

RESOLUTIONS



ON-LINE
CHIEFS' ASSEMBLY
CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

AUGUST
19-20, 2020



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**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

RESOLUTION 20/16

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE SPEAKER

MOVER: Chief Gerry Duquette Jr., Dokis First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Brent Bissaillon, Serpent River First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we the Chiefs in Assembly:

1. Accept Harold Tarbell as the Speaker, for the On-Line Chief Assembly held August 19-20, 2020.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 19, 2020

RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

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**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

RESOLUTION 20/17

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT AGENDA
MOVER: Chief Melvin Hardy, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek
SECONDER: Chief Craig Nootchtai, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
DECISION: CARRIED

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we the Chiefs in Assembly:

1. Accept the Draft Agenda, as presented, for the On-Line Chief Assembly held on August 19-20, 2020.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 19, 2020

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**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

RESOLUTION 20/18

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

MOVER: Chief Andy Rickard, Ojibways of Garden River

SECONDER: Grand Chief Abram Benedict, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

DECISION: CARRIED

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we the Chiefs in Assembly:

1. Accept the Rules of Procedure, as presented, for the On-Line Chief Assembly held on August 19-20, 2020.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 19, 2020

RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

RESOLUTION 20/19

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOVER: Chief Gerry Duquette Jr., Dokis First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Kelly LaRocca, Mississaugas of Scugog Island

DECISION: CARRIED

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we the Chiefs in Assembly:

1. Accept the Chiefs of Ontario Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year 2019-20 as presented, for the On-Line Chiefs Meeting, being held August 19 and 20, 2020.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 19, 2020



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

**RESOLUTION 20/20
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SUBJECT: CALL FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS (AFN) TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE AFN CHARTER RENEWAL COMMITTEE

MOVER: Chief Melvin Hardy, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek

SECONDER: Chief Marilyn Sinclair, Obashkaandagaang First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is engaged in an ongoing effort to update its governing documents, including the renewal of the AFN Charter;
2. A Chiefs Committee with regional representation was established to assist AFN technical staff in reviewing and updating the AFN governing documents;
3. Various of AFN's governing documents are inconsistent with the Chiefs of Ontario's ("COO") mission, governance, and relationship with its Regional Chief (specifically the National Indian Brotherhood by-laws, AFN Code of Conduct and Ethics for the AFN Executive Committee, and Charter of the AFN, which are inconsistent with the draft COO Charter and draft Ontario Regional Chief Oath of Office);
4. These inconsistencies, if unaddressed, could lead to potential conflict between the AFN and COO with regards to the accountability of the Ontario Regional Chief;
5. The fundamental question of who regulates, directs, governs, and disciplines the ORC must be made clear in the governing documents of both organizations in order to prevent potential conflict in the future.

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

1. The Ontario Regional Chief is mandated to officially request that the AFN establish a technical committee with regional representation to support, contribute to, and ensure consistency in the work of the AFN Charter Renewal Committee.
2. COO technical staff are directed to begin a dialogue with AFN technical staff to clarify the wording in the governing documents of both organizations in order to address the current inconsistencies.
3. COO shall, through the ORC and technical staff, take any and all steps necessary to ensure that the ORC remains accountable to and directed by Ontario's Chiefs in Assembly, including in relation to any work undertaken or relationship between COO, the ORC, and AFN.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 19, 2020



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

**RESOLUTION 20/21
Page 1 of 2**

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR CLEAN DRINKING WATER CLASS ACTION

MOVER: Chief Emily Whetung, Curve Lake First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Christopher Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. Many First Nations in Ontario and across Canada have suffered and continue to suffer from a lack of access to clean, safe drinking water on reserve;
2. Curve Lake First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation have commenced a class action against Canada in Federal Court seeking immediate help for First Nations across Canada to address their drinking water advisories and compensation for the harms they have suffered;
3. Tataskweyak Cree Nation has also commenced similar proceedings in Manitoba, which have been recently certified by the courts;
4. Curve Lake First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation are coordinating their approach with Tataskweyak and advancing the class action against Canada together;
5. The class action alleges that Canada has been negligent, breached its fiduciary duties, breached the honour of the Crown, and breached various rights under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;
6. The class includes all members of First Nations whose communities were subject to a drinking water advisory which lasted at least one year from November 8, 1995 to the present;

7. This proposed class includes both individual members of First Nations who have been affected by long-term drinking water advisories and the First Nations themselves;
8. In order to respect the self-determination of First Nations, the class action does not automatically include First Nations but allows them to “opt in” to advance the rights of their community.

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

1. Support Curve Lake First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation in advancing these class actions without derogating or negatively affecting any ongoing or future negotiations or actions of other First Nations; and
2. Call on Canada to finally resolve the deplorable condition of drinking water on reserves.
3. Call on Canada to compensate all the First Nations for the damages they have suffered, and to ensure First Nations have adequate infrastructure and Operations & Maintenance funding.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 20, 2020



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

**RESOLUTION 20/22
Page 1 of 3**

SUBJECT: COVID-19 FIRST NATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDING

MOVER: Chief Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Duke Peltier, Wiikwemikoong Unceded Indian Reserve

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. First Nations in Ontario are at a greater risk of COVID-19 due to the ongoing failure of Canada to provide necessary levels of funding to address impacts of colonization that directly result in lower determinants of health and wellness including higher instances of chronic illness, infrastructure issues, housing issues and overcrowding, high levels of poverty, and mental wellness and addictions issues in First Nations communities;
2. First Nations across the province require additional resourcing to protect their communities from COVID-19 spread and to respond to a potential second wave of the virus. This includes funds to support the development and implementation of emergency response plans capable of responding to unique community needs related to COVID-19;
3. Existing mental health and social issues in First Nations communities heighten the acute need for additional resources to address mental health and wellness needs during the pandemic;
4. First Nations have jurisdiction to determine the health and safety needs of their communities and require financial support to implement measures in accordance with these needs. First Nations' COVID-19 response measures vary according to the unique circumstances of their communities and may include, but may not be limited to costs related to: additional security measures, community screening, sanitization and cleaning measures, additional staffing requirements, COVID-19 coordinator positions, social distancing retrofitting, education and awareness campaigns, communications, food and essential deliveries, mental health and

wellness responses, additional life promotion initiatives, technology advancements and equipment, heightened domestic violence responses, shelter supports, door-to-door deliveries, senior supports, health centre capacity, contact tracing and testing, and personal protective equipment;

5. Current federal funding allocated for First Nations, such as the Indigenous Community Support Fund, will not be sufficient to address First Nations' financial needs pertaining to their COVID-19 response. It fails to address needs going forward, especially in terms of education, mental health, and capital requirements for social distancing and other protective measures required while delivering services;
6. Proposal-based processes for emergency response funds are unnecessarily burdensome and time-consuming for First Nations, limiting the ability to implement measures required to ensure the health and safety of our citizens;
7. Indigenous Services Canada Minister Marc Miller confirmed at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak that because Ontario had declared an emergency due to the pandemic that it was unnecessary for First Nations to declare an emergency in order to receive federal support to address it and to be reimbursed for their expenses related to the pandemic;
8. First Nations that run a deficit due to their COVID-19 emergency response will be forced to make cuts in other areas if their emergency expenditures are not reimbursed. These budgetary considerations will negatively affect First Nation citizens as most services are already severely underfunded.

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

1. Direct the Ontario Regional Chief to call on the federal government to immediately provide needs-based funding for First Nations' COVID-19 emergency response that is not capped nor based on a burdensome or a time-consuming proposal process.

2. Direct the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat to monitor COVID-19 response funding processes and to evaluate whether these processes provide the means for First Nations to meet emergency response needs.
3. Direct the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat to report back to the Chiefs in Assembly at the next assembly.
4. First Nations in Ontario declare a State of Emergency in relation to the COVID-19 response funding.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 20, 2020



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

**RESOLUTION 20/23
Page 1 of 2**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT TO LEGALLY CHALLENGE BILL 197 AND GUTTING
OF THE *ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT***

MOVER: Chief Keith Corston, Chapleau Cree First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Melvin Hardy, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. The Government of Ontario passed Bill 197 which includes significant amendments to the Environmental Assessment Act (“EAA”);
2. As part of the amendments to the EAA, public sector projects and undertakings no longer require an environmental assessment (“EA”) at all unless they are explicitly designated in a regulation by the Minister, allowing a great deal of ministerial discretion with no criteria or requirements for how it may be exercised;
3. This degree of unfettered ministerial discretion leaves First Nations with too much uncertainty and inability to know or predict whether, when, or how any type of project or undertaking may be subject to an EA;
4. EAs are triggers to the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations;
5. The amendments to the EAA thus leave First Nations uncertain about whether, when, or how any duty to consult and accommodate might be triggered or not;
6. This is a violation of Indigenous inherent rights as well as section 35 Constitutional rights, the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate, the honour of the Crown and the purpose of reconciliation;
7. The Government of Ontario also revoked the Class EAs for forestry operations (which includes harvesting, disposition of rights to forest resources, planning, etc.) occurring on the area identified in Schedule 1 of the Declaration Order MNR-75, removing this trigger to the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations;

8. The Government of Ontario passed Bill 197 in a wholly undemocratic way without any public or First Nation consultation.

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

1. Continue to object to using western judicial processes to enforce our inherent rights and, on an interim basis, support legal action without abrogating or derogating from our own processes and jurisdiction.
2. Support the filing of a judicial review with OKT Law acting as legal counsel on the grounds that:
 - a. Legislative amendments that remove triggers for the duty to consult and accommodate violate inherent rights and are unconstitutional, in violation of s. 35, the purpose of reconciliation and the honour of the Crown;
 - b. The adoption of Bill 197, OReg 337/20 and OIC 981/2020 removes Crown conduct that triggers the duty to consult and accommodate;
 - c. The passing of Bill 197 through bypassing the consultation process under Part II of the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) deprived First Nations of their right to be consulted and accommodated;

and seeking the following remedies:

- a. An order that certain sections of Bill 197, O Reg 337/20 and OIC 981/2020 are of no force and effect and;
- b. A declaration of unconstitutionality.

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RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

**RESOLUTION 20/24
Page 1 of 3**

SUBJECT: ISC FUNDING SPECIFIC TO EDUCATION REQUIRED TO SUPPORT FIRST NATION AND INDIGENOUS INSTITUTES

MOVER: Chief Brent Bissaillon, Serpent River First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Dean Sayers, Ojibways of Batchewana

DECISION: **CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

1. As the First Peoples of Turtle Island, we have been given the responsibility to care for our peoples, lands and cultures;
2. Our ancestors signed Treaties ensuring that First Nations have access to education and health care;
3. The Government of Canada has the fiduciary duty and legal duty to ensure that First Nations have access to education and health care supports from K-12 and post-secondary and has committed to achieving funding parity with provincial schools;
4. The Government of Canada has not allocated specific funding to re-open schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic and must be held accountable for its lack of equitable funding and health and safety protocols for First Nations schools and Indigenous institutes reopening during COVID-19 pandemic;
5. First Nations have expressed concern over the wellbeing and safety of their students and the overall health of their communities as their students prepare to go back to school in September, and for the duration of the pandemic;
6. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the province have failed to commit to provide any additional funds to support the necessary enhancements required to protect students during the reopening of schools which includes but not limited to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sanitizing materials, and equipment,

hand sanitizers, safe transportation and other additional expenses for First Nation schools and Indigenous Institutes, the reimbursement of tuition paid, and the provision of resources for First Nations to carefully plan, create and implement culturally appropriate options to educate and protect their children enrolled in either First Nation or provincial schools;

7. The Ontario government has invested funds into education specific COVID-19 supports for all 72 school boards in Ontario; including for mental health supports, special education supports, transportation, additional school personnel, alternative learning spaces, and PPE. Ontario has also released health and safety protocols for all provincial schools;
8. Many First Nation schools require funding and infrastructure changes to meet health and safety protocols released by the province, particularly the recommendations surrounding PPE and physical distancing;
9. First Nation students are increasingly facing mental health risks and require additional mental health services in dealing with social isolation and the effects of the pandemic;
10. The First Nation Students Connectivity Survey provided by the Ministry of Education indicates that 59% of students do not have access to the necessary technology and devices for learning. This is crucial as First Nations have expressed the need to have access to the internet and devices for their communities to ensure parents/caregivers have the option for online learning.

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

1. Direct the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat to advocate for education specific COVID-19 support funding from the federal and provincial governments to respond to the immediate needs of First Nations communities and Indigenous Institutes to support the safety of their students attending class both inside and outside their communities, and attending online classes.
2. Direct the Ontario Regional Chief to draft and send a letter to Indigenous Services Canada and to the Province outlining the urgency to provide and release education specific funds to First Nation schools and Indigenous institutes to safely execute their back to school plans for ongoing support for the duration of the pandemic.

3. Direct the Leadership Council to issue a public statement drawing attention to the lack of education specific funding, particularly the need for the Minister of Indigenous Services, the federal government, and the provincial government to respond specifically to First Nation education needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Direct the Ontario Regional Chief to report back to Chiefs in Assembly at the next assembly.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 20, 2020



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

**RESOLUTION 20/25
Page 1 of 2**

SUBJECT: INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

MOVER: Nathan Wright, Proxy, Six Nations of the Grand River

SECONDER: Grand Chief Abram Benedict, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. The Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario provides support to First Nation farmers across Ontario;
2. The Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario (IAPO) was established in 1984 as a First Nation not for profit corporation which endeavours to empower First Nation communities through financial support and training for farmers;
3. The programs offered by IAPO include lending services, advisory services, training and workshops for First Nation farmers and business owners;
4. As a not for profit corporation, IAPO does not have an avenue to report to the Chiefs in Assembly on the programs and services it delivers on behalf of First Nations farmers nor does it have an avenue to report on the monies it receives on behalf of the farmers;
5. Over the years, a number of First Nation farmers have approached Chief and Councils and issued complains about IAPO's lack of transparency and accountability to First Nation leadership;
6. The Leadership Council supports efforts of First Nations communities reach out to IAPO to address any relationship issues with IAPO to ensure First Nation farmers have the adequate support in moving forward.

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

1. Direct the Leadership Council to support the Six Nations of Grand River in addressing issues with the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario (IAPO) and their relationship with First Nations farmers and businesses.
2. Insist that IAPO be accountable and transparent to all First Nations across Ontario.
3. Direct the Ontario Regional Chief to invite the IAPO to the next Leadership Council to address any relationship issues and discuss ways to enhance IAPO's service towards First Nation farmers.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 20, 2020



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

**RESOLUTION 20/26
Page 1 of 4**

SUBJECT: OMNIBUS SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS

MOVER: Acting Chief Robyn Perkins, Caldwell First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Patsy Corbiere, Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

1) CALL TO ACTION: TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CALDWELL FIRST NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The use of street names, monuments, natural spaces, and public buildings that bear the names of historical oppressors of Indigenous Peoples perpetuate the appearance of colonial oppression;
2. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Article 13-1. states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.";
3. The Caldwell First Nation Youth Advisory Committee (CFNYAC) is seeking to advance and educate Truth and Reconciliation to All Peoples and to return dignity and honour to our cultures.

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

1. Support the initiatives of the CFNYAC.
2. Direct the Ontario Regional Chief to issue a statement to all levels of government, demanding:

- a. The replacement of historically oppressive names of natural spaces, streets, and public buildings with names that reflect the culture and values of Indigenous Peoples.
 - b. The removal of statues that, by standing, honour historical figures who initiated or supported acts and legislation that were intended to commit genocide in an effort to obliterate our traditions, culture, and Peoples. These statues should be replaced with respectful monuments such as current or past Indigenous leaders, allies or Clan animals whilst reflecting the promise of Truth and Reconciliation towards Indigenous Peoples.
3. Direct the Ontario Regional Chief to issue a letter of support to Caldwell First Nation Youth Advisory Committee.

2) INDIGENOUS TOURISM ONTARIO 2020-2025 STRATEGIC AND COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN

WHEREAS:

1. Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO) is a not-for-profit association and is Ontario's first and only province wide member driven Indigenous tourism association. They are a dedicated Indigenous tourism organization that focuses on uniting Indigenous organizations, communities, and industry leaders to support the growth of Indigenous tourism in Ontario. Through product development and marketing of authentic Indigenous experiences, ITO establishes a platform for Indigenous cultural expression and preservation through tourism;
2. ITO represents the largest Indigenous tourism sector in Canada with over 550 Indigenous tourism businesses contributing over \$622 Million and almost 13,000 jobs to the Ontario economy. ITO has a focus to improve the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous people through respectful, sustainable tourism development. ITO is recognized as an advocate for Indigenous people telling their story on their terms through tourism;
3. The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada and the Conference Board of Canada issued a report that projects that the Indigenous tourism industry in Ontario could see a 63% decline in profits, a 51% decline in employment, and the

permanent closure of up to 218 businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the pandemic continues through the summer 2020 season, Indigenous tourism will continue to struggle and face uncertainty. ITO has released two economic COVID-19 reports which align with these third party estimates. Indigenous tourism businesses are currently suffering and are closing daily. Support for these businesses is needed not just now but in the coming years, if we expect to preserve, renew and rejuvenate them;

4. In response to the current issues affecting Indigenous tourism businesses in Ontario;
5. ITO has launched a five-year strategic & COVID-19 recovery plan titled '*Continuing Our Journey*'. It advances ITO's Path Forward Framework with the goal to Preserve, Renew and Rejuvenate Canada's largest Indigenous tourism industry. The four main goals of ITO's Strategic & COVID-19 Recovery Plan are:
 - Developing Operational Sustainability & Brand Integrity
 - Building Capacity & Increasing Economic Opportunities
 - Marketing & Branding Authentic Products & Services
 - Providing Support for Communities & Entrepreneurs
6. ITO is working collaboratively with hundreds of businesses and partners to identify new opportunities that will allow the Indigenous tourism industry to continue its unprecedented pre-pandemic momentum.

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

1. Acknowledge the work of Indigenous Tourism Ontario as a significant contributor to First Nation and provincial economic development and as a champion in promoting First Nation culture.
2. Support the mandate of Indigenous Tourism Ontario which assists in building our Nations as strong, healthy people respectful of ourselves, each other, and all creation through political advocacy.
3. Request that Indigenous Tourism Ontario regularly update the Chiefs in Assembly on their activities.
4. Support the implementation of the Indigenous Tourism Ontario Strategic & COVID-19 Recovery Plan to assist Indigenous tourism businesses in this important economic and cultural sector.

3) SUPPORT OF DIVESTITURE OF LEAMINGTON SMALL CRAFT HARBOUR FACILITY TO CALDWELL FIRST NATION

WHEREAS:

1. Fisheries and Oceans Canada intends on the divestiture of Leamington Small Craft Harbour Facility;
2. Caldwell First Nation settled a land claim in 2010 acknowledging Leamington/Point Pelee as part of Caldwell's territory;
3. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada states that "All Canadians must now demonstrate the same level of courage and determination, as we commit to an ongoing process of reconciliation. By establishing a new and respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, we will restore what must be restored, repair what must be repaired, and return what must be returned;"
4. The divestiture of this property to Caldwell First Nation would demonstrate acknowledgment of and respect to the traditional and rightful occupants of the territory since time immemorial.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY:

1. Call on Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Government of Canada to divest the Leamington Small Craft Harbour Facility to Caldwell First Nation as the rightful occupants of the Leamington/Point Pelee territory.
2. Direct the Ontario Regional Chief to issue a letter of support to Caldwell First Nation and to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 20, 2020



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief

**CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY
ON LINE CHIEFS MEETING
AUGUST 19-20, 2020**

**RESOLUTION 20/27
Page 1 of 3**

**SUBJECT: ADDRESSING POST-SECONDARY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
FUNDING DEFICIENCIES**

MOVER: Chief Brent Bissaillon, Serpent River First Nation

SECONDER: Chief Dean Sayers, Ojibways of Batchewana

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. First Nations need to uphold their autonomy and control over First Nations' education;
2. First Nations rights of self-determination and self-governance, include the right to establish and pursue post-secondary education in a manner appropriate and responsive to their own languages, cultures and methods of teaching and learning;
3. Ontario's Indigenous Institutions are mandated by First Nations and have delivered quality, community-based post-secondary instruction to First Nations communities for over 30 years. They play a pivotal role in addressing the needs of learners, communities and local labour markets. They are a vital aspect of community well-being;
4. Ontario's First Nations owned and operated post-secondary institutes are recognized in legislation as a pillar of post-secondary education pursuant to the historic 2017 *Indigenous Institutes Act*, co-created by the provincial government and Indigenous Institutes;
5. Ontario's Indigenous Institutes rely on the Post-Secondary Partnership Program (PSP) to meet the demand of First Nations learners and communities through their unique and diverse programs and services. These programs and services achieve success in overcoming barriers to post-secondary achievement;

6. The PSPP is essential to closing the education attainment gap between First Nations and non-Indigenous students in their pursuit of post-secondary education;
7. The National Indian Education Council (NIEC) failed to achieve free, prior and informed consent on a PSPP regional allocation funding option using alternatives derived through collaboration between Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) due to lack of equity, predictability, and funding protection;
8. The Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) convened on April 23rd, 2020 and passed a motion that resulted in an unfair and inequitable funding reduction of over \$1.6 million for the Indigenous post-secondary Institutions in Ontario. This funding reduction will directly impact the education and wellbeing of First Nation learners and communities in Ontario;
9. As a result of the CCOE motion, funding is distributed inequitably among regions, with the Saskatchewan First Nations University receiving 31.6% of the overall budget, as well as an additional allocation from the remaining budget of \$15 million used as the base amount in the allocation formula;
10. The budget for the PSPP has decreased steadily since 2016-17, making it even more imperative to maintain, at a minimum, a status quo funding allocation for Ontario based on the 2019-20 allocation;
11. A significant reduction in funding allocation should be subject to full and transparent review by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and not be delegated to a committee whose members may be in a conflict of interest.

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

1. Call upon the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education to rescind its motion regarding allocation of PSPP funding and maintain 2019-2020 funding allocations.
2. Call upon the Assembly of First Nations to require substantial decreases in current funding allocations to be voted on by the entire Chiefs-in-Assembly and not just the CCOE.

3. Insist that funding for Saskatchewan's First Nations University be sourced from another program, allowing at a minimum, the full \$22 million Post-Secondary Partnership Program budget to be allocated equitably among the provinces and territories.

Copy of Signed Resolution dated August 20, 2020



RoseAnne Archibald, Ontario Regional Chief