



CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS

RESOLUTION #003/23.01.2009

SUBJECT: CONFEDERACY OF TREATY 6 FIRST NATIONS IN SUPPORT OF A BAN ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL USE OF THE PESTICIDE LINDANE

MOVED BY: CHIEF CAMERON ALEXIS, ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF EDDY MAKOKIS, SADDLE LAKE CREE NATION

WHEREAS AT A DULY CONVENED EMERGENCY HEALTH MEETING OF THE CHIEFS' OF TREATY No. 6 HELD THE 23RD DAY OF JANUARY 2009 IN ENOCH, ALBERTA; AND

WHEREAS THE ISSUE OF LINDANE WAS DISCUSSED BY THE CHIEFS OF TREATY No. 6; AND

WHEREAS CONTINUING USE OF THE PESTICIDE LINDANE IN PHARMACEUTICAL TREATMENTS FOR HEAD LICE AND SCABIES CAUSES HARM TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN; AND

WHEREAS A SINGLE TREATMENT FOR HEAD LICE OR SCABIES CONTAINS ENOUGH LINDANE TO CONTAMINATE 6 MILLION GALLONS OF DRINKING WATER ABOVE SAFE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS; AND

WHEREAS LINDANE IS A PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANT ("POP") WHICH, LIKE DDT AND OTHER POPS, ACCUMULATES IN THE FOOD CHAIN AND THE BODIES OF ANIMALS AND HUMANS, CREATING SERIOUS HEALTH IMPACTS. YOUNG CHILDREN SUFFER THE MOST SERIOUS AFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO POPS; AND

WHEREAS LINDANE IS A TOXIC CHEMICAL THAT IS ASSOCIATED WITH SERIOUS HEALTH EFFECTS, INCLUDING DAMAGE TO THE DEVELOPING BRAIN, HARM TO THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM, SEIZURES, BLOOD DISORDERS, AND CANCER. THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS' CLINICAL REPORT RECOMMENDS AGAINST THE USE OF LINDANE BECAUSE OF ITS LOW EFFICACY, TOXICITY TO THE CENTRAL NERVOUS



CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS

SYSTEM AND DOCUMENTATION OF CASES OF SEVERE SEIZURES IN CHILDREN; AND

WHEREAS SIX TO TEN TONS OF HIGHLY TOXIC WASTE PRODUCTS (KNOWN AS ALPHA- AND BETA-HCH ISOMERS) ARE PRODUCED WITH EVERY TON OF LINDANE MANUFACTURED. IN ADDITION TO ITS EFFECTS ON CHILDREN AND OTHERS WHO ARE DIRECTLY EXPOSED, LINDANE AND ASSOCIATED HCH WASTES THREATEN THE HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD OF COMMUNITIES IN THE ARCTIC WHERE IT IS TRANSPORTED VIA WIND AND OCEAN CURRENTS; AND

WHEREAS LINDANE AND ITS ISOMERS, SUCH AS BETA-HCH, ARE AMONG THE MOST COMMON CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT. THESE TOXIC CHEMICALS ACCUMULATE IN ARCTIC FOOD SOURCES, VIOLATING THE RIGHT TO HEALTHY TRADITIONAL FOODS, AND ARE FOUND IN ELEVATED LEVELS IN THE BLOOD AND BREAST MILK OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE ARCTIC REGION; AND

WHEREAS THE ELIMINATION OF LINDANE PRODUCTION IS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT SOURCES OF HCH CONTAMINATION THAT CAUSE UNNECESSARY HARM TO THE HEALTH OF WORKERS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PROXIMITY TO PRODUCTION FACILITIES, ANIMALS AND PEOPLE OF THE ARCTIC; AND

WHEREAS THE PHARMACEUTICAL USE OF LINDANE ON CHILDREN AND ADULT PEOPLE IS STILL PERMITTED IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, ALTHOUGH IT IS BANNED FOR USE ON ANIMALS AND IN AGRICULTURE; AND

WHEREAS USES OF LINDANE HAVE BEEN BANNED IN MORE THAN 52 OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD; AND

WHEREAS SAFE AND AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVES ARE AVAILABLE TO REPLACE THE USE OF THE DANGEROUS CHEMICAL LINDANE; AND

WHEREAS THE REPORT OF THE NORTH AMERICA REGION PREPARATORY MEETING SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES SEVENTH SESSION (UNPFII7) IN APRIL 2007 AND AFFIRMED BY CONSENSUS OF THE



CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS

NORTH AMERICA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING (FEBRUARY 22ND AND 23RD 2008, VANCOUVER BRITISH COLUMBIA) STATED THAT (PARAGRAPH 33): "PARTICIPANTS URGE THE UNPFII7 TO ADVISE THE UNITED STATES TO JOIN THE REST OF THE WORLD AND BAN THIS DANGEROUS PESTICIDE WHICH THREATENS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, IN PARTICULAR CHILDREN, AND TO PUT THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN OVER AND ABOVE THE INTERESTS OF CORPORATIONS THAT PROFIT FROM LINDANE SALES IN THE UNITED STATES;" AND

WHEREAS THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (ARTICLE 29, PARAGRAPH 2) DECLARES THAT: "STATES SHALL TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT NO STORAGE OR DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SHALL TAKE PLACE IN THE LANDS OR TERRITORIES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WITHOUT THEIR FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT;" AND

WHEREAS THE PRODUCTION, EXPORT AND UNMONITORED USE OF BANNED, PROHIBITED AND DANGEROUS TOXICS INCLUDING PESTICIDES VIOLATES A RANGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AROUND THE WORLD. MANY OF THESE RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND CONVENTIONS. THESE RIGHTS INCLUDE THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, RIGHT TO HEALTH, FOOD SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT, LIFE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY, FREE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT, CULTURAL RIGHTS, THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM ALL FORMS OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES NOT TO BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR OWN MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CONFEDERACY OF TREATY 6 FIRST NATIONS HEREBY DIRECTS THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA (HEALTH CANADA) AND THE UNITED STATES (U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION) TO BAN PHARMACEUTICAL USES OF LINDANE; AND

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CONFEDERACY OF TREATY 6 FIRST NATIONS CALLS UPON THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION TO




CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS

INCLUDE LINDANE, AS WELL AS ALPHA- AND BETA-HCH UNDER THE PROVISIONS ANNEX A OF THE CONVENTION WITH NO EXEMPTIONS.

QUESTION CALLED

VOTE: RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFIED CORRECT BY:


CHAIRPERSON
