
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 3 – 5, 2019, OTTAWA, ON

Resolution no. 98/2019

TITLE: Poverty Reduction for All First Nations in Canada

SUBJECT: Social, Economic Development

MOVED BY: Chief Craig Makinaw, Ermineskin First Nation, AB

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 21 (1): Indigenous Peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous Peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous Peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. Canada has committed to implementing the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including:
- i. SDG 1: No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
 - ii. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities: Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- C. Canada released their first national Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) in December of 2018 but did not announce funding for the PRS in Budget 2019.

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- D. Legislation supporting the PRS, Bill C-87, the *Poverty Reduction Act*, died on the order paper in June of 2019, when Parliament dissolved. Canada has not indicated whether they will reintroduce the legislation in the upcoming Parliamentary session.
- E. Canada did not provide funding for the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) to address the PRS, despite AFN Resolution 47/2018, *First Nations Oversight of Canada's National Poverty Reduction Strategy*, mandating the TWGSD to work with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) on the PRS implementation.
- F. Current poverty reduction indicators and measures, like the Market Basket Measure (MBM), exclude many First Nations experiencing unique circumstances, such as remoteness. A study is necessary to produce indicators and measures of poverty which are appropriate for First Nations to use.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the federal government to provide long-term and sustainable funding for Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS).
2. Direct the AFN to seek funding for the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) to investigate the applicability of the PRS to First Nations and to provide recommendations on how to address poverty.
3. Direct the AFN to seek funding to conduct a study on First Nation-specific indicators and measures of poverty.

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