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**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO
FALL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
November 21-22-23, 2023**

**RESOLUTION 23/15S
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**SUBJECT: ONTARIO BILATERAL EDUCATION AND LEARNING TABLE
(OBELT)**

MOVER: Chief Shelly Moore-Frappier, Temagami First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

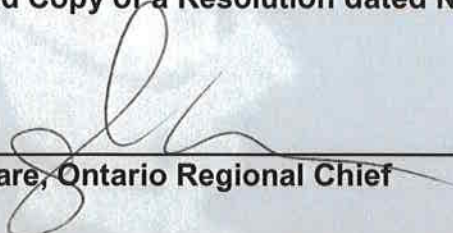
WHEREAS:

1. The Government of Canada has a duty to uphold and honour the Inherent rights of First Nations to exercise control over their own education;
2. First Nations, education Institutes and organizations in Ontario have been developing innovative approaches to meet the unique needs of their peoples, communities and their institutes through the assertion of their jurisdiction within communities;
3. The Chiefs in Assembly mandated the creation of the Ontario First Nation Education Coordination Unit (FNECU), which has now evolved into the Chiefs and Technical Committee on Languages and Learning (CTCLL), to review First Nation education issues and develop effective recommendations to improve education supports for First Nation learners in Ontario;
4. VIA Resolution 21/07, the Chiefs in Assembly mandated the FNECU (now the CTCLL) to develop recommendations for an education bilateral process with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to support holistic lifelong learning approaches;
5. Joint work between the CTCLL and ISC including engagement with First Nation community representatives resulted in the development of the Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table (OBELT), a framework for an Ontario First Nations – Indigenous Services Canada bilateral partnership on lifelong learning;
6. The purpose of the OBELT is to provide an overarching structure to build and execute an evergreen strategy that supports all Ontario First Nations in asserting their sovereignty and jurisdiction over education and learning that meets the needs of First Nation communities, individuals and First Nation designated entities.

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

1. Approve the proposed approach outlined in the attached document prepared by the Chiefs of Ontario Chiefs and Technical Committee on Languages and Learning for a bilateral process between First Nations in Ontario and the federal government on education.
2. Endorse the work of the newly formed Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table towards fulfilment of the remaining operative clauses in Resolution 21/07, namely:
 - a. 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; and
 - b. Call on the Government of Canada to inject new investments into First Nations in Ontario lifelong learning approach to education, compensating for historical underfunding, thus creating equitable and adequate funding levels, fostering growth, new opportunities, substantive equality and partnerships for continued success and positive gains.
3. Call on the Federal government to commit to and fund the Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table as outlined in the attached document for 2024-2025 and jointly review the funding requirement annually.
4. Direct the CTTCLL to provide annual updates and interim updates as necessary to the COO Leadership Council and the Chiefs in Assembly on the progress of the Ontario Bilateral Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table.
5. Affirm 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 November 22, 2023



Glen Hare, Ontario Regional Chief