GRANDMOTHERS COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACTION ON CHILD WELFARE

OGITCHITAKWEWAK KAGIIKWENAN

The gift of creation gifted to women by our Creator is a shared blessing and a responsibility, a responsibility to and for the future of our nations and a responsibility to care for, love and teach our children and grandchildren. These teachings provided by our Creator and our Mother Earth can only be taught by our mothers.

1. We the grandmothers of our nations honour the gift, blessing and responsibility of life through our children and grandchildren and our responsibility to ensure that our life as a people through our children is honoured and nurtured. We honour the laws of our language, culture, ceremonies and the natural laws of our land that guide our life—a life filled with beauty, responsibilities and purpose.

2. We the grandmothers of our people, with the support of our men, will not allow the removal of our children from our families and our nations.

3. We the grandmothers will gather the grandmothers of our nations. Through prayer, we will define the actions and processes necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of our children.

4. We honour this gift of life and our responsibility for our nations and stand together in unity and in strength with the gifts of language and ceremony provided by our Creator to take up our role as life-givers, mothers, aunts and grandmothers. No external entity shall be allowed to remove our gifts from the shelter and love of our homes and nations.

5. Tunkesila, we humbly ask for your guidance, your blessing and your strength. Pidamiyo ye, Mitakuye Owasin