AFN Special Chiefs Assembly
December 9-11, 2008 Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 48/2008

SUBJECT:	BC FIRST NATION EDUCATION ISSUES
MOVED BY:	Tyrone McNeil, Proxy, Seabird Island Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The federal government passed the *First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act in* 2006. At that time, the Minister of Indian Affairs, on behalf of the federal government, committed to provide adequate and sustainable funding to implement the *Education Act*. This support was echoed by the NDP, Liberals and Bloc Quebecois;

B. The federal legislation is supported by provincial legislation. The *First Nations Education Act, Bill 46* was passed in 2007 by the Government of BC. First Nations in British Columbia are in support of the tripartite agreements;

C. With jurisdiction over education, participating BC First Nations have pledged to provide a standard of education to their students that is, at minimum, equal to the standard of education in public schools. Adequate resourcing is required for the jurisdiction agreements to be signed between Canada and the First Nations and then implemented;

D. Band-Operated School funding for K-12 education is underfunded and restricted by a 2% annual funding cap. There are 130 Band-Operated Schools in BC;

E. BC First Nations have a post-secondary education strategy, which includes a data collection component. That strategy provides evidence of the additional funding required to meet the need for First Nations post-secondary education. However, the recently announced new federal funding for First Nations education will not allow for post-secondary education support activities; and

F. BC First Nations prefer that their lifelong learning be delivered in their own language. BC is home to 1/3 of First Nation communities of Canada. BC has 2/3 of Canada's Indigenous languages and 2/3 of the languages that are most endangered.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the efforts of BC First Nations to call upon the federal government to live up to its commitment to adequately fund the *First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act* by providing a level of resources that reflects current needs and that is indexed to the provincial school system.

2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the efforts of BC First Nations to call upon the federal government to immediately address the funding issues with respect to post secondary education and ensure that adequate and sustainable funding is in place.

3. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the efforts of BC First Nations to call upon the federal government to collaborate with BC First Nations to develop and implement the necessary costing model to carry out lifelong learning in BC First Nations languages.

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