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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JULY 11, 12, & 13, 2023; HALIFAX, NS**

**Resolution no. 61/2023**

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**TITLE:** Support to Parents Affected by Historical Cases of Newborn Child Abduction

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**SUBJECT:** First Nations Women and Children

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Rachel Manitowabi, Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation, ON

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**SECONDED BY:** David Pratt, proxy, James Smith Cree Nation, SK

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**DECISION** Carried; 1 abstention, 1 opposed

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
  - ii. Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
  - iii. Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
  - iv. Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 13th day of July 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia**

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**JOANNA BERNARD, INTERIM NATIONAL CHIEF**

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- B.** First Nations women face dehumanizing treatment and systemic discrimination when it comes to accessing services with public sectors including but not limited to education, the justice system, and healthcare.
- C.** First Nations women in Saskatchewan have courageously come forward with their stories about giving birth in the 1960's and 1970's and being notified by healthcare professionals that their newborns had died, only to later discover strong evidence that their children were apprehended with no record of where they were placed.
- D.** RCMP investigations into these cases have stalled and the federal government refuses to disclose information that could confirm whether the babies were apprehended and placed in another home, citing privacy concerns for the possible children.
- E.** This pattern of behavior by medical professionals in deceiving First Nations women while they are in a vulnerable state is akin to the forced and coerced sterilization that First Nations women have faced across Canada.

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

- 1.** Call upon the federal government to call for an independent inquiry into the tragedy of First Nations newborn abductions by healthcare professionals.
- 2.** Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for an independent and thorough examination of each case involving the forced separation of First Nations newborns from their mothers with the ultimate goal of finding the truth, reuniting mother and child, and seeking justice for families.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 13th day of July 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia**



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