SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 8, 9 & 10, 2009, OTTAWA, ON

Resolution no. 37/2009

TITLE:	First Nation Control of First Nation Education
SUBJECT:	Education
MOVED BY:	Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeill, Proxy, Seabird Island Indian Band, British Columbia
SECONDED BY:	Chief Marianna Couchie, Nipissing First Nation, Ontario
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The National Indian Brotherhood adopted the policy paper of "*Indian Control of Indian Education*" in 1972 which was affirmed by the Minister of Indian Affairs in 1973.

B. The full spirit and intent of the policy of *Indian Control of Indian Education* has never been supported in a meaningful manner by the federal government which has failed to support a comprehensive First Nations learning environment and systems as envisioned by First Nations to lead to overall improved learning outcomes.

C. First Nations have been severely and inter-generationally impacted by the imposition of residential, provincial and territorial schools, as well as other imposed forms of forced assimilation and integration which still exist by maintaining chronic under funding despite a commitment and a federal fiduciary obligation to support adequately First Nations jurisdiction over education.

D. First Nations leaders and educators recognize that *Indian Control of Indian Education* applies in 2009 as it did in 1972, however it is necessary to revise the thirty-seven year old policy to reflect current circumstances and challenges and to use education as a tool to eradicate poverty by building the necessary skills for survival and future prosperity as First Nations peoples in Canada.

E. Local First Nation control over education is best supported by revising and updating national education policy and the development of regional provincial/territorial education policy that feeds into and supports national policy.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

F. A revised national policy on education will align with the intentions of the First Nations-Federal Crown Political Accord on the Recognition and Implementation of First Nation Governments.

G. In June 2009 the AFN Chiefs in Assembly approved the resolution:

- Endorse in principle the continued development of the an updated policy paper reflecting First Nation control and jurisdiction of all aspects of lifelong learning including language, culture and values.
- Direct Assembly of First Nations Education Secretariat to work with the National Indian Education Council in distributing the draft policy paper to First Nations across Canada for additional regional input in a national policy paper which will be brought back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for consideration for full adoption by December 2009.

Direct the new AFN National Chief to inform the provincial and territorial governments in Canada to prepare to incorporate the new Indian Control of Indian Education policy into all aspects that influence or effect First Nation education and that they are to collaborate with the CCOE/NIEC.

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

1. Hereby adopt in principle the new national First Nation education policy as *First Nation Control of First Nation Education*, based on the understanding that the paper will be revised to ensure that the development of policies are community based.

2. Direct the National Chief, with support of the Chiefs Committee on Education and National Indian Education Council, to do all things necessary to circulate *First Nation Control of First Nation Education* for ratification at the 2010 Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly.

3. Support the development of regional community driven First Nation education policy that feeds into, supports and strengthens *First Nation Control of First Nation Education.*

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF