



# The Council of Three Fires

## WALPOLE ISLAND FIRST NATION POLITICAL DECLARATION

### Walpole Island First Nation's Political War on Drugs Declaration

Illicit drugs and inappropriate drug use destroys lives and communities, undermines human development and generates crime. Drugs affect all sectors of our society, in particular, the freedom and development of our young people, Walpole Island First Nation's (WIFN's) most valuable asset. Drugs are a grave threat to the health and well being of Walpole Island First Nation. Our democracy and community stability, as well as the dignity and hope of our people, our families, our community, and our nation are all impacted by this growing problem.

#### Therefore we, the Walpole Island Chief and Council are:


Concerned about the serious drug issue in our community and resolve to tackle the problem in a spirit of trust and cooperation, therefore we:

1. **Affirm** our unwavering determination and commitment to overcoming the Walpole Island First Nation's illegal and inappropriate drug use problem through local and national strategies to reduce both the supply of and demand for drugs;
2. **Recognize** that action against the community's drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that requires an integrated and balanced approach respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Walpole Island First Nation as well as protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms of our members. Walpole Island First Nation is convinced that the Walpole Island First Nation's drug problem must be addressed at all levels of our society and we commit to working together with our civil authorities, such as police, social, health, education and other sectors to eliminate our community's drug problem;
3. **Reaffirm** our support for local and international cooperation to combat Walpole Island First Nation's drug problem and resolve to strengthen the functioning and governance of our community in order to fully address the drug problem;
4. **Recognize** with deep concern the influx, consumption/ingestion and inappropriate use of illicit drugs, such as methamphetamines, cocaine, as well as oxycontin and other prescription drugs;
5. **Welcome** the efforts of the wide range of people working in various sectors against drug abuse in our community;
6. **Encourage** the healthy behaviour of the majority of Walpole Island First Nation youth who do not consume illegal drugs, notably by investing in and working with Walpole Island First Nation youth through formal and informal education, information activities and other preventive measures as required and identified by Walpole Island First Nation youth;
7. **Affirm** our determination to provide the necessary resources for treatment and rehabilitation; to enable social reintegration to restore dignity and hope to children, youth, women and men who have become drug abusers, and to fight against all aspects of the Walpole Island First Nation drug problem;
8. **Call upon** the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments to join the fight against Walpole Island First Nation's drug problem in their programmes by taking into account the priorities of the Walpole Island First Nation community members, leadership, staff and organizational structures;
9. **Express** deep concern about links between illicit drug production, trafficking and involvement of organized crime and criminal activities and are resolved to strengthen our cooperation in response to those threats;
10. **Express** alarm by the growing violence resulting from links between illicit production of and illicit trafficking in drugs, and resolve to increase our cooperation in stemming illegal drug trafficking and to achieve concrete results for the Walpole Island First Nation community by taking these appropriate measures and necessary action;
11. **Call upon** our community members, especially families, and our political, religious, educational, cultural, sports, business and non-governmental organizations and the media to actively promote a society free of drug abuse by emphasizing and facilitating healthy, productive and fulfilling alternatives to the consumption of illicit and inappropriate use of drugs, which must not become accepted as a way of life;
12. **Devote** particular attention by 2008 as a target date for Walpole Island First Nation to eliminating or significantly reducing the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of illicit and inappropriate drugs within our First Nation;
13. **Undertake** special effort against the laundering of money and gift certificate usage linked to drug trafficking;
14. **Emphasize** the importance of strengthening community cooperation across all sectors of our society and programs;
15. **Undertake** community, regional, and bilateral cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities to deal with criminal activities and organizations involved in drug offences and related criminal activities;
16. **Reaffirm** the need for a comprehensive approach to eliminate the Walpole Island First Nation drug problem by emphasizing the need for eradication programmes and law enforcement measures to counter illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking;
17. **Call upon** Walpole Island First Nation Chief and Council as well as all programs and services to report annually to Walpole Island First Nation community members on their efforts in addressing the Walpole Island First Nation's drug problem.

We, the Walpole Island First Nation Chief and Council, are resolved that such commitments will be met by practical action and the resources needed to ensure real and measurable results;


Together, we can meet this challenge.

Signed by:

  
Chief Joseph Gilbert

  
Councillor Patrick H. Isaac

  
Councillor Mandy Jones

  
Councillor Virgil Nahdee

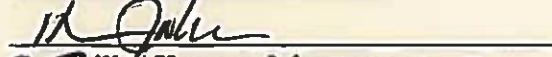
  
Councillor Muriel Sampson

  
Councillor Rocky Sands

  
Councillor Roderick Shipman

DATE: March 18, 2008

  
Councillor Elizabeth Altman

  
Councillor Kennon Johnson

  
Councillor Daniel R. Miskokomon

  
Councillor Clint Peters

  
Councillor Charles R. Sampson

  
Councillor Ronald Soney

  
Witness