



CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 33rd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Thunder Bay, Ontario to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on September 16, 2021.

RESOLUTION #16-16-09-2021

ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION SYSTEMS OF MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states: “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”; and

WHEREAS provision for, and access to, lifelong learning is an Inherent and Treaty right of all First Nations peoples; and

WHEREAS Indigenous Services Canada’s (ISC), and its previous incarnations’, control and underfunding of First Nations education systems has produced many negative outcomes that First Nations understand can be remedied by a statutory guarantee of fair, predictable and sustainable funding for systems developed and maintained by First Nations; and

WHEREAS the Matawa Chiefs Council recognize similar resolutions have been passed through the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Chiefs of Ontario (COO), and Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) and acknowledge the related work that has been done to date; and

WHEREAS the Inquest Into the Deaths of Seven First Nations Youths yielded jury recommendations that directed Canada to provide the funding necessary to address the areas of language and culture, culturally appropriate curricula and programs, education capital infrastructure including high school for grades 9-12 on reserve, and teacher recruitment which includes adequate housing; and

WHEREAS the Matawa Chiefs Council recognize the Government of Canada has begun to make investments into First Nations education with the intent to be fair, predictable and sustainable, and that through ISC’s Education Transformation, ISC has begun to respect the principle of First Nations control of First Nations education as mandated by the Prime Minister in November 2015.





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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council call on the Canada to work alongside each individual Matawa First Nation and Matawa First Nations Management in true partnership in the spirit of reconciliation; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council call on Canada to support the Matawa First Nations in their advancement of an education system and to follow the recommendations of the Seven Youth Inquest to address:

- an education system on reserve that is equivalent **or better** to the standards of provincial education systems
- capital education infrastructure, curriculum services
- language and culture needs

While following the principle of First Nations control of First Nations education.

MOVED BY: Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

OPPOSED: None.
ABSENCES: None.
CARRIED: Consensus (X)

Chief Executive Officer

QMS #: COM TEM 008
ISSUE DATE: July 2, 2014

DEPT: Communications
REVISION # / DATE: _____ / _____

APPROVED BY: COM MGR

