



Chiefs of Ontario

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly 2023

Draft Resolutions and Directors' Notes

The following resolutions are to be presented at the AFN Annual General Assembly 2023. Resolutions provided in this package have been reviewed by the Chiefs of Ontario Sector Directors and are for information purposes only.

EDUCATION

**Resolution #01/23
Unilateral
Education
Programming
Decisions by
Indigenous
Services Canada**

**Mover: Tyrone
McNeil, Proxy,
Cheam First
Nation, BC**

**Seconder: Chief
George Cote, Cote
First Nation, SK**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1.** Reaffirm First Nations inherent and Treaty rights to education.
- 2.** Reaffirm that jurisdiction over First Nations education remains with each First Nation.
- 3.** Call on the Government of Canada to improve and strengthen partnerships with First Nations through an honourable, transparent, and respectful process that supports First Nations control of First Nations education, First Nations decision-making in all processes concerning education, and regional First Nations models of education.
- 4.** Call on the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada to recognize the Chiefs' Committee on Education recommendations to decentralize all funding in education programming and support regional model approaches, implementation, and equitable funding methodologies, primarily base plus per-capita allocations.
- 5.** Call on the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada to immediately meet with the Chiefs' Committee on Education, the National Indian Education Council and the Assembly of First Nations to rectify unilateral decision-making processes and ensure First Nations Adult Education and Education Partnership Program authorities, funding methodologies, and requirements are consistent with the Chiefs' Committee on Education recommendations.
- 6.** Direct the AFN to advocate for additional sources of funding in place of any funding loss to First Nations in the Ontario region related to the Education Partnerships Program (EPP).

EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This is the 4th time this resolution has been presented to First Nations in Assembly.

July 2022 AFN AGA – the resolution was not considered due to timing issues

- COO technicians provided recommended revisions to the movers with no response
- It was decided at COO Caucus that Leadership in Ontario would oppose the resolution and read a statement into the record

December 2022 AFN SCA – the resolution was not considered due to timing issues

- COO technicians worked extensively with AFN Resolutions Committee to revise, however movers would not accept recommended revisions
- It was decided at COO Caucus that Leadership in Ontario would oppose the resolution and read a statement into the record

April 2023 AFN SCA – Leadership in Ontario opposed the resolution on the floor with all Chiefs standing behind Chief Shelley Moore-Frappier as she read the statement into the record

- The movers deferred until the July AFN Annual General Assembly so collaborative work could take place to resolve differences

July 2023 AFN AGA – the resolution remains essentially unchanged except for operative clause #6

- We are seeking stable, predictable funding for the (EPP) partnerships that have developed over decades for both K-12. We cannot rely on AFN advocacy efforts to top our funding allocations up on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS

We have exhausted efforts previously to amend this resolution.

It is recommended that Leadership in Ontario, once again, oppose the resolution due to several issues as previously presented:

- COO does not participate at the AFN national committees on education and the resolution calls for recognition of the AFN CCOE and NIEC as the sole voice of First Nations in Canada
- We agree on decentralization of any **new** investments and federal commitments, but not for existing funding (the EPP has been accessed by First Nations in Ontario for over a decade) that may jeopardize and reduce existing supports for our students
- The resolution preferences a base plus per capita regional allocation methodology that does not adequately serve the diversity of needs within the Ontario region – specifically the needs of remote and fly-in communities

It is recommended that Leadership demonstrate opposition by standing behind a selected Chief to read the revised statement (included in Chiefs packages) into the record and utilize the Facts and Figures document (included in Chiefs packages) to present our points.

**Resolution #26/23
Equitable Funding
for Language
Revitalization**

**Mover: Chief Leroy
Denny, Eskasoni
First Nation, NS**

**Seconder: Chief
Ira McArthur,
Pheasant Rump
First Nation, SK**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the interim First Nations Languages Funding Model and an equitable Regional Allocation Formula that includes number of languages, population, language vitality, number of First Nations, and remoteness.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs' Committee on Languages, the Technical Committee on Languages and the AFN to continuously monitor the equitability of the Regional Allocation Formula, and further refine and improve the formula based on improved data.
3. Call on the Government of Canada to fulfill their legislative requirements through the Indigenous Languages Act to fund First Nations languages based on the real costs to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen First Nations languages.
4. Call on the Government of Canada to immediately address funding shortfalls for all First Nations regions where funding needs are not fully addressed for language revitalization initiatives.
5. Direct the AFN to undertake First Nations language research that informs the future use of additional allocation formula factors such as, but not limited to, language dialects, learner dispersion, capacity/readiness and disability/special instruction needs.
6. Affirm that the interim First Nations Languages Funding Model and Regional Allocation Formula are not intended to detract or hinder existing First Nations agreements which contain language components from advancing their current language processes.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S NOTES

COO provides representation to the AFN Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL) and the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) and has been and will continue to be involved in the process to develop and refine the First Nations Languages Funding Model.

RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS

None

It is recommended that Leadership in Ontario support this resolution.

**Resolution #38/23
National Unity on
Education**

**Mover: Chief Linda
Debassige,
M'Chigeeng First
Nation, ON**

**Seconder: Nelson
Toulouse, Proxy,
Sagamok
Anishnawbek First
Nation, ON**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Agree that it is paramount that unity be re-established at the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCoE).
2. Agree that at a minimum and in the short term, the Terms of Reference for the (NIEC) and the (CCoE) be amended to include:
 - a. Under Roles and Responsibilities:
 - i. Ensure that any ~~decisions and~~ recommendations made to the AFN Executive or First Nations-in-Assembly do not result in reduced financial resources for any of the 10 AFN regions, unless there is agreement in the region to accept the reduction.
 - ii. Ensure that any decisions and recommendations made to the AFN Executive or First Nations-in-Assembly are accompanied by details regarding any non-consensus regarding the recommendation.
 - b. Under Composition:
 - i. The list of NIEC and CCOE representation should be updated regularly to reflect any change and be publicly accessible.
 - ii. Composition must be updated to reflect accountability structure and how this process is followed.
3. Agree that over the next year the Terms of Reference for the NIEC and CCOE be revised to ensure:
 - a. That meetings are conducted in a manner that identifies and addresses conflict of interest issues;
 - b. Representation is consistent between the NIEC and the CCOE;
 - c. A formal process is articulated for ~~decision-making~~ recommendations;
 - d. Recommendations ~~and decisions~~ reflect consensus or non-consensus of the committee, and that building consensus is paramount even for non-attendees at the meeting;

EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This resolution is being put forward by Leadership in Ontario to re-establish unity at the AFN committees on education. We have modified the resolution as indicated by underline to accommodate the Legal review conducted by the AFN on this resolution.

RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS

None other than what is indicated by underline.

It is recommended that commentary related to this resolution from Leadership in Ontario include:

- Unity must be reestablished at the AFN committees on education in order to collectively work towards equitable, stable and predictable funding that meets the unique needs within each of the regions. Our fight is with the federal government – not with each other. It is a well-known fact that funding is inadequate and there is a need for us to work together on this collectively and not enable the divide and conquer tactics of the federal government that has prevailed for decades.
- Additional speaking points can be found in Chiefs packages on:
 - The Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSP)
 - The unique needs of remote fly-in communities
 - The Education Partnerships Program (EPP)
 - The need for equity not equalization

It is recommended that Leadership in Ontario support this resolution.

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| | <p>e. <u>An AFN Charter change is put forward to consider size and unique elements in determining regional representation at on national committees;</u></p> <p>f. Communications are a key function of the committees; and</p> <p>g. The role of the Chair and/or Co-Chairs is clearly articulated.</p> | |
| <p>Resolution #40/23 Affirmation of First Nation Education Sovereignty</p> <p>Mover: Chief Linda Debassige, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Jacqueline French, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, ON</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the First Nations with Schools Collective (FNWSC) in their engagement in a separate process, outside of a Regional Education Agreement (REA), for transformative education agreements, including any pilot projects or other tables that seek to address outstanding education gaps. 2. Support the right of the eight communities in the establishment of the FNWSC Joint Education Technical Table (JETT) and the First Nation Education Self-Determination Framework Initiative which seeks to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support development of First Nation and Crown leadership on the connection between Indigenous rights and title, Crown-Indigenous relations, community development and learner outcomes as a result of work undertaken at JETT. b. Increase awareness of education self-determination on-reserve as a legislator issue, not a student capacity issue, and mobilize delegates of the JETT to create problem-solving mechanisms for the full control of education by First Nations within the framing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. c. Conclude education jurisdiction agreements with comprehensive funding formulas at duly convened JETT sessions by negotiating teams within pre-determined negotiating terms on behalf of participating First Nations of the Collective and Canada for acceptance and ratification by each of their respective authorities. | <p><u>EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This is a support resolution for a pilot proposed by the First Nations with Schools Collective (FNWSC) in Ontario. The FNWSC includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bkejwanong Territory -Walpole Island - Chippewas of the Thames First Nation - Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation - M'Chigeeng First Nation - Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation - Sagamok Anishnawbek - Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory <p>This resolution aligns with the support resolution passed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly in Ontario at the 2022 COO ACA.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>None</p> <p>It is recommended that Leadership in Ontario support this resolution.</p> |

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| | <p>3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to write to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada confirming the support of the First Nation Education Self-Determination Framework Initiative of the FNWSC.</p> | |
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JUSTICE

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| <p>Resolution # 10/23 Support for an Independent Inquiry into First Nations Deaths while in Police Custody</p> <p>Mover: Chief Sidney Peters, Glooscap First Nation, NS</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Annie Bernard-Daisley, We'koqma'q First Nation, NS</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call-upon on the Federal Government to call a Royal Commission of inquiry into First Nations deaths while in police custody. 2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to provide political advocacy support the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs in demanding an independent, Mi'kmaw led inquiry into Mi'kmaw deaths in custody from the Province of Nova Scotia. | <p><u>JUSTICE DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>Although COO does not have a resolution directly on this topic, and the mandate seems specific to Nova Scotia region, given COO's ongoing policing and community safety related advocacy, we recommend support for this resolution as it calls for an inquiry into First Nations deaths while in police custody – which we know is an ongoing, unaddressed problem that is not receiving the federal and provincial support it requires</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>No recommended amendments.</p> |
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| <p>Resolution #18/23 Revitalization of Indigenous Laws and Legal Orders</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call upon the Government of Canada to adequately fund an innovative approach to justice and healing that is garnered from our sacred Knowledge Keepers through oral traditions and will Revitalize | <p><u>JUSTICE DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This resolution aligns with COO Resolution 22/15 Revitalization of Indigenous Legal Principles, Traditions and Systems and COO Resolution 21/26 Self-Governance &</p> |
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| <p>Mover: Chief Jeremy Fourhorns, Carry the Kettle Nakota Nations, SK</p> <p>Secunder: Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake Cree Nation, SK</p> | <p>Historic Justice Practices.</p> <p>2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to support First Nations and to work with all required internal and external partners where mandated to do so, in developing processes that will revitalize Indigenous laws and traditional justice systems, as First Nations revitalize their legal cultures and traditions.</p> | <p>Justice Transformation for First Nations, and the ultimate mandate of the COO Justice Committee</p> <p>Adequate funding is necessary for this work, as current colonial legal practices and frameworks require capacity for First Nations to reverse and revitalize their own legal cultures, traditions, and structures</p> <p>As of right now, DOJ does fund projects that are working to revitalize Indigenous legal systems – however, they are short-term, proposal-based, and piecemeal. The COO Justice Committee is sending correspondence to the federal government urging Canada to invest more substantial, long-term funding to support this type of work</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>Within TBR #1, it is recommended to add mention of inherent right to self-govern. For example: <i>“Call upon the Government of Canada to adequately fund an innovative approach to justice and healing that is garnered from our sacred Knowledge Keepers through oral traditions, rooted in our inherent right to self-govern, and will Revitalize Historic Justice Practices.”</i></p> |
| <p>Resolution #33/23 Protect First Nations Rights and Interests from Unfounded Métis Rights Assertions</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Affirm that the recognition and interpretation of Métis rights under s.35 of the Canadian Constitution are subordinate to the inherent, constitutional, and human rights of First Nations, including jurisdiction over their territories and inherent rights that are protected by Treaty, and are subject to and necessarily limited by the inherent laws, legal systems, systems of governance, and jurisdictions of First Nations.</p> | <p><u>JUSTICE DIRECTOR’S NOTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with the 10 COO resolutions on topic • Moved by Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation, ON • This resolution was drafted in collaboration with COO and BCAFN • Purpose of resolution was to provide AFN a mandate on this topic |

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| <p>Mover: Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation, ON</p> <p>Seconder: Deputy Chief Harlan Schilling, Daylu Dena Council, BC</p> | <p>2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to seek resources to establish a national committee that will examine the issue of unfounded Métis rights assertions and the role of the Government of Canada and provincial governments in facilitating these assertions with the aim of developing recommendations and/or an advocacy strategy to address this growing issue.</p> <p>3. Direct the AFN National Chief to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations and/or advocacy strategy developed by the national committee.</p> <p>4. Direct the AFN National Chief to demand that the Government of Canada pause all negotiations with the Métis Nation of Ontario, including the introduction of implementation legislation for the MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement, until such time as First Nations in Ontario are meaningfully consulted and give their free, prior, and informed consent to proceed.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National support, pressure, and coordination is needed on this issue, especially in light of the federal Métis Self-Government legislation • This is an issue impacting many regions, and there is growing concerns about the message of the federal legislation to self-identifying Indigenous groups, as Canada is paving the way for access s. 35 rights, without the consent and input of First Nations rights-holders <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>May be amendments to the resolution based on discussion at Ontario Caucus on Tuesday July 11</p> |
| <p>Resolution #34/23 Support for Equitable Funding for First Nations Policing</p> <p>Mover: Chief Linda Debassige, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon the Government of Canada and Public Safety Canada (PSC) to cease its disrespectful, colonial tactics to undermine the rights, jurisdiction and sovereignty of First Nations and immediately fund First Nations police services in an equitable manner.</p> <p>2. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to recognize and uphold First Nations inherent, treaty and constitutional rights in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to respect the findings of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) in the Dominique decision and withdraw its appeal.</p> <p>3. Direct the AFN to support the complaints and legal actions brought forward by First Nations and First Nations Chiefs of Police Associations</p> | <p><u>JUSTICE DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with COO resolutions and mandates on policing • Moved by Ogimaa Kwe Debassige, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON • COO continues to support the Indigenous Police Chiefs of Ontario in their complaint to the Canadian Human Rights Commission over chronic underfunding and discriminatory conduct towards First Nations Police Services • COO has released two statements through the office of the Regional Chief in support of IPCO, and publically calling on PSC to meet IPCO at the table on an urgent basis and negotiate their agreements in |

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| | <p>with respect to PSC’s discriminatory conduct. Specifically, with respect to the appeal of the CHRT Dominique decision and the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) complaint filed by Indigenous Police Chiefs of Ontario (IPCO).</p> <p>4. Direct the AFN to call upon PSC, with the support of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), to appoint a new negotiation team with experience, knowledge, and capacity to represent the Crown by: a. engaging with First Nations in honourable negotiation processes that are equitable and respectful to the First Nations leadership and First Nations police services, and b. recognizing and upholding First Nations inherent, Treaty and Constitutional rights in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their dealings with First Nations leadership and police services.</p> | <p>good faith, and to protect and uphold First Nations policing as the essential service it is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COO continues to communicate on a regular basis with IPCO Chiefs of Police to discuss next steps with how we can support their complaint <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>No recommended amendments.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #44/23 Support for the Reform and Enforcement of First Nations Laws</p> <p>Mover: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band, BC</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on Canada to work directly with First Nations to support First Nations enforcement of their laws. 2. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to ensure that it treats First Nations laws and self-governance in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as specifically required in Section 5 of the Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. 3. Call upon the federal government to support First Nations in exercising jurisdiction over the assertion, practice and enforcement of First Nations laws and legal orders by resourcing extensive First Nations-led engagement on the enforcement of Indigenous laws. | <p><u>JUSTICE DIRECTOR’S NOTES</u></p> <p>This Resolution is consistent with COO Resolution 52/18: Prosecution of By-Laws and Other First Nations Laws, COO Resolution 21/37: The Tripartite Collaborative Technical Table on the Enforcement and Prosecution of First Nations Laws, and COO Resolution 23/10A - Collaborative Table Recommendations</p> <p>Within the Ontario region, the focus has been on advocating the Government of Ontario to pass regulations under the new provincial policing legislation stating that the enforcement of First Nations laws and by-laws is a mandatory police function, as a necessary step to enable enforcement throughout Ontario and guarantee police funding for these important activities</p> |

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| | <p>4. Call on the federal government to ensure that any changes to laws and policies, including the Indian Act, be undertaken with the free, prior and informed consent of each Nation.</p> | <p>Similar advocacy with the Government of Canada is consistent with our current regional focus of ensuring there is law and policy that supports the enforcement of First Nations laws</p> <p>COO continues to support this work, both as Co-Chair of the Collaborative Table, and in other forums and bilateral conversations with the Ontario and Canada</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>No recommended amendments.</p> |
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HEALTH

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| <p>Resolution #05/23 Call for Extending Indigenous Services Canada’s Timeline for Developing the Long-term and Continuing Care Framework</p> <p>Mover: Chief Allan Polchies Jr., St. Mary’s Wolastoqiyik First Nations, NB</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Sheldon Kent,</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call upon the federal government to revise their Memorandum to Cabinet submission timeline to Winter 2024 to allow Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) the appropriate amount of time to work with First Nations in the co-development of policy recommendations for the development of a continuous, dynamic wholistic Seven Generations Continuum of Care approach that effectively provides culturally safe care to First Nations across their lifespan. 2. Direct the Chiefs’ Committee on Health to continue to oversee the AFN and the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) co-development of policy recommendations with ISC for a Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Care Framework through the reform of the Assisted Living (AL) and First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care (FNIHCC) Programs. | <p><u>HEALTH DIRECTOR’S NOTES</u></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>N/A</p> |
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| <p>Black River First Nations, MB</p> | <p>3. Direct the AFN to continue to work horizontally in the co-development of policy options for the reform of the AL and FNIHCC programs into a Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Care Framework.</p> <p>4. Direct the AFN to seek validation of the proposed First Nations-developed policy recommendations for the reform of the AL and FNIHCC Programs in December 2023.</p> | |
| <p>Resolution #06/23 Measures to Address the Impacts of the Opioid Crisis</p> <p>Mover: Chief Amanda Leas, Ta'an Kwäch'än First Nation, YK</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Nicole Tom, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Carmacks, YK</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Call on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to undertake advocacy and provide political support First Nations who wish to bring civil law litigation against those trafficking and responsible for the loss of life in our First Nations to ensure reparations for this new genocide can be provided to assist families in their healing and First Nations to have the capacity to support measures to address the opioid crisis.</p> <p>2. Call on the AFN to request the federal government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support First Nations in their efforts to ensure policing as an essential service. b. Provide enhanced support for the RCMP to develop culturally-relevant and trauma-informed supports to support relationships with First Nation governments and their citizens where directed by the First Nation. c. Provide immediate resources for any interested First Nations, including Yukon First Nations to create, implement, and maintain community safety officer programs. d. Ensure First Nations governments who wish to provide safe and reliable access to predictable, pharmaceutical-grade substances are able to do so in exercise of their inherent and Treaty rights. e. Provide funding and support for ongoing advisory committees on opioid addiction prevention and harm reduction, and for law enforcement and health care providers that will include committee representatives with living or lived experience. | <p><u>HEALTH DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>Overall, we support the resolution as the Opioid crisis continues to have devastating effects on our people and communities.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>2C. Add and “to support a First Nations-led trauma-informed and culturally based crisis response strategy for police and first responders”</p> <p>2f. Support and adequately fund fentanyl test strips and drug checking services at supervised consumption sites as a Harm reduction measure to detect and identify toxic drug contaminants, reduce fatal poisonings, and inform national policy against toxic drug contamination.</p> |

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| | <p>3. Direct the AFN to call on Indigenous Services Canada to provide updates on recommendations from Honouring Our Strengths (HOS) Framework and the AFN's Opioid Strategy and that any work in updating First Nations on the recommendations must address identified gaps and ensure that the HOS and Opioid Strategy are relevant to the needs of First Nations.</p> <p>4. Direct the AFN to call on ISC to ensure that enhanced flexible funding be accessible to all First Nations who wish to implement HOS Framework and Opioid Strategy and to work with relevant First Nations Mental Wellness organizations that would help them address their substance use needs.</p> | |
| <p>Resolution #32/23 Conduct a Longitudinal Study on Strengths-Based Indicators of Mental Wellness</p> <p>Mover: Chief James Hobart, Spuzzum First Nation, BC</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Allan Polchies Jr., St. Mary's Wolastoqiyik First Nation, NB</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to work with First Nations Mental Wellness Partners, including Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, First Peoples Wellness Circle, and other First Nations researchers to identify pathways of research that are strengths-based, wholistic, and in alignment with First Nations worldviews and that any and all data collection activities abides by the Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®) Principles so that the research findings directly benefit First Nations.</p> <p>2. Direct the AFN to provide technical support to ensure the research process supports, empowers, and involves, Knowledge Keepers, women and girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, men and boys, people with lived/living experience, persons with disability/accessibility needs and that processes, protocols, and methodologies are reflective of First Nations inherent and Treaty rights, values, languages, and cultures.</p> <p>3. Direct the AFN to call on Indigenous Services Canada, Health Canada, and the office of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to fully support First Nations-led research initiatives by providing adequate funding, capacity development, access to resources, and</p> | <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>Add to clause #3 to include a knowledge translation and dissemination process to implement an action plan from the outcomes.</p> <p><u>WOMEN'S INITIATIVES DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>COO Women's Council supports the involvement and empowerment of First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in First Nations-led research that is wholistic, strengths-based and in compliance with OCAP principles.</p> <p>Following the MMIWG National Inquiry the Ontario Chiefs in Assembly passed Resolution 29-19 calling for implementation of the Calls for Justice and calling on Canada and Ontario to support an Indigenous-led research entity and data steward along with a healing fund for MMIWG families and dedicated sustainable funding to support the work of the COO First Nations Women's Council.</p> |

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| | <p>networks and mechanisms that support the development of strengths-based approaches to the mental wellness of First Nations led by First Nations and that a sustainable and cooperative research process is in place that imbues the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework.</p> | |
| <p>Resolution #36/23 Support for FSIN's Health Equity Test Case to Address Healthcare Inequities for First Nations</p> <p>Mover: Chief Jamie Wolfe, Muskowekwan First Nation, SK</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Derek Nepinak, Minegoziibii (Pine Creek First Nation), MB</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the need to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the health crisis and to ensure protection and promotion of the Inherent and Treaty Rights to health and wellness; b) the gaps in the provision of health services and discriminatory practices and impacts; and c) the chronic underfunding of First Nation health services. 2. Provide advocacy and political support for the filing of the health equity test case by the representative plaintiffs and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) in the effort to call on Canada to improve the health care crisis and to assist First Nations across Canada with a meaningful precedent. | <p><u>HEALTH DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>Various regions are beginning to look at legislative options to address health inequities across the country. At the COO ACA, the OCCOH also made a motion to begin exploring options for Ontario health inequities.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>N/A</p> |
| <p><u>ENVIRONMENT</u></p> | | |
| <p>Resolution #17/23 Proposed Federal First Nations Drinking Water</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reject the consultative draft legislation titled, An Act respecting drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure, on First Nation lands in its current form and support the Minister in delaying the | <p><u>Environment Director's Notes</u></p> <p>Please see attached Briefing Note.</p> |

**and Wastewater
Legislation**

**Mover: Chief
Zachary Whitecap,
Red Earth First
Nation, SK**

**Second: Chief
Jamie Wolfe,
Muskowekwan
First Nation, SK**

introduction of the legislation to address the critical requirements identified by First Nations including:

- a. Recognition of First Nations rights and jurisdiction over lands and waters;
- b. Mandatory requirements for Canada to provide water and wastewater treatment that meets minimum national standards (or where requested, the more stringent of the federal requirements or provincial standards governing residential water quality);
- c. Adequate and sustained funding (including at a minimum capital, operations and maintenance, and inspections) to address water and wastewater;
- d. Mechanisms to address transboundary waters;
- e. Liability protection for owners and operators, and
- f. Recognition of rights over source water, minimum binding national standards, commitment to funding, liability protection for First Nations governments, water governance structures. led by First Nations, and mechanisms to address management of transboundary source water.

2. Direct the AFN and Canada co-develop laws, other regulatory instruments, and policies that support or are made under the replacement legislation An Act respecting drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nation lands.

3. Call on the AFN and Canada to co-develop a funding formula for adequate and sustained funding, including but not limited to capital, operations and maintenance, inspections, liability protection for First Nations governments, management mechanisms of transboundary source water and the establishment of First Nations-led water governance structures.

4. Call on Canada to fund and support First Nations-led engagement on the critical requirements identified for the proposed drinking and wastewater legislation in each region through the summer and fall of 2023.

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| | <p>5. Call on the Minister of Indigenous Service Canada to work with the AFN, with the guidance of the AFN Chiefs' Committee on Housing and Infrastructure and the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment, to co-develop laws, other regulatory instruments, and policies that support or are made under the replacement legislation An Act respecting drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nation lands, and to bring back the draft legislation for approval at a future Assembly.</p> | |
| <p>Resolution #22/23 Treaty Rights to Lands, Water, Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering</p> <p>Mover: Chief Frank Dieter, Peepeekisis First Nation, SK</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Larry Ahenakew, Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, SK</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to call on the federal government to establish a fund to support First Nations in hosting gatherings at the local, regional, and national level, to discuss First Nations solutions to address climate change and its impacts on First Nations' ability to exercise their inherent and Treaty rights to lands and waters, as well as harvesting rights, which includes hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering.</p> | <p><u>Environment Director's Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises climate change impacts and requests to establish a fund to hold gatherings at local, regional and national levels to discuss solutions. • AFN has held two (2) national climate gatherings and will be presenting a climate strategy plan at the AFN AGA, on July 11-13, 2023. • This resolution is in line with the recent COO Communique released to the PTOs and Independent First Nations in Ontario, dated June 30, 2023, where COO Environment will receive CIRNAC funding for regional discussions to be held by the PTOs and Independants. • Contracts and other supporting documentation will be forth coming. Support for this AFN resolution is recommended to request additional funding for further discussions at the local community level. |
| <p>Resolution #25/23 Support for First Nations in the Energy Industry:</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Reaffirm that First Nations' free, prior, and informed consent is required to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in First Nations lands and territories as per Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 62/2018, <i>Small Modular Nuclear</i></p> | <p><u>Environment Director's Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This resolution is unclear as to which First Nations are seeking national support. • Do roughly 627 First Nation communities support approximately 3 First Nations in its initiative where the Federal government has not carried |

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| <p>Small Modular Reactors</p> <p>Mover: Chief Gabriel Atwin, Kingsclear First Nation, NB</p> <p>Second: Chief Alvery Paul, Esgenoôpetitj First Nation, NB</p> | <p><i>Reactors (SMRs).</i></p> <p>2. Support the right of individual First Nations to participate in the energy industry, including the deployment of SMRs.</p> <p>3. Call on Natural Resources Canada to adequately support funding and capacity for First Nations, including engagement, to inform and shape policy and processes related to SMR development in New Brunswick and other regions, in particular where First Nations expressed interest in SMR deployment.</p> <p>4. Demand that free, prior, and informed consent be required for the deployment of any nuclear projects and for the transport, storage, and disposal of any hazardous materials in First Nations lands and territories.</p> | <p>out its fiduciary obligations on consultation and accommodation on Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) in Ontario?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This resolution is a local initiative in New Brunswick and should not be tabled at a national level for support. • This resolution is in opposition of the COO Resolution #21/24 – <i>Small Modular Reactors and First Nations Energy Requirements</i> and AFN Resolution #62/2018 – <i>Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs)</i>. |
| <p>Resolution #30/23 Addressing Impacts from Mine Tailings Spills</p> <p>Mover: Judy Wilson, Proxy, Osoyoos Indian Band, BC</p> <p>Second: Chief Matthew Peigan, Pasqua First Nation, SK</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Call on federal, provincial, and territorial governments to ensure that all mining and mineral extraction projects taking place on First Nations lands and waters—including but not limited to, mining and minerals permitting processes, regulatory process development, mitigation and remediation reporting mechanisms, and emergency response processes to water, land, and environmental contamination—adhere to the minimum standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the principles of free, prior, and informed consent, and protections under the <i>Constitution Act</i>, 1982.</p> <p>2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon the Ministers of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to dedicate funding and resources to work with First Nations to review existing policies, legislation, and regulations to:</p> | <p><u>Environment Director’s Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This resolution requests FPIC adherence of the entire mining processes, funding for First Nations’ full participation on mining legislation, regulations, policy revisions and developments, identifying First Nations priorities from mining tailings spills, and to develop a database of mining spills and failures for monitoring, reporting and response mechanisms. • Support for this AFN resolution is recommended in light of existing and proposed mining developments in Ontario. <p><u>Women’s Initiatives Director’s Notes</u></p> <p>As noted in the Resolution there is evidence linking resource extraction work camps to high rates of violence against First Nations women, girls and Two Spirit/gender diverse people.</p> |

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| | <p>a. develop protocols that improve monitoring, safety, accountability, and oversight of mine tailings spills, and</p> <p>b. prevent or mitigate any deleterious or negative effects on First Nations due to emergency events and industrial activities.</p> <p>3. Direct the AFN to work with relevant Chiefs' Committees and technical bodies, to holistically identify First Nations priorities related to mine tailings spills, including the impacts on terrestrial, freshwater, marine ecosystems, human health and safety due to emergency events and industrial activities.</p> <p>4. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, to work with First Nations to create and co-develop a database of mine tailings spills and failures in monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and to establish appropriate responses to these events.</p> | <p>This concern was raised in a 2022 draft statement by the COO First Nations Women's Council following a study on resource extraction and violence against Indigenous women by the Standing Committee on the Status of Women (House of Commons). The Women's Council draft statement noted governments' responsibility through UNDRIP to mitigate adverse social impacts of resource extraction. The Council called for resource industries to adopt zero tolerance policies, develop gender-based violence awareness and workforce wellness programs and enhanced tracking of incidents, and support the development of First Nations safety plans.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #31/23 Urgent and Transformative Climate Action through the AFN National Climate Strategy</p> <p>Mover: Judy Wilson, Proxy, Osoyoos Indian Band, B.C</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Terry Richardson,</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Reaffirm the declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency, calling for:</p> <p>a. A recognition that the climate crisis constitutes a state of emergency for our lands, waters, animals, and peoples;</p> <p>b. Local, national, and international communities, governments, organizations, and movements to safeguard the inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights of First Nations, respect First Nations knowledge systems, and uphold Treaties and other constructive arrangements between First Nations and the Crown; and</p> <p>c. Federal, provincial, and territorial governments to take urgent and transformative climate action that meets the requirements outlined in the reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Canada's <i>Changing Climate Report</i> (2019) to reduce</p> | <p><u>Environment Director's Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This resolution seeks reaffirmation of the climate emergency declaration made in 2019, endorsement and implementation of the AFN National Climate Strategy plan, to obtain sustainable funding for FN climate strategies, and support the use of the National Climate Strategy at national and international settings. • Support for this AFN resolution is recommended to ensure FN in Ontario obtain funding to strategize in pursuing climate action and addressing climate impacts. |

Papineau First Nation, N.B.

emissions in Canada by 60% below 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

2. Fully endorse the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Climate Strategy and its seven key priority areas of action:

- a.** Recognize, respect, and position First Nations jurisdiction and inherent right to self-determination as central to national climate governance.
- b.** Address capacity needs to support First Nations as climate leaders.
- c.** Ensure First Nations self-sufficiency in food, water, and energy.
- d.** Prioritize First Nation Knowledge Systems, health, language, culture, and spirituality.
- e.** Close the natural and built infrastructure gap.
- f.** Ensure First Nations are equipped to respond to all emergencies.
- g.** Leverage the First Nations Climate Lens to reform legislation, policy, and programs.

3. Call on the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work directly, and in full partnership with, First Nations rights and title holders to implement self-determined First Nations climate priorities, including, but not limited to, those outlined in the AFN National Climate Strategy.

4. Direct the AFN to work with First Nations rights and title holders to advocate to the federal, provincial, and territorial governments for sufficient and sustainable funding to First Nations to implement their own strategies in a manner consistent with Article 39 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

5. Direct the AFN to use the AFN National Climate Strategy in national and international contexts as an advocacy tool, including with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

**Resolution #37/23
Opposition of
Nuclear
Technology,
Waste, Transport
and Storage**

**Mover: Chief
Lance Haymond,
Kebaowek First
Nation, QC**

**Seconder: Chief
Jeffery Copenace,
Ojibways of
Onigaming First
Nation, ON**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the Government of Canada to fully adhere to the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the protections under the *Constitution Act*, 1982, where information on the nature, size, pace, reversibility and scope of any proposed nuclear project or expansion are transparently disclosed and where an assessment of likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts is provided to First Nations, sufficiently in advance of any commencement or authorization of a nuclear project or an expansion.
2. Call on federal, provincial, and territorial governments to ensure that no testing, development, expansion or deployment of nuclear activities, including SMRs, occur on or near First Nations communities without the free, prior, and informed consent of all First Nations whose lands, territories, and/or other resources may be affected, including via transportation of any spent nuclear fuel.
3. Call for an urgent meeting between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Government of Canada regarding the consultation policy of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission as it relates to nuclear waste transport and disposal decision making for the Near Surface Disposal Facility at Chalk River (NSDF).
4. Direct the AFN to continue working with the Regions and Natural Resources Canada to develop a coordinated response to the new radioactive waste and decommissioning policy to include First Nations strategies and mitigation measures to fully conform with and promote the implementation of international human rights laws and standards.
5. Direct the AFN to explore avenues for “Eliminating Environmental Inequality” under Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms with respect to consultation and policies related to the nuclear industry.

Environment Director’s Notes

- This resolution calls on adhesion of UNDRIP and ensuring constitutional rights protection by the Government of Canada, FPIC implementation in nuclear activities, transportation and disposal, regional advocacy on nuclear policies with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and exploring options from Section 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* of “Eliminating Environmental Inequality”.
- This resolution conflicts with AFN draft Resolution #25/2023 where it is seeking support in its pursuit of nuclear energy.
- This resolution is compatible with COO Resolution #21/24 – *Small Modular Reactors and First Nations Energy Requirements* and AFN Resolution #62/2018 – *Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs)*.
- The federal government has not carried out its fiduciary obligations on consultation and accommodation on SMRs in Ontario.

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| <p>Resolution #39/23 First Nations-led Process for National Water Stewardship and the Canada Water Agency</p> <p>Mover:</p> <p>Seconders:</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on Canada to address First Nations concerns and to ensure that the creation of the Canada Water Agency adheres to standards of the UN Declaration, including the principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), and protections under the <i>Constitution Act</i>, 1982. 2. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to fund the creation of a national First Nations-led water stewardship committee, under the guidance of relevant Chiefs' Committees, such as the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) and the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI), to inform the implementation and co-development of any such agency, including related legislation, policies, and initiatives. 3. Direct the AFN to call upon the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to dedicate funding and resources for the meaningful and sustained engagement and participation of First Nations across Canada, and adequate funding for the creation of First Nations-led institutions that can support a whole-of-Canada approach to water stewardship and source water protection. | <p><u>ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>Please see attached Briefing Note.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #41/23 First Nation Rights-Based Inland Fisheries Framework</p> <p>Mover: Chief Rod Travers,</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Secretariat to host a meeting in 2023 whose focal point of discussion would be the development of a Rights-Based Inland Fisheries Framework; and 2. Direct the AFN Secretariat to research, present and discuss at the 2023 Inland Fisheries meeting potential elements of a Rights-Based Inland Fisheries Framework, which could include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Stock assessment, restoration and enhancement; | <p><u>ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This resolution demands a First Nations meeting to develop a framework with AFN providing the contents for discussion. • The framework will include all First Nations across this land to exercise their Inherent, Treaty and Constitutional rights to fish regardless of provincial government assumed administration. |

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| <p>Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation, MB</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Sheldon Kent, Little Black River First Nation, MB</p> | <p>b. Community-based fishery improvement plans;</p> <p>c. Quota and allocation guidance;</p> <p>d. Emergency management processes;</p> <p>e. Regulation and enforcement;</p> <p>f. Funding streams; and</p> <p>g. Revenue sharing agreements.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for this resolution is recommended as it wishes to address the fragmented assertion of fishing rights for all First Nations. |
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POLICY

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| <p>Resolution #07/23</p> <p>Mover: Chief Eugene Hope, Acho Dene Koe, Dene First Nation, NWT</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Kele Antoine, Łíídlıı Kúé, Denne First Nation, NWT</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call on all levels of government to respect and recognize the spirit and intent of Treaties as understood by our Elders. 2. Support the Dene First Nations to be recognized and regarded, in their current state, as “on-reserve” in order to receive sufficient, needs-based, federal funding. 3. Support for the Dene First Nations in reallocating funds from the Government of Northwest Territories to the Dene First Nations to empower self-determination and self-governance, enabling them to administer their own programs and services based on their specific requirements. | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR’S NOTES</u></p> <p>This is a support resolution for the Dene Nation to pursue reserve status for their territories, there are no direct implications for Ontario First Nations.</p> |
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| <p>Resolution #08/23</p> <p>Supporting First Nations to Receive</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call on the Government of Canada to work with First Nations to seek of new funding formulas and transfer agreements that provide adequate funding so all First Nations governments can provide safe, | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR’S NOTES</u></p> <p>This resolution is concurrent with COO’s stance that First Nations People are citizens of their First Nation regardless of where they live on Turtle Island. Ontario First Nations</p> |
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| <p>Funding for Off-Reserve Members</p> <p>Mover: Chief Gordon Bluesky, Brokenhead First Nation, MB</p> <p>Second: Chief Michael Starr, Star Blanket First Nation, SK</p> | <p>reliable, culturally-appropriate programs and services to both on and off-reserve members.</p> <p>2. Call on the Government of Canada to direct the funding that it currently transfers to the province on behalf of First Nations members who reside off-reserve to First Nations governments to enable them to provide improved services to their members who reside off-reserve.</p> | <p>Leadership have clearly stated to Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat representatives that they are seeking resources to support their citizens wherever they may reside.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>Would recommend to amend to include that any funding formulas that are created are done so in a fashion that will ensure fair shares to each province/territory and that any formulas remain flexible to reflect any changes or updates to data on First Nations living off-reserve.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #09/23 Support for Increases to Tribal Council Funding</p> <p>Mover: Chief Lucien Wabanonik, Premiere Nation Anishinabe de Lac Simon, QC</p> <p>Second: Kúkpí7 Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Call on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to provide political support for First Nations in securing increases in funding for the existing Tribal Council program through renewed funding agreements that include indexation, are needs-based, sufficient, predictable, and sustainable.</p> <p>2. Call on Canada to ensure that Tribal Council program funding be increased to address chronic underfunding since 1996.</p> <p>3. Mandate the Assembly of First Nations to immediately bring forward this resolution to the Government of Canada and to keep the First Nations and Tribal Councils apprised of the status of discussions.</p> | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This is a support resolution requesting additional funding for Tribal Councils. The relationship between First Nation and their local Tribal Councils differ from nation to nation, it is unlikely that an Ontario-wide position would be feasible.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #19/23 Support for First Nations Wildland Firefighters and</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to recognize the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities of First Nations Wildland Firefighters as more than adequate and on par with non-First Nations Wildland</p> | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This is a support resolution for First Nation Wildland Firefighters and does not contravene any existing Chiefs of Ontario mandates. It is recommended to support this resolution.</p> |

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| <p>Impacted Communities</p> <p>Mover: Chief Jeremy Fourhorns, Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation, SK</p> <p>Seconders: Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake Cree Nation, SK</p> | <p>Firefighters.</p> <p>2. Call upon Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and its regional partners, to work with the AFN and First Nations Wildland Firefighters on formal recognition of the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities of First Nations Wildland Firefighters.</p> <p>3. Call upon ISC to engage with other federal departments and work with First Nations impacted by wildland fires to support and adequately fund initiatives that incorporate the expertise and knowledge of those communities, given First Nations mastery over their unique hazardscapes.</p> <p>4. Call upon ISC and its regional partners, to include First Nations Wildland Firefighters and First Nations in any economic opportunities arising out of wildland firefighting or suppression activities on par with the inclusion of Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and Costa Rica and/or any other wildland firefighting organization called to assist Canada.</p> <p>5. Direct the AFN, contingent on funding resources, to work with First Nations Wildland Firefighters in developing a policy proposal within two years for presentation to the First Nations-in-Assembly, which would provide clear recommendations to government for support adequate and stable funding for culturally relevant training and recognized certification for First Nations Wildland Firefighters.</p> | |
| <p>Resolution #21/23 Support for Treaty and Inherent Rights to Tax and Tariff Exemption</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to work with Canada to expedite provisions within its free trade agreements (FTAs), facilitate an ongoing dialogue between First Nations and enact an Indigenous Peoples Rights General Exception with the United States.</p> | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This resolution requests that First Nations businesses be exempt from tariffs on goods that are included in any free trade agreements Canada has signed with foreign countries. It is recommended to support this resolution as this would give First</p> |

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| <p>Mover: Chief Lorie Whitecalf, Sweetgrass First Nation, SK</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Kenny Moccasin, Saulteaux First Nation, SK</p> | <p>2. Call on the United States to allow for an immediate amendment to any FTAs to enact a dedicated Indigenous general exception affirming First Nations rights to exemptions from current trade tariffs for 100% First Nations-owned softwood lumber manufacturers that export softwood lumber into the United States.</p> <p>3. Call on the United States to allow for an immediate return of 100% of all softwood lumber tariffs imposed by the U.S. Department of Commerce and held on deposit with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for Canadian 100% First Nations-owned softwood lumber exporters/importers of record.</p> | <p>Nations a comparative economic advantage in sectors that continue to be dominated by non-Indigenous businesses.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #23/23 Support for the Development of Hockey Indigenous</p> <p>Mover: Chief Andy Rickard, Garden River First Nation, ON</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation, ON</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to draft a letter of support to the federal government, Hockey Canada, and other appropriate government ministries, organizations, and individuals in support of Hockey Indigenous to access financial resources from those parties to support its operations and development.</p> <p>2. Call on the Government of Canada, Hockey Canada, and the provinces and territories to provide the necessary funding to Hockey Indigenous for the development of regional and national strategies, including but not limited to an awareness campaign, capacity building, youth hockey skills clinic, and sensitivity cultural training in hockey to educate appropriate hockey bodies across Canada.</p> | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This is a support resolution and that does not contravene any existing Chiefs of Ontario mandates. It is recommended to support this resolution as it supports First Nations self-determination in sport and recreation.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #24/23 Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Funds</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Call upon the Government of Canada to respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by affirming First Nations jurisdiction over housing in their traditional and unceded territories, including:</p> | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>Ontario First Nations Leadership and COO have tirelessly expressed their concerns regarding the URN funding allocation</p> |

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| <p>Management in Breach of the UN Declaration</p> <p>Mover: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Daniel Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band, B.C.</p> | <p>a. First Nations' control of allocation of federal Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing (URN) funds to organizations that provide off-community housing services to First Nations citizens and Indigenous Peoples not affiliated with recognized Metis or Inuit organizations and communities;</p> <p>b. Co-developing, through a distinctions-based process with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and First Nations, any programs, initiatives or policies that will direct both urgent, short-term and long-term Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy implementation funds directed to benefit both First Nations citizens; and</p> <p>c. Allocating sufficient funding for First Nations urban, rural, and northern housing management, administration, and program delivery.</p> <p>2. Call upon the Government of Canada and all provincial and territorial governments to acknowledge that resolving the First Nation on-community housing crisis will also address a large part of the urban Indigenous housing crisis.</p> | <p>management being undertaken by NICHl, as appointed by the federal government.</p> <p>This resolution is concurrent with COO's stance that URN funding ought to not be handled in a pan-Indigenous manner, as this is the proposed way forward by the government in selecting a funding administer who operates under a pan-Indigenous umbrella. First Nations' allocations of URN funds ought to be allocated and handled directly by First Nations.</p> <p>As the AFN was not originally consulted in the government's selection of NICHl as the URN funding administer, the COO is in support of this resolution calling on Canada to respect the UNDRIP in affirming First Nations' jurisdiction over housing in their territories, and returning to the table with Canada to solve the issue at hand.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>None</p> |
| <p>Resolution #28/23 Returning First Nations Lands through Additions to Reserve Reform</p> <p>Mover: Chief Patricia Bernard, Madawaska Maliseet First Nation, NB</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Calvin Sanderson,</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada to co-develop with First Nations a clear, effective, and transparent process to restore, reacquire, and/or remedy the historic dispossession of reserve lands, including fully implementing outstanding legal obligations to create or add to existing reserves or other land tenure systems.</p> <p>2. Direct the AFN to engage with First Nations on the restitution of lands to First Nations, including through the review and re-design of the Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy and process, and to develop a comprehensive report that:</p> <p>a. Identifies the many priorities First Nations have respecting ATR.</p> <p>b. Provides an analysis of the existing policy framework for ATR.</p> | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This resolution is concurrent with COO's stance on the ATR process and to ensure that that any and all information pertaining to the process is communicated and widely available to all First Nations in Ontario.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>Recommended to amend to include adequate funding as a requirement to allow regions to be able to fully engaged in a "co-development" manner and be able to monitor the ongoing ATR process.</p> |

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| <p>Chakastaypasin Band, SK</p> | <p>c. Proposes potential policy and legislative solutions for consideration by the First Nations-in-Assembly at an upcoming Assembly.</p> | |
| <p>Resolution #29/23 Recognize First Nations Laws and Legal Orders in the Specific Claims Process</p> <p>Mover: Chief Wilfred King, Gull Bay First Nation, ON</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Calvin Sanderson, Chakastaypasin First Nation, SK</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada to work with First Nations to research, plan, and develop frameworks for the recognition of Indigenous laws, legal orders, and systems of land tenure in the specific claims process. 2. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to support the recognition of the laws, legal orders, and dispute resolution mechanisms as articulated by participating First Nations in all aspects of resolving specific claims, including in the conduct of adjudication, dispute resolution and negotiations. 3. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to provide adequate resources and funding to First Nations to ensure that Indigenous laws, legal orders, and systems of land tenure are recognized at all stages of the specific claims process. | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>The Specific Claims Policy is currently under review and Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has been given a mandate to negotiate the development of an independent institution to adjudicate specific claims. This resolution calls for the recognition of First Nations laws, legal orders, and systems of land tenure in the specific claims process.</p> <p>The proposal put forward by the AFN to develop an "Independent Centre for the Resolution of Specific Claims" includes the creation of an "Advisory Committee on the Application of Indigenous Laws", made up of First Nations experts on First Nations laws, to undertake the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer guidance to the independent centre on application of First Nations laws and protocols for sharing evidence 2. Develop best practices for incorporating First Nations laws and ceremony into negotiations and the Tribunal processes 3. Manage sensitive information on traditional knowledge 4. Provide advice and assistance to First Nations during the research and investigation phases of the specific claims process <p>More information on the proposed changes to the specific claims process and a copy of AFN's proposal is available at the AFN website under the "Land Rights and Jurisdiction" tab.</p> |

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| <p>Resolution #43/23 Demand Consultation on Section 50 Policy Amendments under the Indian Act</p> <p>Mover: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band, BC</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada to consult directly with First Nations before any and all proposed policy changes to the <i>Indian Act</i> and specifically on the Section 50 Policy. 2. Direct the AFN to support First Nations in their consultation processes with the Government of Canada regarding proposed policy changes on the interpretation and application of Section 50 of the <i>Indian Act</i>. 3. Call on Canada to adhere to the principle of free, prior, and informed consent in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples when developing any proposed Section 50 Policy. 4. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to adequately and appropriately fund First Nations to participate in formal consultation and to undertake extensive community engagement on any proposed policy changes on the interpretation and application of Section 50 of the <i>Indian Act</i> and any other proposed changes to the Indian Act. 5. Direct the AFN to call on ISC to refrain from establishing any new policies relating to the interpretation of the <i>Indian Act</i> until such time that all First Nations have been adequately consulted. | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>The Chiefs of Ontario has not sought a legal opinion on the impacts of the proposed changes to Section 50 of the Indian Act. This section of the Indian Act ensures that lands given to non-members are not transferred to non-member heirs upon death, but rather, auctioned among existing members. The proposed changes would allow non-member heirs to seek membership before the land is auctioned off under Section 50.</p> <p>The Chiefs of Ontario does not have a mandate to recommend support or rejection of the proposed changes to the Indian Act. That said, this resolution only directs Canada and the AFN to ensure there is proper consultation on the proposed changes before they get rolled out. It is therefore recommended to support this resolution as it is in line with the principle of free, prior, and informed consent and the Crown's Duty to Consult.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #45/23 Pay Equity for First Nations</p> <p>Mover: Chief Dean Sayers,</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to develop a Pay Equity Task Force, with all interested First Nations that will work with Canada to identify and implement means for increasing First Nations access to funding and supports for human resource recruiting, training, equitable compensation, and retention. The Pay Equity Task Force must be based on the needs and requirements of First Nations, as determined | <p><u>POLICY DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This resolution is in line with existing Chiefs of Ontario mandates and it is therefore recommended to support this resolution.</p> |

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| <p>Batchewana First Nation, ON</p> <p>Secunder: Chief Jeremy Fourhorns, Carry the Kettle Nakota Nation, SK</p> | <p>and defined by First Nations, rather than on competition for the limited program funding that is currently available on terms that are not our own.</p> <p>2. Call on Canada and the AFN to expressly reject all formula-based funding approaches for First Nations governments that do not reflect the true costs of supporting the unique needs of First Nations communities and are not determined by First Nations, and to support the development and/or application of formula-based funding approaches that do reflect true costs as determined by First Nations.</p> <p>3. Call on Canada to honour its fiduciary duty in support of an equitable standard of living for our people, and to that end, commit its support toward the development of a Pay Equity Task Force, and commit thereafter to work in good faith with that Task Force.</p> | |
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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| <p>Resolution #11/23 Repeal or Amend Legislation that Breaches First Nations Inherent and Treaties Rights to Natural Resources</p> <p>Mover: Chief Erica Beaudin, Cowessess First Nation, SK</p> <p>Secunder: Chief Matthew Todd</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to undertake research to identify legislative and regulatory instruments where the federal government has delegated jurisdiction to provinces and territories over crown lands and natural resources that restrict or extinguish the inherent, Treaty and constitutional rights of First Nations.</p> <p>2. Call on the Prime Minister of Canada and the provinces and territories to repeal or amend legislative and regulatory instruments that breach First Nations' Inherent and Treaty Rights, including the 1930 Natural Resources Acts.</p> <p>3. Call upon Canada to ensure that the principle of free, prior, and informed consent is followed in any repeal or amendment of legislative and regulatory instruments that breach First Nations' inherent and Treaty Rights, including the 1930 Natural Resources Acts.</p> | <p><u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>This is an important issue and needs to be taken up by COO with the Province to safeguard First Nations Treaty and Constitutional rights in Ontario.</p> <p>COO's Economic Development Department looks forward to the positive developments that will come from this resolution and to support AFN in their research and having meaningful dialogue through AFN's CCED.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>1. <i>It is suggested that a clause be added to the resolution that AFN Secretariat should report on the progress in Annual AFNs.</i></p> |
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| <p>Peigan, Pasqua First Nation, SK</p> | | <p>2. <i>There is no mention of what line of action AFN needs to take in case Canada do not heed to the resolves taken up, with a time line.</i></p> |
| <p>Resolution #13/23 National Indigenous Gaming Regulator</p> <p>Mover: Chief Michael Starr, Star Blanket First Nation, SK</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Lee-Anne Kehler, Kawacatoose First Nation, SK</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support research into the establishment of an independent National Indigenous Gaming Regulator that is optional for First Nations. 2. Support First Nations seeking to conduct, facilitate, and regulate gaming, online gaming, and gaming related activities independent of federal and provincial regulations. 3. Direct that the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) engage the Government of Canada to amend the Criminal Code as it relates to preventing First Nations from exercising their inherent rights in gaming. | <p><u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>Largely it can be beneficial for First nations economic development if regulated with standards higher than Federal or Provincial, keeping in mind First Nation traditional values</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is suggested that a clause be added to the resolution that AFN Secretariat should report on the progress in Annual AFNs. • Could include how AFN will engage with the Government to advocate for First Nations gaming rights • There is no mention of what line of action AFN needs to take in case Canada do not heed to the resolves taken up with a time line. |
| <p>Resolution # First Nations-Led Procurement Organization and the National Benefits-Sharing Framework</p> <p>Mover: Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation, ON</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call upon the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association to immediately initiate the development of a new First Nations-Led Procurement Organization (FNPO) to provide wrap-around procurement services, such as necessary procurement certification, networking, education, and promotion, that will increase First Nations and First Nations businesses' success in securing procurement opportunities no matter where they reside. | <p><u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>COO's Economic Development Department is currently conducting its own procurement and supply chain study on the provincial level with the Ministry of IAO</p> <p>COO's Economic Development Department looks forward to working with AFN and National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association in formation of the proposed procurement organization for information sharing and collaboration on these key topics</p> |

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| <p>Second: Chief Elizabeth Kataquapit, Fort Albany First Nation, ON</p> | <p>2. Encourage National Indigenous Economic Organizations to collaborate with the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association on the establishment and operation of an FNPO.</p> <p>3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to sit on the Steering Committee of the future FNPO.</p> <p>4. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to provide the necessary start-up capital and on-going financial support to establish and operate a First Nations-Led Procurement Organization for the benefit of First Nations and First Nations businesses.</p> <p>5. Direct the AFN to call on Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to engage with the First Nations and their representative institutions directly to advance the development of a National Benefits-Sharing Framework to advance the meaningful participation of First Nations Peoples in the development of natural resources on their territories.</p> <p>6. Direct the AFN and the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development to work with NRCan on the co-development of a First Nations-specific chapter of the National Benefits-Sharing Framework so First Nations' unique perspectives are reflected in the final framework document, for discussion and validation at a future AFN Assembly.</p> | <p>COO's CCoED will also be interested in being involved in the creation of a First Nations specific National Benefits Sharing Framework</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution could create some distinctions in the connection between Procurement and a First Nations National Benefits Sharing Framework. A separate resolution could have been created on National Benefit sharing Framework. • It is suggested that a clause be added to the resolution that AFN Secretariat should report on the progress in Annual AFNs. • Line of action AFN needs to take in case Canada do not heed to the resolves taken up with a time line. |
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| <p>Resolution #02/23 A Study on First Nations Guaranteed Liveable Income</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) to conduct and oversee a research study to identify First Nations' concerns and priorities as it relates to guaranteed livable income, including the fiscal impacts and policy opportunities for the On-reserve Income Assistance Program.</p> | <p><u>SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>COO Social has no concerns.</p> <p><u>WOMEN'S INITIATIVES DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>In 2021 regional engagement with AFN on MMIWG, Ontario First Nations families and survivors noted that various social</p> |
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| <p>Mover: Chief Darlene Bernard, Lennox Island First Nation, PEI</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC</p> | <p>2. Direct the AFN to seek funding from the Government of Canada for the TWGSD to conduct and oversee the study.</p> | <p>assistance programs do not provide sufficient supports, especially where housing and food costs are high. They envisioned social assistance proportionate to cost of living. This aligns with MMIWG Call for Justice 4.5 (cited in the Resolution) which calls for a guaranteed livable income across Canada that would take into account diverse needs and geographic locations.</p> <p>The AFN's MMIWG framework document, Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice, noted that improved socioeconomic development outcomes would reduce the marginalization of Indigenous women and girls.</p> |
| <p>Resolution #12/23 Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation</p> <p>Mover: Chief Lorie Whitecalf, Sweetgrass First Nation, SK</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Christine Longjohn, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, SK</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support appointing Mary Teegee, Raymond Shingoose and/or Richard Grey to the Settlement Implementation Committee. 2. Work with the Plaintiffs to set up a new trustee board for the General Fund that consists of First Nation Child and Family Services (FNCFS) experts and FNCFS financial experts. 3. Call on Canada to provide financial support to FNCFS Agencies and First Nations to assist First Nations claimants and in support of providing information to First Nations claimants through the Talking Stick App. 4. Direct that AFN legal counsel donates a fair percentage of their fee to the First Nations children through established trust funds. 5. Direct the establishment of a formal working agreement and sub-committee between the National Advisory Committee and Deloitte | <p><u>SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>Article 1 Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Settlement Implementation Committee is the heart of the Settlement after it is approved by the Courts. As the heart, it provides direction to the administrator on all matters, including the claims process and class member communications, accepts or approves changes to the claims process, proposes any necessary protocols for the Court in case there are gaps in the agreement, engages experts where necessary, and other work. • The SIC is supposed to have 5 members: two First Nation members ("Non-Counsel SIC Members") and three Counsel members ("Counsel SIC Members"). It is unclear if all three are meant to be the First Nation members of the SIC. |

Canada on dialogue with claimants.

- Having the First Nation members of the SIC be made up entirely of FNCFS Agency representatives may be a real or perceived conflict of interest, considering their role as instruments in creating the problem the Compensation FSA is trying to compensate for.
- As the SIC is the heart of the implementation, these representatives ought to be Chiefs or other child welfare experts.

The appointees:

Mary Teegee is Gitk'san and Carrier from Takla Lake First Nation and is the Executive Director of Child and Family Services at Carrier Sekani Family Services. Teegee is a member of the Board of Directors for the First Nations Caring Society.

Raymond Shingoose is the Executive Director of Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc in Saskatchewan. Shingoose is the President of the Board of Directors for the First Nations Caring Society.

Richard Grey is the Director of Social for AFN Quebec and Labrador. Grey is also on the National Advisory Committee.

Article 2 Comments:

- The General Fund of the Cy-Pres fund is endowed with \$50 million from the Trust Fund to be paid from the income generated on the Settlement Funds. The General Fund's objective is to provide culturally sensitive and trauma-informed supports to the Class,

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| | | <p>including grant-based supports to facilitate access to culture-based, community-based and healing-based programs, services and activities to class members, or other activities. It may also establish a national First Nations Youth In/From Care Network to share best practices and updates and make recommendations on policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• While the Fund will be designed by the Plaintiffs, the revised Agreement does not specifically say what the make-up of the Trustees or Board of Directors for the Foundation would look like – just that it will be “First Nations led.”• There may be room for friendly amendment to include First Nations leadership. <p>Article 3 Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Talking Stick App is a Saskatchewan-based mental health app that offers free and anonymous text-only chat app that allows First Nations people to connect with a trained peer advocate in Saskatchewan. The app is developed by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations in Saskatchewan. Supposedly this would allow for FNCFS Agencies and First Nations to text with claimants who have questions.• The Settlement Agreement does provide for in-community supports funded by Canada to be later determined.• A friendly amendment may include: “Call on Canada to provide for needs-based, holistic funding for First Nations to assist their citizens with supports and navigators to access compensation and mental health |
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care. This funding should not have prescribed terms and conditions in order to allow First Nations to direct and/or pool funding how they see fit.”

Article 4 Comments:

- This will impact any retainer currently existing as between the firms, Class Counsel, and the Plaintiffs and as such, may be impossible to direct without revisiting existing contracts.
- A resolution from the Chiefs in Assembly that speaks to the fairness of the fees that can be included in any motion record may be most helpful. This resolution could include a call for legal counsel to keep their fees but donate any multiplier, or a portion thereof, back to the children.

Counsel include: Sotos LLP, Kugler Kandestin, Miller Titerle + Co, Nahwegahbow, Corbiere, and Fasken Martineau Dumoulin.

Article 5 Comments:

- The National Advisory Committee is a committee comprised primarily of FNCFS Agency-directors and Agency-affiliated individuals. Clarity is needed on what the purpose of the subcommittee would be. COO may be concerned about further entrenching NAC involvement in the process of implementing compensation.

RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS

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| | | <p>Friendly Amendment Article 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To include First Nations leadership. <p>Friendly Amendment Article 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Call on Canada to provide for needs-based, holistic funding for First Nations to assist their citizens with supports and navigators to access compensation and mental health care. This funding should not have prescribed terms and conditions in order to allow First Nations to direct and/or pool funding how they see fit.” |
| <p>Resolution #15/23 Support to Parents Affected by Historical Cases of Newborn Child Abduction</p> <p>Mover: Chief Scott Eashappie, Carry the Kettle Nakota Nation, SK</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake Cree Nation, SK</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call upon the federal government to call for an independent inquiry into the tragedy of First Nations newborn abductions by healthcare professionals. 2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for an independent and thorough examination of each case involving the forced separation of First Nations newborns from their mothers with the ultimate goal of finding the truth, reuniting mother and child, and seeking justice for families. | <p><u>SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>COO Social has no concerns.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> |
| <p>Resolution #20/23 To Ensure Quality of Life to the First</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> | <p><u>SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S NOTES</u></p> <p>Article 1 Comments:</p> |

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| <p>Nations Child and Family Services</p> <p>Program and Jordan’s Principle</p> <p>Mover: Chief Norma Catarat, Buffalo River Dene Nation, SK</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Tanya Aguilar-Antiman, Mosquito Grizzly Bear’s Head First Nation, SK</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oppose the formation of a National Secretariat and recommend that all funds be distributed to a national non-profit like the First Nations Caring Society, established regional secretariats and First Nation institutes recognized for their research on First Nation Child and Family Services (FNCFS). 2. Support the National Advisory Committee Caucus Terms of Reference to be updated to ensure FNCFS experts are leading the Long-Term Reform and that the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Executive stop the delay by immediately accepting and passing the updated Terms of Reference. 3. Support that AFN Long-Term Reform Resolution #40-2022 passed in December 2022 be brought forward at the July 2023 AFN Assembly to be reaffirmed and acted upon by all parties. 4. Support an Alternative Dispute Resolution or Ombudsperson for Child Welfare Conflict that is apolitical and utilized by complainants and First Nations. 5. Support that every Nation/Agency has the ability to continue negotiating with their own current long-term reform process independent from the First Nations Caring Society, AFN, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and other organizations. 6. Ensure that the AFN works with FSIN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COO has concerns about the funding for the National Secretariat being redirected to the Caring Society. • Without a National Secretariat we may not have a strong understanding of “the big picture”. <p>Article 5 Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parties to the <i>Caring Society</i> case are COO, NAN, AFN, Caring Society, and Canada as a respondent. The parties to this case have been court ordered to reform the national First Nations Child and Family Services program. It is a national program with some regional variations. • COO wants to ensure that all Ontario First Nations have equitable access to a reformed, non-discriminatory federal First Nations Child and Family Services program (FNCFS program), including funding. The only effective way to ensure equitable access to funding is to have an agreement that applies across Ontario. • One way to ensure that First Nations are able to secure long-term reform of the FNCFS program that works for them is to include an opt-out clause in the final settlement agreement. • COO proposes that rather than undo the work toward a minimum baseline – the nation-wide reform of the FNCFS program – the final settlement agreement should have a process for First Nations to opt-out and to negotiate their own agreements, should they choose to. COO does not think it is within the jurisdiction of Agencies to opt-out of a national reformed FNCFS program on behalf of First Nations. This could be detrimental and Agencies are not in a place to negotiate nation-to-nation on behalf of First Nations, unless delegated to do so. <p><u>RECOMMENDED FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS</u></p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendly amendment to Article 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the formation of a National Secretariat only if it is formed alongside Regional Secretariats. Advocate that Canada adequately fund First Nations-led and self-determined Regional Secretariats across the country. • Friendly amendment to Article 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support that every First Nation has the ability to opt-out of the reformed First Nations Child and Family Services program and negotiate their own long-term reform process, with the national program acting as a baseline. |
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CHIEFS OF ONTARIO POLITICAL OFFICE

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| <p>Resolution #03/23 Approval of the Updated AFN Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal – Terms of Reference (2023)</p> <p>Mover:</p> <p>Secunder:</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal. 2. Direct the AFN Executive to fully support the Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal as the updated 2023 Terms of Reference. | |
| <p>Resolution #04/23 Approval of Consultation and Engagement on</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the Chiefs’ Committee on Charter Renewal to engage the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Community on the AFN Charter 2.0 – | |

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| <p>AFN Charter 2.0 – Consultative Draft</p> <p>Mover: Chairperson Khelsilem, Squamish Nation, BC</p> <p>Seconder: Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation, ON</p> | <p>Consultative Draft and seeks input, feedback, and direction on the Chiefs’ Committee on Charter Renewal’s draft recommendations from the AFN Nations and First Nations from all Regions.</p> <p>2. Directs the Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal to launch a period of consultation and engagement with the AFN Community on the AFN Charter 2.0 – Consultative Draft.</p> <p>3. Direct the Chiefs’ Committee on Charter Renewal to provide a report on the feedback received and incorporate the feedback received into a Final Draft AFN Charter 2.0 to be presented for consideration at a Special Chiefs Assembly.</p> <p>4. Direct the AFN Secretariat to provide adequate resources to the Chiefs’ Committee on Charter Renewal to engage with the AFN Community on the AFN Charter 2.0 – Consultative Draft and development of the AFN Charter 2.0 – Final Draft.</p> | |
| <p>Resolution #35/23 Recognition of Canada’s Indian Residential School Genocide and Reparations for Survivors and Descendants</p> <p>Mover: Chief Jason Daniels, Swan Lake First Nation, MB</p> | <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <p>1. Call on the Government of Canada to recognize that the establishment and operation of Indian Residential Schools was genocide as acknowledged by Pope Francis and in accordance with Article II of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.</p> <p>2. Call on the Government of Canada to commit to the following actions in the spirit of reconciliation and to begin healing after the recognition of genocide:</p> <p> a. The continued healing of and support for the Survivors of Indian Residential Schools, their families, and communities through the</p> | |

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| <p>Secunder: Chief Kyra Wilson, Long Plain First Nation, MB</p> | <p>recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Providing a guaranteed annual income for Survivors of the Indian Residential School system, their descendants, and descendants thereafter in perpetuity to support the revitalization of First Nations; andc. Educating all Canadians about the lessons from the Indian Residential Schools System genocide, its continuing impacts on society, and to bridge efforts of reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians. | |
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