvesting, fishing, and agriculture that sustained us with our spiritual medicines, herbal medicines and foods that nourished our bodies, minds, emotions and spirits; and
- WHEREAS,** it is for these reasons, these original instructions have been embraced by our Tsyunhehk[^] Agricultural operation, Oneida Nation Cannery, and OCIFS program since their inception, in which these operations have worked to transfer such knowledge of the value of sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty to our community and have championed such efforts for decades, being innovative leaders across Indian country; and
- WHEREAS,** since the control of indigenous food systems have been taken over by industrialized society, sovereign control of indigenous food systems is no longer promoted by western society; and

WHEREAS, according to the Declaration of Nyéléni made at the Forum on Food Sovereignty in Sélingué, Mali, “food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems”; and

WHEREAS, taking control over our own food systems and embracing Tsi niyukwaliho t[^] to build a culturally significant and sustainable sovereign local food system can prove to reconnect us with our land, culture, identity and spiritual wellness as Ukwehuwe, and indigenous diets; and

WHEREAS, by mending these historical losses, a sustainable food sovereignty initiative will serve to empower our people and community and work to combat these negative physical, mental, social, and spiritual health disparities, serving as a comprehensive strength-based approach to overall wellness in our community as well as a preventative intervention for our future generations by working to heal our minds, bodies, spirits, and emotions; and

WHEREAS, by empowering our community members in taking control of our local food system, we can strengthen our local economy while simultaneously addressing the systematic health inequities that exist in indigenous populations through the recognition that our food is our medicine;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida Nation Business Committee does hereby support our food sovereignty initiative which contains the following elements:

- Taking control over our own food systems and embracing Tsi niyukwaliho t[^] to build a culturally significant and sustainable sovereign local food system can prove to reconnect us with our land, culture, identity and spiritual wellness as Ukwehuwe, and indigenous diets;
- Mending these historical losses by creating a sustainable food sovereignty initiative will serve to empower our people and community and work to combat these negative physical, mental, social, and spiritual health disparities, serving as a comprehensive strength-based approach to overall wellness in our community as well as a preventative intervention for our future generations by working to heal our minds, bodies, spirits, and emotions; and
- By empowering our community members in taking control of our local food system, we can strengthen our local economy while simultaneously addressing the systematic health inequities that exist in indigenous populations through the recognition that our food is our medicine

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Oneida Business Committee directs the Quality of Life Committee to continue to provide appointed oversight of health and wellness issues to include food sovereignty and food security issues and provide recommendations of improvement in alignment with meeting the needs, commitment to Tsi niyukwaliho t[^], and creativity of our community members and established programs that provide and produce access to healthy foods for our people, thereby strengthening food sovereignty for us today and for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Oneida Business Committee continues to support the leadership Tsyunhekw[^], the Oneida Nation Cannery, and OCIFS has already shown in our food sovereignty efforts, and to make our food systems components accountable to each other and to the Nation, and strengthen this network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the intent of this resolution is to support the Oneida Nation, Oneida members and the Reservation community in the continued modeling how sustainable food sovereignty can be used to address and strengthen overall health and wellness within tribal nations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Oneida Business Committee directs the organization under the General Manager of the Nation to prioritize, budget, and implement this initiative as identified in this resolution and further identified in a formally adopted food sovereignty policy directed to be developed by this resolution.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum; 8 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 13th day of October, 2021; that the forgoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 7 members for, 0 members against, and 0 members not voting*; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.



Lisa Liggins, Secretary
Oneida Business Committee

*According to the By-Laws, Article I, Section 1, the Chair votes "only in the case of a tie."