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CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

ONTARIO SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
April 12-13-14, 2011
Toronto, Ontario

RESOLUTION NO.11/19

SUBJECT: JOINT NATIONAL PANEL ON EDUCATION

MOVER: Chief Joseph Gilbert, Bkejwanong Territory

SECONDER: Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation

DECISION: Consensus

WHEREAS:

1. First Nations people have inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights to education at all levels.
2. First Nations continue to work towards First Nations control of First Nations education respecting First Nations jurisdiction over education at all stages of lifelong learning.
3. Education has been confirmed as a clear national priority by Chiefs and youth standing together at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly 2009 and through AFN Resolution 12/2010.
4. Canada has endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which articulates that "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." (Article 14)
5. The AFN and Canada have agreed to a Joint National Panel process to directly engage First Nations across Canada on education for the purposes of developing a report that will be submitted to the AFN and to INAC.
6. The National Panel process is proposing to engage First Nations in Ontario through varied avenues of participation, including one regional session.
7. The National Panel process provides an opportunity for First Nations in Canada to unite, and oblige Canada to negotiate with First Nations regarding full financial support and recognition of First Nation control of First Nation education.
8. The National Panel process fails to provide a clear understanding or agreement with Canada on how First Nations control of decision-making over First Nations

with Canada on how First Nations control of decision-making over First Nations education will be reflected in the process beyond the submission of the final report to the Minister and the National Chief.

9. The Terms of Reference for the National Panel limits Aboriginal and Treaty rights to non-derogation language, which is a means of silencing Aboriginal and Treaty rights concerns.

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

1. Reject participation in the National Panel process owing to the absence of a clear understanding or agreement with Canada on how First Nations control of decision-making over First Nations education will be reflected in the process.
2. Agree that First Nations in Ontario, in the spirit of cooperation and unity among all First Nations in Canada, engage in a process parallel 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.
3. Mandate the First Nation Education Coordination Unit (FNECU), and including those Tribal Councils delivering second-level education services on behalf of their First Nations, to develop a strategy to develop this submission and report on progress at the next AOCC.
4. Expect that the Ontario Regional Chief, as Education Portfolio Holder and a member of the AFN National Executive, shall take the position that the parallel process in Ontario must remain his priority.

Certified Copy of a Resolution dated April 14, 2011.



Angus Toulouse, Ontario Regional Chief

