

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO
ONLINE SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
February 3-4, 2021**

**RESOLUTION 21/07
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SUBJECT: FEDERAL BI-LATERAL PROCESS FOR EDUCATION

MOVER: Chief Dean Sayers, Ojibways of Batchewana

SECONDER: Chief Brent Bissaillon, Serpent River First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states:
 - i. Article 14 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
 - ii. Article 14 (2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
 - iii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
 - iv. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.

2. The Government of Canada has a duty to uphold and honour the inherent right of First Nations to exercise control over their own education;
3. First Nations, Education Institutes and organizations in Ontario have been developing innovative approaches to meet the unique needs of their people, communities and their Institutes through the assertion of their jurisdiction within communities;
4. The Chiefs in Assembly supported the creation of the Ontario First Nation Education Coordination Unit (resolution 00/03) providing the mandate to review First Nation education issues and develop effective recommendations to improve education supports for First Nation students, schools, trades and organizations;
5. The National Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) have consistently utilized over-simplistic formulaic approaches to national funding allocations that fail to meet the needs of First Nations in Ontario;
6. The decisions made at the National Indian Education Council/CCOE have resulted in severe budget cuts for Ontario First Nation education programs that have negatively affected program delivery within communities;
7. On November 25, 2020, Ontario Region notified AFN of the decision to withdraw from the AFN education process;
8. The Ontario First Nations continue to stand united in developing a broad bilateral framework that incorporates the unique principles and needs of each First Nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Chiefs in Assembly:

1. Mandate the Ontario First Nations Education Coordination Unit (FNECU) to develop recommendations for an education bi-lateral process with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) that supports holistic lifelong learning approaches with recommendations on the bi-lateral process to be presented at the 2021 AOCC for ratification.
2. Call on the Government of Canada to ensure that longstanding funding of programs such as the Education Partnerships Program (EPP) and Post Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP), which have achieved outstanding success to date, continue to be funded at a level equal to or greater than 2019-2020 investments.

3. Call on the Government of Canada to inject new investments into Ontario First Nations' lifelong learning approach to education, compensating for historical underfunding, thus creating equitable and adequate funding levels, fostering growth, new opportunities, and partnerships for continued success and positive gains.
4. Acknowledge that this resolution and its associated processes and recommendations are without prejudice to any First Nation participating in any education initiative or structure with the federal and/or provincial governments, including any of our political organizations and independent or unaffiliated First Nations, and is without prejudice to the inherent and Treaty rights of all First Nations in Ontario.

Certified Copy of a Resolution dated on February 4, 2021.



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief