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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**Annual General Assembly**  
**July 5, 6, 7, 2022, Vancouver, BC**

**Resolution no. 17/2022**

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**TITLE:** Support for the First Nations Languages Funding Model

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**SUBJECT:** First Nations Languages

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Ira McArthur, Pheasant Rump First Nation, SK

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Nelson Genaille, Sapotawayak Cree Nation, MB

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**DECISION** Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

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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 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 16 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.
  - iv. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B. Languages are fundamental to First Nations culture, worldview, self-determination and ways of knowing, and language rights are inherent rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and supported by the UN Declaration.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2022 in Ottawa, ON**

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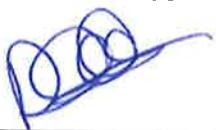
**ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**17 – 2022**  
**Page 1 of 3**

- C. The purpose of the *Indigenous Languages Act* includes establishing “measures to facilitate the provision of adequate, sustainable and long-term funding for the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of Indigenous languages.”
- D. The Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) must obtain approval for a Treasury Board Submission for the Indigenous Languages Funding Model in order to unlock the language revitalization funding that Budget 2019 provided for 2023-24 and future years. This amounts to \$115.7 million annually in total for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, and for related expenses including the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages and departmental administration costs.
- E. Following the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly of 2021, the Executive Committee approved Resolution 10/2021, *Support for the co-development of a distinctions-based Indigenous Languages Funding Model*, on August 16, 2021.
- F. The Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL) and the Assembly of First Nations developed a draft First Nations Languages Funding Model to inform the distinctions-based Indigenous Languages Funding Model that the Department of Canadian Heritage is developing for Treasury Board.
- G. The AFN held regional engagement sessions, with approximately 400 participants, to explain the draft First Nations Languages Funding Model and receive input and comments from First Nations.
- H. The TCOL and the AFN have incorporated First Nations’ comments and suggestions into the First Nations Languages Funding Model.
- I. Resolution 10/2021, *Support for the co-development of a distinctions-based Indigenous Languages Funding Model*, directed the AFN to return to the First Nations-in-Assembly when the First Nations Languages Funding Model is complete to seek ratification of the model.
- J. The Chiefs Committee on Languages has reviewed the First Nations Languages Funding Model.
- K. The First Nations Languages Funding Model addresses language revitalization outside the First Nations school system. Indigenous Services Canada provides limited funding for First Nations language revitalization for pre-school, elementary school, secondary school, and post-secondary education to strengthen First Nations languages education.

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- L. The lack of funding to support First Nations languages limits the interim First Nations Languages Funding Model and exemplifies DCH's continued colonial approach in working with First Nations.

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

1. Reaffirm that First Nations self-determination over First Nations languages must be respected as a fundamental principle of any federal language initiative, including Numbered Treaties, Modern Treaties, land claim agreements, and self-government agreements.
2. Ratify the interim First Nations Languages Funding Model to inform the Treasury Board Submission to unlock Budget 2019 funding for 2023-24 and future years.
3. Call on the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) to annex the First Nations Languages Funding Model to the Treasury Board Submission that it is developing to unlock language revitalization funding for 2023-24 and future years.
4. Call on the Government of Canada to honour its commitment to provide adequate, sustainable, and long-term funding for the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of First Nations languages, including by means of a whole-of-government approach that includes other federal departments and other governments.
5. Call on DCH to improve and strengthen partnerships with First Nations and to fully co-manage the implementation of the Funding Model.
6. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to monitor and oversee the implementation of the First Nations Languages Funding Model, to periodically review the model, and to recommend amendments, as required, for consideration by the First Nations-in-Assembly.
7. Direct the AFN to advocate for adequate, sustainable, and long-term funding both from the Department of Canadian Heritage for language revitalization outside schools, and from Indigenous Services Canada for pre-school, elementary school, secondary school, and post-secondary education to strengthen First Nations languages education.
8. Call on the Government of Canada to provide sufficient funding for language revitalization both outside of schools and within First Nations schools.

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**17 – 2022**  
*Page 3 of 3*