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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**July 23, 24 & 25, 2019, FREDERICTON, NB**

**Resolution no. 34/2019**

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**TITLE:** First Nations Education Infrastructure Review

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**SUBJECT:** Education

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Stanley Grier, Piikani Nation, AB

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**SECONDED BY:** Tyrone McNeil, Proxy, Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC

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**DECISION:** Carried; 5 objections, 1 abstention

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### WHEREAS:

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

- i. Article 13 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
- ii. Article 13 (2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that Indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.
- iii. Article 14 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their education systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
- iv. Article 14 (2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
- v. 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.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019 in Fredericton, New Brunswick**

  
**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

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- vi. 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 programmes through their own institutions.
- B. First Nations have an inherent and Treaty right to education, including education infrastructure as part of a lifelong learning process.
- C. Safe, adequate and sustainable education infrastructure provides a fundamental opportunity for building relationships and advancing reconciliation between the Crown and First Nations, as expressed in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- D. First Nations have unique needs and circumstances in education that must be reflected in their education infrastructure standards.
- E. The Government of Canada is obliged to uphold and honour the authority of First Nations to exercise control over education and the infrastructure required to implement it, including the right to environmentally sustainable education infrastructure solutions.
- F. The federal government must obtain the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations on any proposed changes to education infrastructure programs and/or policies relating to First Nations education administered by Indigenous Services Canada or other federal departments or agencies.

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

- 1. Reaffirm First Nations' inherent and Treaty Rights to education.
- 2. Reaffirm that jurisdiction over First Nations education remains with each First Nation.
- 3. Affirm that a review concerning First Nations education infrastructure is not intended to detract or hinder First Nations from advancing their current and future infrastructure processes.
- 4. Support policy or program changes in regards to First Nations education infrastructure that:
  - a. Exercise First Nations' Treaty and inherent rights to education, honours and advances First Nations control of First Nations education, and conforms to and upholds the Crown's Treaty and legal obligations to First Nations;

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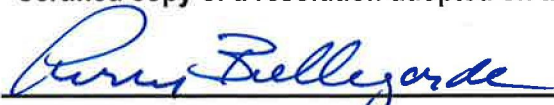
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- b. Reflect First Nations needs and deficiencies at the local and grassroots level;
  - c. Ensure that education capital funding needs are based on forecasted population growth in First Nations communities; and
  - d. Ensure that a 100% of real costs are provided for operations and maintenance of First Nations education infrastructure.
- 5. Support the Chiefs Committee on Education, National Indian Education Council and Assembly of First Nations to engage and lead a First Nations review, reflective of local and grassroots level needs, on federal policies concerning education infrastructure that supports regional models and approaches.

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