

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
February 5-6, 2020
Ottawa, Ontario**

**RESOLUTION 20/14
PAGE 1 OF 3**

SUBJECT: ONTARIO SPECIAL STUDY REPORT (2019)

MOVER: Chief Melvin Hardy, Bijiitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek

SECONDER: Ogimaa Duke Peltier, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Indian Reserve

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. In the January 2016 decision of the First Nation Child and Family Caring Society v. Canada, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found the federal funding to be inadequate and discriminatory;
2. Special Chiefs Assembly Resolution, 17/21, Ontario Special Study, accepted a work plan for the Special Study with the underlying goal of reform to create and support First Nation Child and Family Services based on substantive equality, and to ensure that every First Nation child across Ontario receives the services they need to excel;
3. Through a Chiefs of Ontario tripartite technical table, First Nations collaborated with the governments of Ontario and Canada, to undertake and draft the Ontario Special Study.
4. The Ontario Special Study:
 - a. Identifies approaches to prevent children coming into care with an emphasis on prevention for First Nation Child and Family Services and supports;
 - b. Evaluates and offers options for the current funding approach for the child and family services component of the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement;
 - c. Examines and offers options for revisiting the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement.

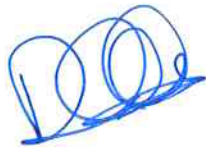
5. The Study is also informed by the work of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, who examined and developed a “remoteness coefficient” that can be applied to child and family services. The application of this coefficient is meant to ensure that the standard of service found in non-remote areas would be available in remote and northern communities.
6. The Study supports a transformation process of the current child and family services system, where First Nations assume responsibility for these programs and services based on their inherent rights, needs and aspirations.
7. The transformation process is outlined in several pillars with accompanying recommendations in the areas of:
 - a. First Nations Self-Determination and Inherent Jurisdiction;
 - b. Language and Culture;
 - c. First Nations Determinants of Well-being;
 - d. Service Delivery;
 - e. Equitable Supports and Capacity for Well-being;
 - f. Equitable and Predictable Funding; and
 - g. A New Agreement.
8. The recommendations found within the Ontario Special Study falls in line with previous Chiefs of Ontario resolutions that advocated for First Nations Child and Family Services reforms regarding legislation, policy and funding.

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

1. Accept the Ontario Special Study (2019) as presented to the Assembly at the February 5-6, 2020 Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, Ontario.
2. Call on the Government of Canada and Ontario to work with and support Ontario First Nations with the implementation of the transformation process as outlined within the Ontario Special Study.
3. Call on the Government of Canada and Ontario to work with and support Ontario First Nations with the implementation of all 27 recommendations which include a new funding approach that is sustainable, predictable, equitable and needs based.

4. Direct the Chiefs of Ontario, the Chiefs Committee on Social and the Social Services Coordination Unit, to formulate an implementation strategy of the Ontario Special Study's recommendations and to report this implementation strategy back to the Assembly for final consideration and approval.

Copy of a Signed Resolution Dated February 6, 2020.



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief