



THE 201st CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE Resolutions

RESOLUTION 8 - AMENDED

RESOLUTION DENOTING THE FORMAL SUPPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE FOR LD 2094 – AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON CHANGES TO THE MAINE INDIAN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (OR SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR LEGISLATION UNDERTAKEN BY THE 130TH MAINE LEGISLATURE)

RE: Diocesan support for the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act recommendations

SUBMITTED BY: Episcopal Committee on Indian Relations

CONTACT PERSON: Mr. John Dieffenbacher-Krall, (207) 817-3161,
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1 **RESOLVED** the 172nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine voted to create a group
2 tasked with the responsibility to assist the Diocese “to get to know the Native American people
3 of Maine; to learn about their histories, cultures, values, and join with them as we all share in
4 the ministry of reaching out to all the people of Maine in the name of Christ;” and

5 **RESOLVED** the Committee on Indian Relations has faithfully executed that mission and built
6 effective working relationships with the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Houlton Band of Maliseet
7 Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkmikuk, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and
8 Penobscot Indian Nation; and

9 **RESOLVED** the delegates assembled at this convention find the Maine Implementing Act
10 (Title 30, section 6201) and the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (25 USCS § 1721),
11 collectively referred to as the Settlement Acts, described by the Maine Indian Tribal-State
12 Commission as having “created structural inequities that have resulted in conditions that have
13 risen to the level of human rights violations”; and

14 **RESOLVED** the Diocese of Maine acknowledges that the provisions of the Maine
15 Implementing Act and Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act have been imposed upon the
16 Aroostook Band of Micmacs without their consent in violation of several international human
17 rights accords and agreements including Article 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the
18 Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

19 **RESOLVED** the recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims
20 Implementing Act created by joint legislative order HP 1307 comprised of elected bipartisan
21 Maine State Representatives and Senators, ex officio members from the Governor’s office,
22 Office of the Attorney General, and Maine Indian Tribal State Commission, as well as Tribal
23 Chiefs from all Wabanaki Tribes offer concrete suggestions that would change many of the
24 worst provisions of the Maine Implementing Act and achieve a legal landscape more in
25 keeping with state-tribal relationships in other states; and

26 **RESOLVED** that this 201st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine declares its support
27 for LD 2094 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the



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- 28 Maine Indian Claims Implementing Act before the 129th Maine Legislature (or substantially
29 similar legislation undertaken by the 130th Maine Legislature); and
- 30 **RESOLVED** that the Committee on Indian Relations is the appropriate and proper body within
31 the Diocese of Maine to coordinate and lead this effort and shall be given full cooperation to
32 implement this responsibility; and
- 33 **RESOLVED** that the Committee on Indian Relations and all of the Diocese simultaneously
34 support the Aroostook Band of Micmacs as they pursue the process they deem most
35 appropriate to achieve redress for the Aroostook Bank of Micmac Settlement (Pub. L. 102-
36 171); and
- 37 **RESOLVED** that the Committee on Indian Relations provide quarterly reports to the Justice
38 Commission and Diocesan Council keeping them apprised of major developments regarding
39 legislative action on the Task Force recommendations and Aroostook Band of Micmacs efforts
40 to address the Micmac Settlement Act. In addition, CIR is tasked with submitting a written
41 report to the 202nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine on the status of the Task
42 Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Implementing Act recommendations and what
43 actions the Diocese took to support advancement of those recommendations and Micmac
44 action or actions to affirm their inherent right to self-determination.

EXPLANATION

The Diocese of Maine and the Episcopal Church have led the churches of the world in renouncing the Doctrine of Christian Discovery and Domination. Yet, how have these resolutions benefitted indigenous Peoples of Maine and around the world? The laws, policies, and practices of domination remain pervasive, including in the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. Revising this unjust act would bring Indian law in Maine in line with Indian law in the other 49 states, thus advancing reconciliation with our Wabanaki neighbors. These changes would advance tribal self-determination, including cultural values of living in harmony with the rest of creation.

This resolution would continue the commitment and the work of the Diocese of Maine led by CIR in support of improving relationships between the people of Maine and the Wabanaki. A state legislative task force composed of legislators, Wabanaki Chiefs, and others has developed recommendations to correct multiple unjust provisions in the federal and state laws known as the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980. This resolution would commit the diocese to supporting these recommendations as the Maine Legislature continues to consider them. It also addresses unjust provisions in the separate settlement act for the Aroostook Band of Micmacs.

Read [LD 2094](#) here.