



## CHIEFS COUNCIL

*RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Webequie First Nation to be effective from and after 1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on July 26, 2022.*

### RESOLUTION #07-28-07-2022

#### CHANGES TO ONTARIO SCIENCE CURRICULUM

**WHEREAS** the principle of reconciliation between Canada/Ontario and Indigenous People is a multi-level approach and is based on respect for Indigenous learning and contribution to Canada—past, present and future, and;

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Progressive Conservative government has removed the Indigenous science framework and overarching themes that would otherwise teach students the connections between Indigenous and Western science from the provincial elementary science curriculum, and more content related to skilled trades and technology was added, and;

**WHEREAS** in 2021, the Ontario Progressive Conservative government removed sections referencing racism and colonialism from the provincial secondary Grade 9 mathematics curriculum, and;

**WHEREAS** Indigenous student-learning and achievement may be impacted by this action, including gaps in students' science learning; student disengagement; lack of connection in their learning to the environment, their communities, and the land, and;

**WHEREAS** Ontario elementary students of all backgrounds may not be exposed to the Indigenous ways of learning and understanding scientific principles, contrary to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and;

**WHEREAS** Ontario's elementary science curriculum does not specifically include expectations related to the current contributions of Indigenous people involved in the science community and the impact that Indigenous scientific knowledge and ways of knowing can, and has had, on the future, and;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly want the Ontario Ministry of Education to immediately stop the planned implementation of the new Ontario elementary science curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year, and;

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to work with the Ontario Ministry of Education and other First Nation education organizations to develop a framework that will ensure the on-going incorporation of Indigenous content and ways of learning in all areas of the Ontario elementary and secondary curricula, and;





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**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** THAT the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly advocate at the regional, provincial, and national levels to ensure the incorporation of Indigenous content and ways of learning in all areas of the Ontario elementary, secondary and post-secondary curricula, and to ensure that the recommendations of the TRC are acted upon in good faith by all governments, and;

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED** that Matawa Chiefs in Assembly call upon Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Chiefs of Ontario to advocate in the best interest of its member First Nations by challenging the Ontario Ministry of Education's efforts in the implementation of the new Ontario elementary science curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year, and;

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawa Education Department provide regular updates to the Matawa education leadership and to the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly on issues related to the Ontario curriculum.

**MOVED BY:** Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation  
**SECONDED BY:** Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

**OPPOSITION(S):** None  
**ABSTENTION(S):** None

**CARRIED:** Consensus

Chief Executive Officer

