
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. 19/2019

TITLE: Developing a Seven Generations Continuum of Care for First Nations, by First Nations of Health, Economic and Social Services

SUBJECT: Social Development, Health, Economic Development

MOVED BY: Chief Elaine Johnston, Serpent River First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Walter Spence, Fox Lake First Nation, MB

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. 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.
 - ii. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security. This section provides the background information for the resolution.
 - iii. Article 21 (2): States shall take the effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities
- B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and associated United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued Concluding Observations on Canada's initial report, including specific recommendations to:

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- i. Adopt cross-sectorial strategies with a view to combating inequality and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities through, inter alia, affirmative action measures that include clear targets and the collection of data on progress achieved disaggregated by age, sex, and Indigenous background.
 - ii. To take into account Article 5 of the Convention while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030, "*Leave No One Behind*".
- C. Bill C-81, the *Accessible Canada Act, (disabilities)* was passed in the House of Commons on May 29, 2019 and received royal assent on June 21, 2019.
- D. A wholistic approach to develop a continuum of supports and services, instead of a program-by-program approach, is necessary to address long-standing and growing gaps for continuing care in First Nation communities and to ensure health, social, and economic wellbeing for First Nations as they age and as their care needs change.
- E. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has offered to work with the Assembly of First Nations, First Nations, and other federal departments to identify needs and gaps in supports and services, capacity and infrastructure, as well as develop options for moving forward a Seven Generations Continuum of Care for First Nations, by First Nations.
- F. The Federal Government has indicated that part of Budget 2019's \$8.5 million in funding for long-term care in First Nations and Inuit communities can be allocated to develop a continuum of care in First Nations.
- G. Existing resolutions call for related work to develop a continuum of care, including Resolution 24/2018, *Increased Focus on Disabilities Centered on Human Rights*, Resolution 27/2018, *Support for the long-term implementation of Jordan's Principle*, Resolution 55/2018, *First Nations Disabilities Program On-Reserve*, Resolution 74/2018, *Non-Insured Health Benefits: Ongoing Commitment to a Joint Process*, Resolution 88/2018, *Support the Development of Wholistic First Nations Wellness Facilities*, Resolution 63/2017, *Federal Engagement on Health Transformation*, Resolution 55/2016, *First Nation Federal Accessibility Legislation*, and Resolution 75/2015, *Support the Economic, Social and Cultural, Spiritual, Civil and Political Rights of Indigenous Persons with Disabilities*.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and other federal departments to support First Nations and the AFN to identify needs and gaps in supports and services, capacity, and infrastructure, that impact the Seven Generations Continuum of Care, and to develop options to move forward a wholistic Continuum of Care for First Nations, by First Nations.
2. Direct the AFN to call upon ISC to coordinate federal departments' cross-sectoral work on current and previous engagement related to a Seven Generations Continuum of Care, including First Nations recommendations on Bill C-81, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to "*Leave No One Behind.*"
3. Direct the AFN to urge the Federal Government to allocate part of the \$8.5 million in funding for First Nation and Inuit long-term care engagements from Budget 2019 to support work by First Nations and the AFN to identify needs and gaps in supports and services, capacity and infrastructure, as well as develop options to move forward on a Seven Generations Continuum of Care.

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