
Assembly of First Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 23, 24 & 25, 2019, FREDERICTON, NB

Resolution no. 04/2019

TITLE: Support for the Food, Environment, Health and Nutrition of Children and Youth (FEHNCY) Study

SUBJECT: Environment, Health, Housing

MOVED BY: Chief Roberta Joseph, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, YK

SECONDED BY: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters, and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
 - ii. Article 31 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports, and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
 - iii. Article 31 (2): In conjunction with Indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

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- B. The First Nations Food, Nutrition, and Environment Study (FNFNES) is wrapping up after 10 years, yielding important results for First Nations across Canada south of the 60th parallel.
- C. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) will host a FNFNES National Forum to mark the end of the FNFNES project, and discuss these important results, on November 5-6, 2019, in Ottawa.
- D. The results of the FNFNES have pointed to other areas for further research, most notably on the environmental and social determinants of health for First Nations children and youth.
- E. The core FNFNES team (i.e. the University of Ottawa) has been working with the AFN, including meeting with respective Chiefs Committees, to develop and finalize a new research proposal.
- F. The core research team of FNFNES has advanced a new proposal to Canada, based on Resolution 103/2016 - *Food, Environment, Nutrition and Health of First Nations Children and Youth Study*, which was passed by consensus in 2016.
- G. Funding has now been secured for a new study focused on children and youth living on-reserve, with four components: 1) food environment, food security, nutrition, and health; 2) housing conditions, indoor air quality, and respiratory health in children; 3) exposure to environmental contaminants; and 4) community mobilization and integrated knowledge translation for intergenerational capacity building.
- H. The goal of this research is to collect information to support evidence-based health policy for First Nations children and youth living on-reserve and to help build capacity within communities to address nutritional and environmental health concerns.
- I. This research would be carried out in full collaboration with interested First Nations, and would be based on the research protocols, research tools, methodology, and the interpretation and communication of results in accordance with the principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP).

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

- 1. Support the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in its initiative to work as a full partner on the Food, Environment, Health and Nutrition of Children and Youth (FEHNCY) study.
- 2. Direct the AFN to provide ongoing technical support to First Nations on all aspects of the research process including, the research protocols, research tools, methodology, and the interpretation and communication of results.

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3. Call on the FEHNCY research team to ensure that the research project incorporates an appropriate cross section of local First Nations to ensure that the research findings and results will apply to the broadest spectrum of First Nations possible, consistent with the principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP).

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