ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 12, 13 & 14, 2011, MONCTON, NB

Resolution no. 10/2011

TITLE:	Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve – Denying Opportunities and Discriminating Against the Children of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation
SUBJECT:	Healthy Children
MOVED BY:	Valerie Whyte, Proxy, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus – 1 abstention

WHEREAS:

A. Article 14 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) states: "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" and "Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination".

B. The Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve (AHSOR) Program is a Health Canada early intervention program for First Nation children (aged zero to six) living on reserve, and their families. It is intended to prepare children for their school years by meeting their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs, In addition to helping prepare children for school, Aboriginal Head Start programs teach children about their Aboriginal language and culture and involve parents, Elders and community members. Health Canada's Regional Office's receive AHSOR funding based on the total population of Aboriginal children ages 0-6 within their region.

C. The Mathias Colomb Cree Nation is an isolated northern Manitoba First Nation, accessible only by air and rail and 3 months out of the year via the winter road. The on-reserve population exceeds 200 children ages 0-6.

D. The Mathias Colomb Cree Nation has not received any funding from Health Canada for the AHSOR program since the program's inception in 1995.

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E. The Mathias Colomb Cree Nation was advised that they are not eligible to receive funding to develop and implement an AHSOR program as all the AHSOR dollars in the Manitoba Region have been committed to 27 of the 63 First Nations as Core funding for their AHSOR programs.

F. The Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve Child Health system, as it exists now, is discriminatory towards the children of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation by denying access to opportunities to benefit from cultural methods of teaching and learning, which are the principles that the Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve program was built upon.

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

1. Disagree with Health Canada's decision to deny the children of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve (AHSOR) program support to learn the language, customs, traditions and protocols unique to their culture and community.
2. Assert that adequate funding is required to ensure that all of our First Nation children are able to access AHSOR programs and services.
3. Direct the National Chief to raise this matter with the Minister of Health and request that Health Canada work directly with the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation.
4. Direct the National Chief to advocate for adequate financial and capital funding to ensure that all First Nation children, including the children of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, are able to access needed AHSOR programs and services.

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