

Dear Friends,

We are in the final days before the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and this will probably be our last update on the progress of the work. The Conference Outcome Document is now almost agreed upon by consensus, and I am glad to say that all four of our recommendations are included, though in much refined language. A copy of the current draft is [attached](#). At this time, a few countries are objecting to paragraph 13 of the document because of its reference to sexual and reproductive health. Further Canada is objecting to the inclusion of the term “free, prior, informed consent” in two places. States are negotiating and doing diplomatic work to overcome these objections. There is hope that these problems will be overcome before the Conference and that the Outcome Document will be adopted in very nearly its present form. None of the objections relate the four priority recommendations that we have fought for and gotten included. We will help with last minute advocacy with objecting states if that is necessary in the next two or three days.

For participants in the Conference in New York, we have received the following important information from Laurie Phipps of the United States Mission to the UN:

Pre-registered participants will all receive a general non-photo pass for the WCIP, and some will receive separate tickets for entry into the General Assembly Hall for the opening session. Each region will have 28 tickets for indigenous participants in the opening session. The Secretariat of the UNPFII is handling confirmation of registration for the general passes, at the **Salvation Army Center on 52nd Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning**. I have been told there will be a table at the Salvation Army Center for each of the regions, where indigenous representatives may get their passes and tickets for the actual sessions. It has not been decided who from North America will be manning the table at the Salvation Army for the North American region. There will be an overflow room in the UN compound’s North Lawn Building, where delegates can not only watch the proceedings with interpretation, but can also meet and swap passes between events.

Kenneth Deer of the Haudenosaunee is informally convening a meeting of the **North American delegates, Sunday from 9 am – 1 pm at the Church Center, corner of East 44th Street and 1st Avenue**, at the request of the UNPFII Secretariat, to try to sort out some logistical and substantive issues. Issues to be discussed include choosing who will get tickets to attend the sessions, and appointing two people who will be responsible for distributing the various passes to the North American delegates, including passes for the various roundtables, interactive panel, and the opening ceremonies.

Please alert participants to leave extra time for getting to sessions, as there can be 15-20 minute long closures of First Avenue, even for pedestrians, when world leaders are entering or exiting the UN compound. This will be more of an issue on Tuesday, September 23, when the Climate Summit is going on simultaneously with the WCIP. There will be police security checkpoints a block away from the UN compound, at Second Avenue; only holders of UN passes will be allowed through the checkpoints. Other streets may be closed to pedestrian and vehicular traffic sporadically throughout the two days of the WCIP. For those of you who have not been to New York during UNGA High Level Week, please be aware that it can be crowded and chaotic, with numerous overlapping and competing events on a wide range of topics, many streets closed to all traffic, and numerous logjams in moving around the area.

I will try to stop by the Salvation Army center sometime Sunday afternoon, after the theatrical performance at the Church Center, in case there are any issues that I might help resolve. As you know,

we are committed to full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the WCIP. Looking forward to a successful and historic event.

Naturally, we will report to you about the Conference itself when it is over. We expect that the Conference speeches will be televised live on the internet. The plan is for the outcome document to be adopted on Monday morning. There will be no debate or negotiation at that stage.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the many, many tribal governments, Indian leaders, Native women's organizations, and Indian organizations for your great and steady support. I am optimistic that we will succeed at last. And after the Conference we will have to continue the work to put the decisions into effect over the coming months and years.

Let us know if you have questions or need further information.

Tim

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