

Bullying & Cyberbullying Prevention Resolution TEMPLATE

(Please consider modifying or tailoring this resolution template to the needs of your Tribe)

Resolution # _____

WHEREAS, the _____ Tribe (hereinafter referred to as “the Tribe”) has been Federally acknowledged by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America on (date); and

WHEREAS, the _____ Tribal Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) is the governing body of the _____ Tribe in accordance with its Constitution adopted on _____ (date), and conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs following Part 81 of the Code of Federal Regulation; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, and education of the Indian people of the _____ Tribe is the responsibility of the _____ Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board works in partnership with the NW tribes to enhance the health status of tribal members, including the health of children and adults, and thus respectfully submits the following bullying and cyberbullying prevention policy, to be considered by the Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, 10% of sixth-tenth grade students report being bullied* in the U.S., and 13% report bullying others; and

WHEREAS, Bullying causes anxiety, depression, poor-self as steam, feelings of being trapped, self-blame and insomnia; and

WHEREAS, Bullying not only causes mental anguish, but can lead to suicide, impacting not only individual health, but the wellbeing of our community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The Portland Area has one of the higher suicide death rates for AI/AN among the IHS service areas. The IHS reported that, from 1996-1998, the age-adjusted suicide death rate for the Portland Area was 22.0 per 100,000, a rate that was exceeded only by Aberdeen, Alaska, Bemidji, and Tucson; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is a significant problem throughout Indian Country, particularly among Native youth, males, veterans, and elders. From 2002-2006, the average suicide death rate was highest among AI/AN aged 10-24 years at 27.72 cases per 100,000. In the Northwest (ID, OR, and WA), suicide is the 8th leading cause of death for AI/AN people and the 2nd leading cause of death for AI/ANs ages 15-24 years; and

WHEREAS, The suicide rate among American Indian/Alaskan Native 15-24 years-olds is twice that of their white counter parts; and

WHEREAS, Bullying is a highly prevalent behavior which carries a significant social, medical and financial cost for its victims and perpetrators, with powerful and long-lasting psychological and social impact defined as a specific form of intentional, repeated aggression, that involves a disparity of power between the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) ; and

WHEREAS, The aggression can take physical, verbal or gestural forms. The behavior of bullying crosses sociodemographic categories of age, gender, ethnicity, level of academic achievement and professional environment; and

WHEREAS, Stereotypes and misconceptions of what it means to be Native American, and inherent bullying by the predominant culture. Generational poverty, generational alcoholism and drug addiction, poor nutrition and diet, substandard and inadequate housing, family structures that are not intact; and

WHEREAS, Native American, Alaskan Native and mixed-race 10th graders at low-minority schools were the most likely to feel "put down by [their] non-ethnic teachers." Teachers hailing from low-minority high schools are likelier to insult, isolate or otherwise marginalize at a rate of 17.3 percent and Native American, Alaskan Native and mixed-race students at 17.8 percent; and

WHEREAS, 25% of adolescents have been bullied repeatedly via their cell phone or the Internet, and more than 1 in 3 young people have experienced cyber threats online; and

WHEREAS, Teens who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, or two-spirit (LGBTQ2S) are even more likely to be victims of cyberbullying; and

WHEREAS, One million children were harassed, threatened, or subjected to other forms of cyberbullying** on Facebook during 2010-2011; and

WHEREAS, 37% of Americans have experienced workplace bullying and 12% have witnessed it; and

WHEREAS, Workplace bullying can initiate many stress-related health complications including: hypertension, auto-immune disorders, depression, anxiety, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Less acculturated families show higher risk of depressive symptoms when fathers experience workplace bullying; and

WHEREAS, Professionals working with Native American communities should consider being culturally responsible; and

WHEREAS, Practitioners, educators, counselors and administrators in the whole community, who are called to provide service that will include best practices and cultural awareness. With bullying on the rise among students in schools, research demonstrates that race, gender or culture is a common reason for incidents; and

WHEREAS, The Sweet grass Method of Bullying Prevention for Native American encourages the incorporation and consultation with spiritual leader's ceremony; 2). Validating the traditional teachings of morals, leadership, respect and life; and 3). Acknowledging the wealth of healing of what works in their community and what doesn't work; and

WHEREAS, Parental and community involvement in the education process of bullying prevention is a critical component of teaching about living in harmony, understanding and respecting life of all ages and kinds; and

WHEREAS, Effectively addressing the high rates of bullying that occur in our community will require us to implement: bullying prevention programs, strategies to normalize standing up to bullying, activities to increase community awareness, and training for parents, educators, those who work with youth, and community members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ Tribe endorses and encourages interventions, trainings, and policies that prevent bullying and increase community awareness about the risks of bullying and how to prevent bullying; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council members will help prevent bullying and set an example for others by participating in bullying prevention activities and modeling good behavior; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this policy shall go into effect immediately, and be incorporated into the Tribes Management and Operations Policy Manual.

Respectfully submitted, _____ (your name).

*Bullying is when someone knowingly and repeatedly hurts a less powerful person. The harm to the recipient can be physical, emotional, or both.

**Cyberbullying includes and is not limited to sending mean messages or threats to a person's email account, social networking sites, webpages, cell phone, spreading rumors online or through texts, stealing a person's account information to break into their account and send damaging messages, taking unflattering pictures of a person and spreading them through cell phones or the Internet, sexting, or circulating sexually suggestive pictures or messages about a person.