SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 4, 5 & 6, 2012, GATINEAU, QC

Resolution no. 41/2012

TITLE:	Opposition to the Assembly of First Nations National Education Steering Committee and Affirmation of the role of the Chiefs Committee on Education
SUBJECT:	Education
MOVED BY:	Okimaw Wallace Fox, Onion Lake Cree Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Velma Night, Saulteaux First Nation, SK
DECISION:	Carried; 1 opposed

WHEREAS:

A. The First Nations of all Treaties have Inherent and Treaty Rights that are recognized by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

B. First Nations fundamental Treaty Rights are protected by international legal norms and this demands that the highest standards are met.

C. The honour of the Crown must be upheld, including the obligation to fulfill the terms of Treaty and to ensure that any amendments to legislation impacting Inherent and/or Treaty rights are conducted through a formal process agreed upon by First Nations.

D. As a unifying expression of these rights, the Chiefs of Saskatchewan signed the Convention of 1982 which formed the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and established the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

E. The FSIN Convention Act, January 1985, unequivocally states the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly:
   - have the authority to safeguard and promote the recognition and implementation of Inherent and Treaty Rights in provincial, national and International fora;

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- have the responsibility to uphold the Inherent and Treaty Rights of First Nations by ensuring these rights will not be diminished or abrogated by any impacts that may result from amendments to and or development of national legislation related to the Treaty Right to Education.

F. On March 28, 2011 the Saskatchewan Indian Education and Training Commission (SIETC) passed resolution #410-11 titled, National Panel on Education (AFN/INAC), which rejected the National Panel on Education.

G. On July 7, 2011 the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly supported the SIETC resolution by adopting resolution #1779 titled, *Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the Protection of Treaty* stated "that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to cease and desist in its efforts to repeal sections of the Indian Act until such time as the Federal Government and First Nations have agreed to a formal process that guarantees Inherent and Treaty Rights and responsibilities will not be diminished or abrogated".

H. On February 15, 2012, the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted resolution #1798 titled, *Indigenous Peoples Inherent Right* stated that "the Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to notify the Government of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations to cease and desist in the implementation of any parts of the Joint Action Plan of January 2012".

I. The AFN National Education Steering Committee, which was proposed as a mechanism to examine recommendations of the National Panel, but never implemented, results from implementation of the Joint Action Plan and Crown-First Nations Gathering of January 2012.

J. The AFN Chiefs Committee on Education is the body tasked with advising the AFN on Education at the national level.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to discontinue work on National Education Legislation.
2. Reaffirm the role of the Chiefs Committee on Education as the national body to direct the work of the AFN on all matters related to First Nations education.
3. Recognize and respect the authority and autonomy of all First Nations to direct and implement their own decisions on education for their peoples.

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