

Chiefs of Ontario

Language & Education Forum

February 7-9, 2023
Chelsea Hotel - Toronto



Chiefs of Ontario



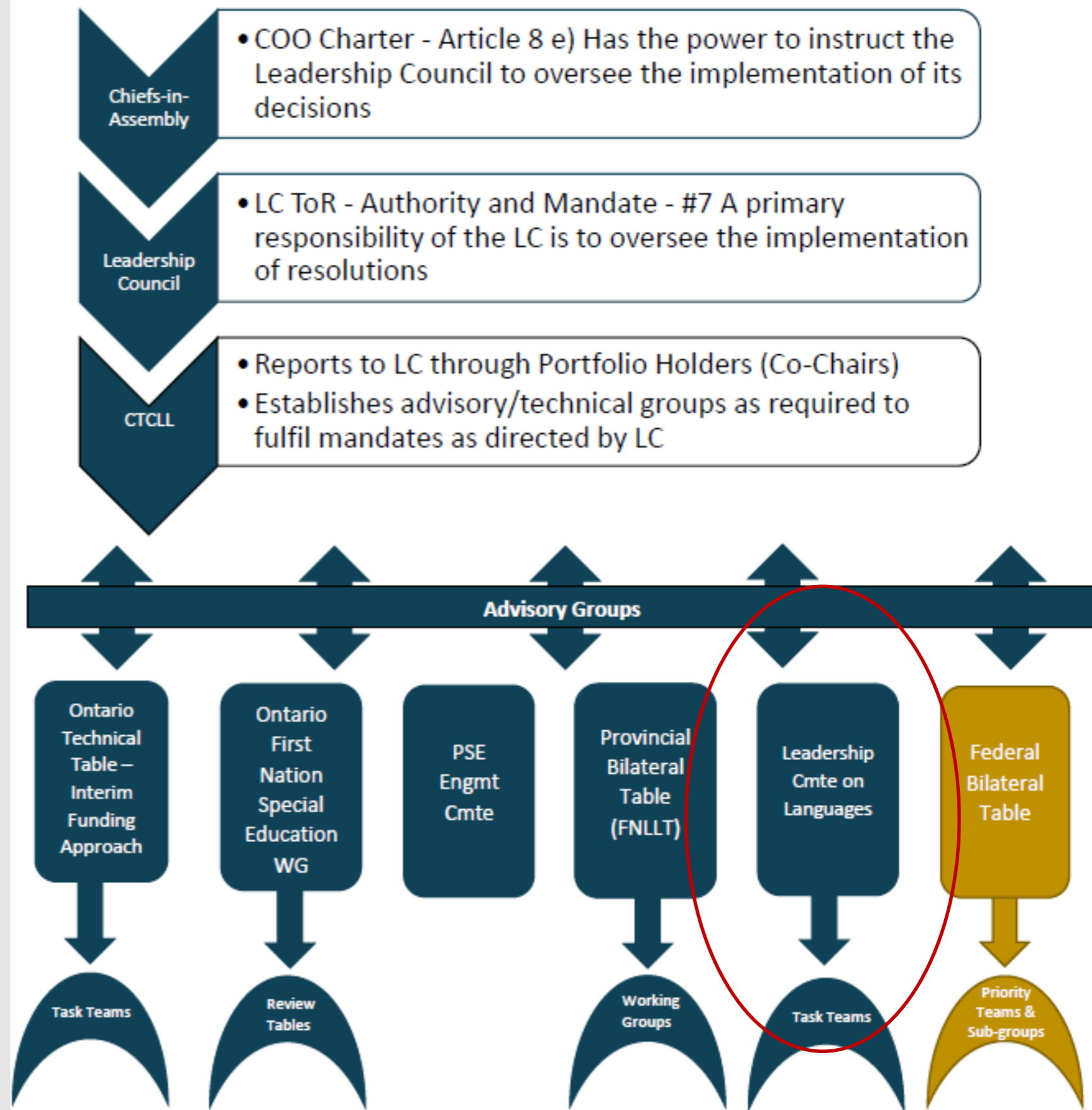
Mission

The Chiefs of Ontario supports all First Nations in Ontario as they assert their sovereignty, jurisdiction, and their chosen expression of nationhood.

Vision

First Nations in Ontario are united towards self-sufficiency and vibrancy while never forgetting who we are; this unity is facilitated through the Chiefs of Ontario. We envision a future where our inherent laws, lands, and traditions are recognized and respected by governments, industry and the general public.

COO Lines of Authority



UNDRIP Article 14

*Indigenous peoples **have the right** to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.*

*Indigenous individuals, particularly children, **have the right** to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.*

*States shall, **in conjunction with indigenous peoples**, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.*



COO Objectives

Resolution 22/18A



Swift Action



Defined and Enforceable Rights



Intergeneration Transmission





Swift Action

The perilous state of most First Nation languages makes the need for the implementation of Article 14 pressing and urgent.

Inaction means continued forced assimilation.

- Children are required by law to attend school to learn in English and French





Defined and Enforceable Rights

If the *Indigenous Languages Act* was amended to incorporate and enact Article 14 of the Declaration. Indigenous peoples would then, like official language minorities, possess the **defined right** to educate their children in their own languages at publicly funded schools and the **legal remedies to enforce** that right.





Intergenerational Transmission

Requires state-supported educational systems and institutions that:

- teach First Nation children their own ancestral languages; and,
- teach other subjects in those languages.

Article 14 recognizes that such systems must exist both on and off reserve



COO Activities

Seeking
Funding

Advocacy &
Engagement

Gathering
Evidence



COO Anticipated Results

Swift Action

- Implementation of UNDRIP Article 14 inclusion in National Plan
- Funding provided to set up regional and national tables

Defined and Enforceable Rights

- First Nations, like official language minorities, possess the defined right to educate their children in their own languages at publicly funded schools and the legal remedies to enforce that right

Intergeneration Transmission

- Provision of funding based on needs of First Nations to develop and maintain educational systems capable of providing education for First Nation learners in their own languages and a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning



Nyá:wen

For more information on COO initiative associated with language revitalization, please contact:

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