
TITLE: Support the Spirit Bear Plan to End Inequities in all Federally Funded Public Services for First Nations Children, Youth and Families

SUBJECT: Child Welfare

MOVED BY: Chief Duke Peltier, Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Melvin Hardy, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay), ON

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A.** The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
 - ii. Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B.** The Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed Resolutions 40/2017 *Call on Canada to Comply with the 2016 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Orders*, 83/2016 *National Advisory Committee on INAC's Child Welfare Reform Engagement Strategy* and 62/2016 *Full and Proper Implementation of the Historic Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Decisions in the Provision of Child Welfare Service and Jordan's Principle* requiring Canada to fully and immediately comply with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) rulings to end discriminatory funding of child and family services and to properly implement Jordan's Principle.
- C.** There is longstanding, credible evidence of inequities in federally funded public services available to First Nations children, youth and families and these inequities have never been fully addressed.
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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

December 5, 6 & 7, 2017, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 92/2017

- D. The Spirit Bear Plan, as developed by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, is designed to address all inequities in federally funded public services by:
- i. Calling on Canada to immediately comply with all rulings by the CHRT ordering it to immediately cease its discriminatory funding of First Nations child and family services and to fully and properly comply with Jordan's Principle.
 - ii. Calling on Parliament to ask the Parliamentary Budget Officer to remedy with public funds the shortfalls in all federally funded public services provided to First Nations children, youth and families (i.e., early childhood education, K-12 education, health, water, child welfare, etc.).
 - iii. Ensure that government departments providing services to First Nations children and families undergo a thorough and independent evaluation to identify any ongoing discriminatory ideologies, policies and practices and address them, which must be made public upon completion.
 - iv. Ensure that all public servants, including those at a senior level, receive mandatory training to identify and address government ideology, policies and practices that fetter the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Spirit Bear Plan as developed by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to write a letter of support for the implementation of the Spirit Bear Plan to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Indigenous Services, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Indigenous and Crown Relations.

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

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