
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 6,7,8, 2022, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 38/2022

TITLE: Support to Further Actions Post-Papal Apology

SUBJECT: Indian Residential Schools Portfolio

MOVED BY: Kúkpi7 Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Roberta Joseph, Trondék Hwëch'in, YT

DECISION Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration):
- i. Article 8 (1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
 - ii. Article 8 (2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - a. Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
 - b. Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
 - c. Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
 - d. Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
 - e. Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

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- iii. Article 10: Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.
- B. The Papal admission of genocide on July 30th, 2022, resulted in further activities with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) and actions required to honour commitments to Residential School Survivors. Each "whereas" is a reason for the resolution and each reason requires a separate clause.
- C. The actions required to engage with the CCCB and Canada must;
 - i. meet expectations of all residential school survivors, elders, and address social, cultural, and economic harms;
 - ii. further advocate and develop funding for reconciliation actions by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN);
 - iii. contribute to the family and reconciliation actions that guide reparative actions;
 - iv. Ensure cohesive relationships with survivors, leaders, and the families in all NIO's that support the work ahead;
 - v. Support initiatives that advance the rights and interests of First Nations in relation to the Churches and Canada, like the Covenant and Calls to Action 46 and 53;
- D. Support consultation and ongoing communication, engagement, consultation with National Indigenous Organizations, Survivors and Leadership, with guidance from Grandmothers to respect protocols and processes important to reconciliation with First Nations women.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the First Nations-in-Assembly

1. Call upon the Holy Father to renounce and formally revoke the "Inter Caetera" 1493 Doctrine of Discovery and replace it with a new Papal Bull that decrees Indigenous Peoples and cultures are valuable, worthy, and must be treated with dignity and respect.
2. Call upon the federal government and church entities to provide additional investments into long-term healing initiatives beyond the recent commitments of \$ 30 million announced on September 27, 2021, to ensure support programs and services for survivors and their descendants.

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3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for and seek appropriate resources to develop an AFN National Strategy on Residential School Reconciliation following the Papal Encounters, which will address the following:
- a. Analysis of the Papal apology speeches to identify commitments and support initiatives;
 - b. Advocacy strategy for the return of diocese land properties back to First Nations on whose traditional lands they are situated;
 - c. Seek commitments from church entities to release records and related materials of Residential School institutions, including death records of students;
 - d. Analysis of the constitutional impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery and its relationship with the Church and Canada;
 - e. Seek commitments for the return of artifacts from church entities;
 - f. Educating church entities and Canada with gaining a true understanding of the impact of the Church on Indigenous Peoples and our ways of knowing and being.

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