



# **Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin**

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**



Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.

UGWA DEMOLUM YATEHE  
Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States was made possible.

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### **Special Business Committee Resolution 8-02-00-C** **Oneida Language Resolution**

- WHEREAS, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States, and
- WHEREAS, the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and
- WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council, and
- WHEREAS, in 1994, the Oneida Business Committee declared the Oneida Language as the official national language of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and
- WHEREAS, The Oneida Business Committee has on two other occasions adopted resolutions that address the diminishing use of the Oneida Language, and
- WHEREAS, despite each of these genuine attempts, and others, the Oneida Language has regressed to the point of becoming extinguished and will fall into irretrievable silence in the near future unless a strategic and superior plan of action is put into effect, and
- WHEREAS, the present number of fluent speakers of the Oneida Language whom are able to teach, now number less than fifteen (15), and
- WHEREAS, In modern times, Oneida people have found that they can survive without the skill or ability to use the language, and
- WHEREAS, the initiative to learn the language in these modern times has shifted from a survival need to a nice to have need, and
- WHEREAS, sovereignty of our Nation will be seriously eroded with the loss of the Oneida language, and
- WHEREAS, the General Tribal Council recognizes that the Oneida Language is a corner stone of our Nation.

Special BC Resolution 8-02-00-C  
Oneida Language

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the General tribal Council affirms that the Oneida Language is the official language of the Nation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the General Tribal Council directs the Oneida Business Committee to:

- Identify all Oneida Language speakers
- II. Develop a plan of action to incorporate the Oneida Language into the day-to-day affairs throughout the Nation, including the Tribal Schools, students, employees, and the community at large.
- III. Develop an incentive plan that rewards achieving higher language skill levels.
- IV. Report on the State of the Language progress in the annual and semi-annual General Tribal Council meetings.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: that preservation and restoration of the Oneida Language be given a place in the Nations' priorities second only to health care, and equal to housing and education.

CERTIFICATION

I the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum. 7 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 2nd day of August 2000; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 6 members for; 0 members against; and 0 members not voting; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.



Julie Barton, Tribal Secretary

Oneida Business Committee