

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO
ANNUAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
June 11-12-13, 2024**

**RESOLUTION 24/07A
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SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF COO WITHDRAWAL FROM AFN
COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

MOVER: Chief Shelley 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 right of First Nations to exercise control over their own education;
2. On November 25, 2020, Ontario Region notified the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) of the decision to withdraw from the AFN education process because of budget cuts to First Nations in Ontario associated with recommendations from the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) to the First Nations in Assembly;
3. On October 19, 2021, Leadership Council requested the COO Education Sector explore options on repairing relations with the AFN and re-establishing participation at the national tables on education;
4. On November 17, 2022, the Chiefs in Assembly passed COO Resolution 22/39S, *The Chiefs of Ontario Education Sector Relations with the AFN*, calling for the AFN National Chief and the AFN Executive Committee to meet with representatives from the COO Leadership Council to review and discuss the recommended revisions to the AFN NIEC and CCOE Terms of Reference;
5. Due to the ongoing unresolved issue, COO submitted a resolution on the recommended revisions to the NIEC and CCOE Terms of Reference at the AFN AGA in July 2023. Resolution 57/2023 National Unity on Education passed with one noted opposition;
6. As of June 2024, the conditions for revisions to the NIEC and CCOE Terms of Reference do not sufficiently reflect the amendments outlined in AFN Resolution 57/2023 *National Unity on Education* or the majority of revisions COO submitted to the AFN CCOE and NIEC for consideration.

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

1. Remain formally withdrawn from the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the National Indian Education Council (NIEC).
2. Inform the federal government that they must inform First Nations in Ontario directly of all national matters related to First Nations education.
3. Inform the federal government that they must engage and consult directly with First Nations in Ontario on all national matters related to First Nations education.
4. Stress to the federal government the urgency of establishing and providing the required financial resources for the Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table, supported by the Chiefs in Assembly through Resolution 23/15S – Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table.
5. 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 June 13, 2024



Abram Benedict, Ontario Regional Chief