
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

December 5,6,7, 2023, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no.87/2023

TITLE: Call for a National Inquiry into The Sixties Scoop and Indigenous Child Removal by The Government of Canada

SUBJECT: Sixties Scoop

MOVED BY: De-Anne Sack, proxy, We'koqma'q First Nation, NS

SECONDED BY: Chief Wilfred King, Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation, ON

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) estimates that 150,000 children were forced to attend Indian Residential Schools (IRS) nationwide. The TRC also identified more than 4,100 children died at these facilities, although Survivors and families say that that number is much higher.
- B. The discovery of the remains of 215 children who were forced to attend the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in unmarked graves has led to the discovery of the remains of thousands of children in other former Indian Residential facilities across the country.
- C. As government and church-operated Residential Schools were "winding down," the federal and provincial governments enacted policies and legislation designed to break and destroy First Nations' families, many of whom who had been affected by Indian Residential Schools and Indian Day Schools.
- D. Thousands of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were taken and adopted or placed in care with non-First Nations' families throughout Canada from approximately 1951-1991 as another means of assimilation and genocide in what is now known as the Sixties Scoop.
- E. There has been no national inquiry into the precise numbers of children and families affected by the Sixties Scoop, the number of children murdered or killed while in care or adopted by non-Indigenous families, the geographical displacements of Survivors still living abroad, and the far-reaching long-term psychological and physical effects of permanent child removal on Survivors, our families, and communities.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of December 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario

CINDY WOODHOUSE, NATIONAL CHIEF

87 – 2023

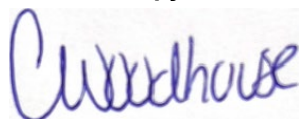
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- F. The 60s Scoop Legacy of Canada, formed in 2017, is a national non-profit organization based in Manitoba that has repeatedly called on the Trudeau Government for a national inquiry, funding, and amendments to the First Nations/Inuit Sixties Scoop Settlement.
- G. Former TRC Chair and Senator, the Honourable Murray Sinclair has publicly supported the need for a national inquiry in an August 2, 2021, joint press release in partnership with the 60s Scoop Legacy of Canada:
- i. “The magnitude of the removal of children in Canada has not yet been measured. It ought to be. It is likely that the Canadian numbers are proportionately as high as those in the United States which led to changes in policy, funding, and law. A study or an inquiry to look into the issue is needed not merely to measure the magnitude of the sin or the names of the sinners but to respond to the suggestion that the child removal system was saving the children from incapable families.”
 - ii. “There is merit to the suggestion that any incapacities of the families were a result of the actions of government, such as 100 years of Indian Residential Schools, and systemic and outright racism. If so, it would be manifestly unfair to allow the perpetrator of an historical injustice to wrap itself in the saviour’s cloak. The children who were removed need to know they are not alone, but they also need to know that there were reasons for what happened that were not of their parents’ making.”
- H. Many Survivors and families were unaware or unable to apply for the First Nations/Inuit Sixties Scoop Settlement before the deadline of December 2, 2019.
- I. There has been no settlement for Sixties Scoop Survivors for the harms, abuses, neglect, and trauma they experienced in care or while adopted.

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

1. Support the call for a national inquiry into the Sixties Scoop and permanent child removal and direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief’s Office to call on the federal government for a national inquiry in partnership with the 60s Scoop Legacy of Canada.
2. Direct the AFN to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with the 60s Scoop Legacy of Canada, a national, non-profit peer-support organization, to support Survivors of the Sixties Scoop.
3. Direct the AFN Executive Committee to call on the federal and provincial governments for long-term funding to support a repatriation and healing program for Survivors and families of the Sixties Scoop.
4. Direct the AFN to seek legal advice in reopening the application deadline in the First Nations/Inuit Sixties Scoop Settlement, provided it does not interfere with processing current applications and payments to claimants.
5. Direct the AFN National Chief to seek resources to hold a joint press conference with the 60s Scoop Legacy of Canada to call on the federal government to commission a national inquiry, and other First Nations in Canada to support the call for a national inquiry.

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