



## The Council of Three Fires Walpole Island First Nation: Political Declaration on Elder Abuse Prevention

We acknowledge the value of our Bkejwanong Elders and the roles they fulfill in our community to ensure our ancestral ways are not lost to current and future generations. They are the ones who carry the values so vital to our identity as anishnaabe people. We understand also that as the progression of life brings with it challenges and vulnerabilities, some of our Elders may become subject to abuses which contradict our Seven Grandfather Teachings.

Therefore we, the Walpole Island Chief and Council are -


Concerned about the issue of Elder Abuse within our community and take the position that such abuse is a violation of the basic human rights of our elders. As a step toward mapping our healing journey, we resolve to:

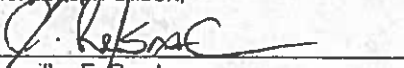
1. **Affirm** our commitment to affect change to the betterment of our Walpole Island First Nation Elders in relation to the issue of elder abuse as it exists currently in our community.
2. **Recognize** with deep concern the hardships and challenges placed upon our elders as a result of the abuses that are presently taking place.
3. **Realize** that successful efforts require a comprehensive approach that will enlist the involvement and participation of all sectors of our population.
4. **Welcome** the efforts of all who would take action to bring about positive change in our communal attitudes/values with respect to this cause.
5. **Call upon** all community members to promote the sacred trust bestowed upon us as a people, to hold in esteem those who go before us.
6. **Reaffirm** our support for local initiatives as well as for the linkages that may be established in the efforts of those addressing this issue, specifically the efforts of our own Elder Abuse Awareness Committee.
7. **Encourage** a healthy respect and regard to all vulnerable segments of our population; especially our elderly who have made lifelong contributions to our cultural identity.
8. **Undertake** special efforts to establish relevant bylaws, policies and guidelines for action in relation to elder abuse as well as to enforce them.
9. **Emphasize** the importance of involvement and cooperation throughout all levels of our local government and administration in all efforts to address the issue.

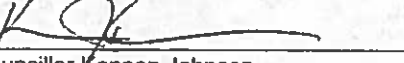
We, the Walpole Island First Nation Chief and Council, are resolved that these commitments will be maintained as a priority to achieve real and measurable results while maintaining accountability to the community as a whole.

Together, we can meet this challenge.

Signed by:

  
Chief Joseph Gilbert

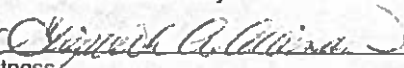
  
Councillor E. Rex Isaac


  
Councillor Kennon Johnson

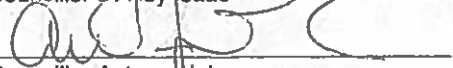
Councillor Virgil Nantdee

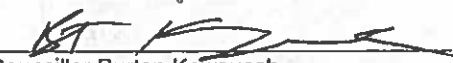
  
Councillor Chris Riley

  
Councillor Ronald Sney

  
Witness

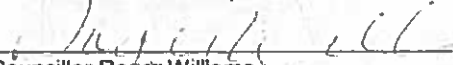
  
Councillor D. Roy Isaac

  
Councillor Autumn Johnson

  
Councillor Burton Kewayosh

Councillor Clint Peters

  
Councillor Roderick Shipman

  
Councillor Roger Williams

29 August 2011  
Date