Honoured members of the AFN Executive Committee,

I am a member of an organization that serves, among other things, as a political advocacy society, named the Interactive Sovereign Society (ISS). The ISS takes suggestions from members for political objectives to add to its Advocacy Registry. It has an innovative new form of collective decision making — called an interactive electoral system — to achieve resolution on which suggestions are officially accepted by the society. Since creating this registry, one of the first important issues that has come up on which members would like to see a position taken is pushing for proper respect for the sovereignty of the First Nations.

When I was a child I had some interest in how laws are made, and how the people are chosen to write laws, or change them. I remember asking my parents how our law making institutions came into being. They told me that the government had been brought in from elsewhere, and that the people who lived here were forced to live under that government. I sensed the injustice in that immediately and felt sadness and hopelessness that such senseless impositions exist between people in our world.

I was told that the “Indians” didn’t have any laws before “we” came here, so if “we” didn’t make “our government” rule, then the people would be “lawless”. I was naïve enough to believe this, much to my shame many years later. I don’t know whether I was deliberately lied to or just unwittingly brought into complicity with a tyrannical indoctrination that my parents were innocent victims of. I don’t suppose I ever will, but I can make efforts to assist in the reconciliation process that some people in Canada are presently working toward, and that is what I am writing to ask for your guidance upon.

In addition to the lawful sovereignty of the First Nations, I also believe that civilization’s abandonment of respect for the organic balance of an aboriginal lifestyle, in favour of technological arrogance, has a destructive impact upon our world. I grieve for the damage that has been done to our home and I worry about the future if the destructive impact of civilization and technology upon our world continues to grow in scope. I believe that appealing to the people of this planet to see the beauty of an aboriginal lifestyle — sustainable symbiotic relationship with other living things — is an essential part of breaking the spiral of destruction that becomes more apparent with every moment in modern times.

I humbly believe that remedies to injustice against sovereign Peoples such as the First Nations, as well as environmental destruction, cannot be countered without greater individual personal enfranchisement on a grand scale. People who are individually disenfranchised have their motivation to develop personal social responsibility stifled
and even crushed. Colonial descendants can be better equipped with the vision to see how their colonial mindset has reinforced injustice against aboriginal people if they see how much their own disenfranchisement of each other is an injustice against themselves. Their ability to develop environmental social consciousness can be propelled forward by the belief that they each can have an impact on the world as individuals and thus alter their consumerism as a matter of personal conscience rather than being compelled to by what they call “the law”.

The ISS provides a model of a new way for the members of a society to agree, clearly and concisely, upon the expectations about how each member of society treats each other member, without allowing individual disenfranchisement to stifle the character of any member of society. I believe that a partnership between representative members of the aboriginal community and this new, freer, more respectful form of democracy would take these two pivotal, necessary elements of individual environmental consciousness and make their connection evident to any person with an interest in the future of humanity on our planet.

I am thus adding my voice in the hope to have First Nations issues added to the goals that the ISS advocates. I am seeking avenues to advocate for an idea involving the selection process for the Governor General of Canada.

As you likely know, the Governor General is chosen by the Queen. The convention for many decades now has been for the Queen to hear a recommendation from the prime minister as to who to appoint to the position. She has acted accordingly for every successor to the position. The suggestion being discussed within the ISS has been that the ISS advocate that the Queen rely instead on a recommendation from the Chief of the AFN in making this decision.

There has been some opposition to this recommendation in the society. An amendment was suggested which would essentially mean advocating instead that the Queen require the AFN Chief and Prime Minister to agree upon a recommendation to appoint as Governor General, and if these two figures can’t agree, then she alternate between the two for recommendations for each successive person chosen for the position. It seems quite likely that the society could be persuaded to add this amended version to its advocacy goals, and it is possible, though less likely I believe, that the ISS may be persuaded to resort to the initial idea despite some dissent.

It would be helpful to the ISS to receive some feedback as to whether the First Nations would perceive the ISS’s advocacy on this issue as being supportive and respectful to the First Nations. It would also be helpful to know if the First Nations would generally favour one of these two options over the other.

I also believe there may be other First Nations related issues that would be more substantial gestures of support to the First Nations by the ISS than the one I am suggesting. I welcome further suggestions from you. I will certainly make efforts to seek the agreement of the ISS to add any such suggestions to its Advocacy Registry.

I have conferred with the ISS prime representative, Teresa Rutley, to assure that she agrees that my communications are consistent with the general intent of the ISS. She is signing this letter to show her endorsement of my words.

Psam Frank to AFN executive committee
If you would like to know more details about the ISS or about the goals I am seeking to add to the ISS Advocacy Registry, I would enjoy hearing back from you and answering any questions you have. Thank you very much for your attention.

The present ISS Advocacy Registry can be viewed at http://issociety.org/advocacy-registry/

Thanks very much for your time and attention,

__________________________
Psam Frank
Interactive Sovereign Society member

__________________________
Teresa Rutley
Interactive Sovereign Society prime representative

**Interactive Sovereign Society**

**motion A-6**

**PRESENT MOTION**

It is moved that the following section be added to the Advocacy Registry, in a section exclusively regarding the jurisdiction of the nation of Canada.

**Assembly of First Nations and Governor General**

The Governor General of Canada is appointed by the Queen as the chief executive officer of Canada and acting head of the executive branch of government.

Since 1952, the monarch has heard a recommendation by the Prime Minister to appoint a person born in Canada as the Governor General and has, by convention but not by any legal requirement, acted upon this recommendation with the appointment of each successor to the position.

The ISS believes that the sovereignty of the First Nations has never been adequately accorded due recognition in Canada, even though improvements have been made to increase the level of recognition shown by the Crown.

The ISS believes that a recommendation being offered by the First Nations as to who to appoint as Governor General, and seeing this recommendation acted upon by Her Majesty
as a new convention for choosing this position, would further reduce the inadequacy of the
Crown’s recognition of the sovereignty of the First Nations.

The ISS believes that the most appropriate body to make such a recommendation is the
Assembly of First Nations (AFN). This could involve the AFN’s National Chief being
appointed as the Governor General or else the AFN deciding as a body to make a
recommendation by the agreement of its members. The ISS advocates that the democratic
representatives of Canada make their support for this convention known so as to influence
the Queen, as advised by her Privy Council, to give this possibility the utmost
consideration.

SUGGESTED AMENDED MOTION

It is moved that the following section be added to the Advocacy Registry.

Branches of Government Other Than Legislative Lower House

A goal of the ISS that is implicit in its Constitution is the perpetuation of the interactive
electoral system into existing governments in the world. This can be done by providing
information to voters about the viability of this system, or lack thereof, as any voter may
decide for oneself, as demonstrated through experience of the participants in this system.
However, it is believed to be advantageous for any such government to introduce the
interactive electoral system exclusively in its legislative branch to start, and in the case of a
bicameral legislative branch, only in the lower house, not in the senate. Any existing
executive or judicial branch should initially not be altered from present selection processes.

It is believed that after the interactive electoral system is functioning smoothly in the
legislative branch, if it is generally agreed upon by voters as being superior, then it may
become desirable to see the system used for other branches. However, in the interim, using
the advocacy potential of the ISS as it grows in membership and influence may achieve
some benefits for providing fairness and respect in existing prevailing lawful states. This
Advocacy Registry entry is intended to provide objectives that the ISS advocates for
specific existing governments to serve these purposes. One such objective is described
below, and members with other similar ideas should move to have them added to this entry.

The Governor General of Canada is appointed by the Queen as the chief executive officer
of Canada and acting head of the executive branch of government. Since 1952, the
monarch has heard a recommendation by the Prime Minister to appoint a person born in
Canada as the Governor General and has, by convention but not by any legal requirement,
acted upon this recommendation with the appointment of each successor to the position.

The ISS believes that the sovereignty of the First Nations has never been adequately
accorded due recognition and/or representation in Canada, even though improvements have
been made to increase the level of recognition shown by the Crown.

The ISS believes that including the First Nations in the recommendation process as to who
to appoint as Governor General, and seeing this recommendation acted upon by Her
Majesty as a new convention for choosing this position, would further reduce the inadequacy of the Crown’s recognition of the sovereignty of the First Nations.

The ISS sees the eventual goal to be the election of the Governor General using a fair election that respectfully lets each person exercise their democratic rights at times of their own choosing instead of only at times specified by authorities. However, the ISS advocates an interim step, for an estimated 20 years, to put the sovereignty of the First Nations on equal footing with the sovereignty of the Crown in the executive branch of federation.

If this interim step were adopted, and if one had a choice between First Nations and the Crown as alternative governments, then the sovereignty of an individual who would choose to be governed by a First Nation would be upheld to the same degree as the sovereignty of a person who would choose to be governed by the Crown.

This interim step therefore manifests the principle of the sovereignty of the individual in the selection process of the Governor General.

The ISS believes that the most appropriate body to include in the recommendation process for the Governor General is the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The ISS sees the First Nations and the Crown as two separate nations in one land, one of which has always had exclusive say over the selection of the Governor General and the other of which has never had any say at all. If the Prime Minister and the Chief of the AFN were to agree upon a recommendation for Governor General, then this would make the two nations equal in their part in the executive branch of government, and facilitate inclusion of all people in both nations. If these two figures could not agree on a recommendation, then Her Majesty could alternate between the two for successive choices for this position.

The ISS advocates that the democratic representatives of Canada make their support for this convention known so as to influence the Queen, as advised by her Privy Council, to give this possibility the utmost consideration.

The ISS believes that, even in the absence of the interactive electoral system, citizens of Canada who advocate for recognition of the sovereignty of the First Nations — by seeing the Crown and First Nations having equal footing in the selection of the executive branch of government — thereby add an essential and necessary component to the reasoning by which they might ask for the sovereignty of their own nation to be respected by anyone else.