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## CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

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April 27, 2011

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo  
National Chief  
Assembly of First Nations  
473 Albert Street, Suite 900  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 5B4

Dear National Chief Atleo:

I am writing to inform you of a resolution passed at the Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly held on April 14, 2011, concerning the Joint National Panel on First Nations education.

Upon review of the process to date, which included an independent analysis of the process, the Chiefs in Assembly decided:

*“that First Nations in Ontario engage in a parallel process to that of the National Panel and develop a report to be submitted to the National Chief and the INAC Minister to coincide with the National Panel submission.”*

The Chiefs within Ontario clearly wish to move beyond the ‘status quo’ of the INAC Education Reform agenda (including FNSSP, EPP and EIS) that does not meet the standard of First Nation’s control of First Nation’s education envisioned in the treaties, our policy work, and affirmed in the UNDRIP. There are a number of concerns that have been raised which are outlined in the attached list.

In recognition of the importance of unity among all First Nations in Canada, and in the spirit of cooperation, the Chiefs in Ontario have asserted that a parallel process represents an opportunity to provide a positive contribution to the process of developing options. The parallel process will not be at odds with the National Panel initiative, but will serve to compliment the report produced by the Panel.

Further, the Chiefs in Ontario maintain and uphold the right of individual First Nations to engage in the National Panel process if they so desire. Our Chiefs-in-Assembly have also confirmed by Resolution that I, as Regional Chief, although holding the national portfolio on education and integrally involved in the National Panel process, must ensure the parallel process taking place in Ontario is my first priority.

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Should you have any questions or concerns, I would be pleased to speak with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angus Toulouse', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angus Toulouse  
Ontario Regional Chief

Attach.