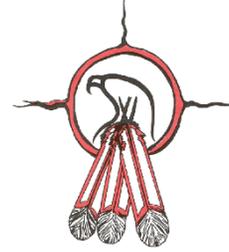


# BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

## Pikangikum First Nation

Pikangikum, Ontario P0V 2L0  
Tel. No.: 807-773-5578 / 773-5523



### Chronological No.

	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
<b>DATE</b>	7	10	2014

**WHEREAS** the Whitefeather Forest Initiative is a community economic renewal and resource stewardship initiative of Pikangikum First Nation that is being guided by our Elders and which is rooted in the rich and enduring Keeping the Land customary resource stewardship tradition of our people; and

**WHEREAS** a key goal of the Initiative is to provide land-based opportunities not only for our future generations but for the youth of our rapidly growing First Nation which now has 3,000 on-reserve Pikangikum citizens; and

**WHEREAS** our First Nation suffers from a 90% unemployment rate and our people bear deep scars from the destruction of our historic trapping economy; and

**WHEREAS** in 1996 our Elders, with no outside involvement, decided that the time had come where commercial forestry, guided by our Keeping the Land stewardship tradition, would be pursued as a new contemporary livelihood opportunity for our people; and

**WHEREAS** our rich Keeping the Land stewardship tradition, of which our Elders are the primary Keepers, embodies the reality of our ancestral lands, including our Whitefeather Forest, as an Indigenous Cultural Landscape which is a landscape that has been described by one of our Elders who taught that: ‘There is no place you can go on this land that you will not find the presence of our people. We are reflected in the land and the land is reflected in us’, and

**WHEREAS** through our rich indigenous resource stewardship tradition our people have treasured and nurtured the gifts that the Creator placed on our lands – the animals, the birds, the fish, the trees – every Living One – Bimaadiziwaach – gifted to us by the Creator for our well-being and to which we must always give our thanks as indigenous people as a way to give praise to the Creator; and

**WHEREAS** our rich Keeping the Land stewardship tradition embodies sophisticated resource stewardship norms and practices – a complete indigenous resource management system – that has been utilized by our people, even under duress and threat, to nurture greater abundance and diversity of Living Ones – while sustaining the land and the freedom of all Living Ones to live in the freedom gifted to them by the Creator; and

**WHEREAS** the existence of our Indigenous Cultural Landscape has been made invisible in the culture and laws of the settler society which continues to view our land as a wilderness; and

**WHEREAS** this has led to our ongoing and continued suffering and marginalization that has been experienced over generations, including by our Elders who are still with us, such as Elder Gideon Peters, who planted upper regions of the Berens River with Manomin (‘wild rice’) only to have it appropriated and licensed by the settler government to a non-native business for its sole commercial use, and such as Elder Solomon Turtle, who was hounded by the settler government for practicing our customary indigenous pyrotechnology; and

**WHEREAS** this impact of the settler society continues to be a main contributor to the ongoing marginalization and suffering of our people in that we are prevented by a host of state laws and resource management systems, many of which have been advocated for by non-indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations, from carrying out much of our customary stewardship and establishing contemporary livelihood opportunities for our people, and

**WHEREAS** at its 2014 General Assembly in Madrid, the Forest Stewardship Council, a Non-Governmental Organization that includes and is heavily influenced by non-indigenous international forestry corporations and environmental organizations,

**WHEREAS** neither the Government of Pikangikum First Nation nor the Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority was informed or consulted about Motion 65 on Intact Forest Landscapes, nor are we aware of a single indigenous government or indigenous forestry enterprise within our region that was made aware or consulted by those who proposed and seconded Motion 65 or let alone gave their Free Prior and Informed Consent to the motion prior to it being presented and adopted at the 2014 FSC Assembly

**WHEREAS** Motion 65 would impose an alien system of land and forestry management on our people with devastating effects on us: severely restricting our ability to implement our forestry goals on our ancestral lands in the Whitefeather Forest; and, entrenching non-indigenous checkerboard and plantation-based forestry on our ancestral lands south of the Whitefeather Forest;

**WHEREAS** by not even acknowledging let alone recognizing the true nature of our ancestral lands the implementation of this Motion would only result in the continuation of the degradation of our Indigenous Cultural Landscape under non-indigenous forest management practices in forests that are or proposed to be certified by FSC;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Government of Pikangikum First Nation totally rejects FSC Assembly 2014 Motion 65 as it embodies an approach to the designation and certification of forestry on our ancestral lands that is profoundly discriminatory, profoundly hurtful to our people, and destructive to our Indigenous way

of life, our ability to create livelihood opportunities in forestry, and our Cultural Landscape;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Government of Pikangikum First Nation totally rejects Motion 65 as we were not consulted about this motion and, without proper consultation, we have had no opportunity to consider the implications of this motion and apply the principle of giving our Free, Prior and Informed Consent;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Pikangikum First Nation invites other interested indigenous nations and indigenous forestry and forest-based enterprises to join with us in a project to create an indigenous community-based forest management standard which we would recommend for adoption by the FSC as an Indigenous Forest Certification standard, a standard that would embody our Indigenous Cultural Landscapes, and be rooted in the indigenous norms of respect, reciprocity, sharing and equity practiced in a way that treasures the sacred mandate given to us by the Creator to sustain and nurture the diversity and abundance of all Living Ones on our ancestral lands;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Government of Pikangikum First Nation requests the Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority to take a lead role in this project for the people of Pikangikum and make available its expertise to this project, especially the knowledge of our Elders.

QUORUM 7

  
Chief

Deputy Chief



Councillor



Councillor

Councillor

Councillor



Councillor

Councillor



Councillor



Councillor

  
Councillor