



Indian Resource Council of Canada

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Indian Resource Council

Symposium on Control over Indian Oil and Gas Canada

October 18, 2019

Whereas, the Indian Resource Council (IRC) was founded in 1987 by a group of chiefs representing oil and gas producing First Nations with a mandate among other things, “to support the member First Nations in their efforts to attain full management and control of their oil and natural gas resources, and to ultimately replace and perform the duties of Indian Oil and Gas Canada (IOGC)”;

Whereas, the implementation of the mandate to replace IOGC was articulated in a 1996 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the IRC and the Government of Canada designed for First Nations to assume full management and control of their oil and gas resources in a staged take over of IOGC starting with a capacity building phase called co-management, progressing to delegated authority and culminating with a full management phase;

Whereas, the co-management phase created a Co-Management Board with representatives from the IRC and the federal government which has been in place since 1996 but has had limited success in effectively influencing the activities of the IOGC organization;

Whereas, discussion at the 2019 AGM centered on continuing to work with the federal government to pursue any changes desired by member First Nations, specifically, for the IRC engage directly with member First Nations to verify their interest in change from the *status quo* to First Nations assuming greater control over oil/gas development;

Whereas, as a step toward First Nations engagement, the IRC convened a meeting of senior leaders of major oil and gas producers in April 2019 to discuss options for greater control;

Whereas, the consensus of the major producers meetings was that it is timely for the IRC to take active measures to take back control over First Nations affairs and to this end, should initiate negotiations to take over control of the operation of IOGC, and

Whereas, the elements of a negotiation mandate were presented, discussed, and agreed upon at this Symposium;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

That the IRC advise the Government of Canada that it wishes to enter into negotiations forthwith to facilitate First Nations control over IOGC, based upon recognition of First Nations inherent right of self-determination, recognition of the fiduciary relationship between the Crown and First Nations and the paramountcy of Inherent rights, Treaties and Treaty relationships;

That the IRC insist upon sufficient multi-year resources to enable it to represent First Nations' interests;

That the IRC report back to member First Nations at the 2020 Annual General Meeting on the progress of the negotiations; and further

That nothing in this resolution shall affect or abrogate from the Aboriginal, Treaty and constitutional rights and an jurisdiction and authority of member First Nations including their inherent jurisdiction and sovereignty over existing reserve and traditional territories.

Verified: Stephen Buffalo, President and CEO
Indian Resource Council

Date: October 18, 2019 at Rover Cree Resort, Enoch, Alberta