

Assembly of First Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 31/2025

TITLE: First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy

SUBJECT: Social Development, Health, Education

MOVED BY: Chief George Ginnish, Natoaganeg First Nation, NB

SECONDED BY: Chief Rebecca Knockwood, Fort Folly First Nation, NB

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the State.
- ii. Article 14(1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
- iii. Article 14(3): States shall, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, take effective measures, in order for Indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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

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programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

- B. First Nations have the Inherent right of self-government, which includes the right to govern the care and education of their children.
- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #12 calls upon "federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families."
- D. The First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Policy Framework was developed in 2017 and supported by the First Nations-in-Assembly via Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 83/2017, *Support for the National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework*. The Framework is an evergreen guide that identifies the vision, goals, and outcomes to improve the First Nations ELCC system, with a focus on First Nations governance and control.
- E. The research conducted to support the development of the ELCC Policy Framework identified the need to develop a First Nations-led Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy with the overall goal of enhancing data control and understanding of First Nations ELCC.
- F. The AFN, the National Expert Working Group (NEWG) on First Nations ELCC, and the Government of Canada have been co-developing the Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy.
- G. The goal of the Results Framework is to outline potential outcomes of the seven key principles of the ELCC Policy Framework using a series of First Nation-based and determined indicators, to inform understanding and decision making, and track progress towards the Policy Framework's intended goals. The seven principles for First Nations ELCC Policy Framework are:
 - i. First Nations governance and jurisdiction;
 - ii. Incorporation of First Nations culture, language, and knowledge;
 - iii. Ensuring inclusivity, accessibility, and flexibility within the program;
 - iv. Implementing quality programs and services;
 - v. Focus on collaborations and partnerships;
 - vi. Capacity development; and
 - vii. Ensuring transparency and accountability.
- H. The Evaluation Strategy is a tool used to measure the success of First Nations ELCC programming by analyzing the data collected through the Results Framework at various checkpoints, as determined by First Nations to understand progress towards key milestones.
- I. The goal of the ELCC Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy is to increase understanding of ELCC and encourage First Nations-led data collection and storage efforts, while reducing administrative burdens on First Nations.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Acknowledge and accept in principle the First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy (the Strategy) as an evergreen document, recognizing that it may be updated or modified as progress is made and further input is received from First Nations. Final endorsement shall be subject to adequate time for review, consideration, and feedback by the First Nations-in-Assembly.
2. Direct the National Expert Working Group (NEWG) on ELCC to oversee a pilot project of the Strategy, to better understand the capacity and resources needed to implement it for all First Nations.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly on the progress of the pilot project by July 2027.
4. Call upon the Government of Canada to adequately fund all First Nations to implement the Strategy, in addition to program funding, including and not limited to, data collection and storage technology, computers and internet, and personnel such as administrative professionals and data analysts. Funding should be needs-based and account for cost of living in northern and remote First Nations, inflation, or other factors.
5. Call upon the Government of Canada to acknowledge and provide funding to address barriers and gaps found within the ELCC system found through implementation of the Strategy.

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