



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET Resolution No. 2012:041

#### MAINE WABANAKI-STATE CHILD WELFARE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

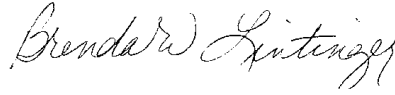
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** The actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** taking Native children from their homes and communities and raising them in non-Indian homes was a tool used by the United States Government to "solve the Indian problem" and was done through the creation of boarding schools in the 1800's and by establishing programs such as the Indian Adoption Project, an experiment run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Child Welfare League of America implemented in the 1950's and 1960's; and
- WHEREAS,** a truth and reconciliation process is effective and beneficial, and is a way to fully acknowledge historical truths and their present day impact as a way to create a process of decolonization; and
- WHEREAS,** truth seeking initiatives can play a powerful role in documenting and acknowledging human rights violations and also contribute to public understanding of past abuses to ensure that these events never happen again; and
- WHEREAS,** the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) process represents the first truth and reconciliation commission within U.S. territory that has been collaboratively developed between Indian Tribes and a State Government; and
- WHEREAS,** this TRC process is unique in that parties on both sides have come together with the best interest of Wabanaki children and families at heart; is a model of collaboration that can be replicated in other areas of Tribal-State relations in Maine and has the potential to be a model for other states as well; and
- WHEREAS,** the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, Penobscot Indian Nation, Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians declare that the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation process is important for the well-being of their people and communities; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors affirms its full support of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests periodic reports about the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the purpose of sharing information about the Commission process with its member Tribes and considering the application of this truth and reconciliation process in other jurisdictions and with other intergovernmental relationships with other Tribal-State matters.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 24, 2012.



Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*