
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**Special Chiefs Assembly
December 7, 8, 9, 2021, Ottawa (Ontario)**

Resolution no. 19/2021

TITLE: Funding for Post-Secondary Indigenous Institutions and Students

SUBJECT: Lifelong Learning

MOVED BY: Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil, Proxy, Yale First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief John Martin, Gesgapegiag, QC

DECISION Carried; 2 objections; 2 abstentions

WHEREAS:

- A. Our ancestors entered into Treaties with the Crown in right of Great Britain and Ireland to last as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the waters flow.
- B. Our Nations consider education to be a lifelong learning experience.
- C. The Crown wanted to use some of our lands and territories to the depth of a plow for her subjects to live in peace and friendship.
- D. The Crown agreed as a Treaty commitment to provide education with the written reference to schoolhouse on each Treaty reserved lands.
- E. The successor state of Canada undertook from their beginning the promotion of educating Indians.
- F. The Indian residential school system was a failure to respect the Treaty Right to education.
- G. Since 1976, Canada ratified the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (CESCR) which makes specific references to education, including:
 - i. Article 13 (1): The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote

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understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace;

- ii. Article 13 (2): The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that, with a view to achieving the full realization of this right:
- iii. Article 13 (2a): Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all;
- iv. Article 13 (2b): Secondary education in its different forms, including technical and vocational secondary education, shall be made generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education; and
- v. Article 13 (2c): Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education.

H. Canada has failed to live up to their international commitments undertaken by the Crown in the making of Treaties and their international obligations as set out in the binding Convention.

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

1. Support the call for the Government of Canada to honour its obligations to lifelong learning by implementing the following measures:
 - a. provide First Nations post-secondary institutions sufficient core funding support;
 - b. increase monies for post-secondary students through substantial investments to address the historical inequity in the distribution of PSE funding;
 - c. provide sufficient funding to ensure that no student is left behind and that all students seeking to attend post-secondary studies have the financial support they need to access those studies;
 - d. provide monies to be made available for First Nations post-secondary institutions for the structural support of buildings and their upkeep;
 - e. provide needs-based funding developed by First Nations post-secondary institutions that includes sustainable and growth-oriented funding;

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- f. provide sufficient funds to redress the historic and chronic underfunding of First Nations post-secondary institutions that will support the functions, programs and services these institutions are unable to offer;
- g. provide pay equity sustained by long-term operational funding;
- h. recognize and respect First Nations leadership and authentication of programming in First Nations languages and knowledges;
- i. make First Nations post-secondary institutions a funding priority and recognize First Nations control over First Nations education, especially programming in languages;
- j. provide reciprocal acknowledgement of our national and international accreditations;
- k. ensure that post-secondary funding for First Nations institutions and students will be protected so that there will not be a decrease or loss of this funding in future years; and
- l. ensure that investments in post-secondary funding for First Nations institutions and students will fully encompass all areas.

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