
Assembly of First Nations

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5
Telephone: 613-241-6789 Fax: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

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Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6L5
Téléphone: 613-241-6789 Télécopieur: 613-241-5808
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**SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 4, 5, AND 6, 2018, OTTAWA, ON**

Resolution no. 55/2018

TITLE: First Nations Disabilities Program On-Reserve

SUBJECT: Health, Social, Disabilities

MOVED BY: Chief Elaine Johnston, Serpent River First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Donald Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation, ON

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 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 21 (2): States shall take the effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children and person with disabilities.
- B. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall:
- i. Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;

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55-2018

Page 1 of 2

- ii. Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;
 - iii. Provide these health services as close as possible to people's own First Nations, including in rural areas;
- C. Today, disability rates among First Nations are 20-50% greater than the general population.
- D. There is currently no disabilities program that exists on-reserve for First Nations, which results in First Nations having to temporarily or permanently leave their First Nation to receive the health and social programs and services they need. In some instances children are being apprehended by child welfare agencies in order to have children's' needs met.

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

1. Call on Canada to work directly with First Nations to determine the needs for an on-reserve disabilities program.
2. Call on Canada to provide long-term and sustainable funding for an on-reserve disabilities program for First Nations.
3. Call on Canada to encourage provincial/territorial governments to invest in on-reserve disabilities programs for First Nations.

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