ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 17, 18 & 19, 2012, TORONTO, ON

Resolution no. 14/2012

TITLE:	Support for Cowichan Tribes – Restorative Budget and Nominal Roll Initiative
SUBJECT:	Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band, BC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus as part of an Omnibus Motion, Moved by Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation BC & Seconded by Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

A. It is widely recognized that underfunding affects public education across the province and that there is a need, in particular, to build programs that meet the needs of First Nations children's education across the province.

B. The BC Assembly of First Nations' *Building on OUR Success* Nation building agenda focuses on four interrelated pillars. One of these pillars is improved education. Where our First Nation communities receive education services from adjacent non-Aboriginal school districts, we need to continue to build relationships with the public school districts to ensure that these districts provide strong Aboriginal language and cultural programming and other services and programs that benefit First Nations children.

C. School District #79 in Duncan, BC has a clear mandate from the community, developed through several processes of community consultation, to develop a strategic plan and develop School District #79 Restorative Budget. This Restorative Budget includes funding for Hul'qumi'num language instruction and funding for services to First Nations students.

D. In particular, School District #79 Restorative Budget supports an adequate teacher-to-student ratio and relevant language and cultural programs deemed necessary to increase the success of First Nations students in school.

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E. Cowichan Tribes support School District #79 Restorative Budget and believe it represents an attempt to restore quality education services and programs to First Nations students, in particular, allowing for implementation of services and programs that relate to Aboriginal teachers and to core staffing in the school district, to Hul'qumi'num language instruction, increased occupational therapist services, and counseling services for elementary schools.

F. The Nominal Roll System (NRS) used by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) is a report used for the co-ordination of programs relevant to the education of First Nations and Inuit students.

G. The Nominal Roll application will be modified to include the following fields: Professional Assessment Status and Individual Education Plan (IEP), AANDC-funded High Cost Special Education Services provided and for each type of service listed, an indication of whether services were provided last year, whether they were considered adequate and whether they are required for the coming school year.

H. In the case of children in the care of a Family and Child Services Agency, AANDC defines the child's residency based on the residency of the family with whom the child is placed and by this definition, children in care placed with families living off-reserve are not eligible for nominal roll.

I. Currently the Cowichan Tribes Lalum'utul Smun'eem Child and Family Services (LSCFS), which is located on Cowichan Tribes reserve, is the legal guardian of children-in-care who live on or off reserve.

J. As the legal guardians, the LSCFS has worked with Independent schools, which provide smaller class sizes and individualized attention, to create educational plans for each child-in-care and the independent school tuition for children-in-care is being funded by own source revenue of the LSCFS.

K. The Cowichan Tribes Chief and Council do not support the removal of children-in-care residing off-reserve from the nominal roll.

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

1. Join the Cowichan Tribes in their support for School District #79 Restorative Budget.
2. Support Cowichan Tribes and British Columbia First Nations generally in pursuing federal funding for the purpose of tuition for children-in-care living off reserve.

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