
Assembly of First Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 36/2025

TITLE: Support for a National Day for Indigenous Child Removal Survivors by the Government of Canada

SUBJECT: Sixties Scoop

MOVED BY: Kukpi7 Michael Christian, Splatshin First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Troy MacBeth Abromaitis, Proxy, Boston Bar First Nation, BC

DECISION: Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) should be the framework for improvement to address the harmful legacy of Residential Schools, Sixties Scoop, and the Child Welfare system that forced the removal of children, the disproportionate number of First Nations children in care, the consequences of involvement in child welfare systems, and the related loss of language and denial of culture and human rights.
- B. The UN Declaration states:
- a. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity;
 - b. Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination;
 - c. 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 affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

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- C. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action # 1 to # 5 call on federal, provincial, and territorial governments to take actions to improve First Nations child and family services.
- D. The Sixties Scoop was an ongoing practice in the 1960s and 1970s that saw the removal of large numbers of First Nations children from their families and communities and placed them in the care of Canadian and International foster or adoptive homes.
- E. First Nations children continue to lose their identity, culture and kinship links as they continue to be removed from their homes, families, and Nations by the federal, provincial, and territorial child welfare systems.

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

1. Acknowledge that this resolution is brought forward by Kukpi7 (Chief) Michael Christian of Splatshin First Nation, a Sixties Scoop Survivor himself, who carries this sacred motion forward on behalf of all Survivors—the children taken through these colonial child removal systems, the families who still carry that loss, and the generations who continue to feel the deep intergenerational impacts of these removals. As a Sixties Scoop Survivor who spent 11 years of his youth in a government institutional foster system, Kukpi7 (Chief) Michael Christian brings a deeply personal understanding of the intergenerational impacts of child removal, which continues to fuel his lifelong commitment to cultural reclamation, healing, and the revitalization of his community. This resolution is also brought forward by Chief Pamela Robertson of Boston Bar First Nation, who stands in strong support of this sacred call for national recognition. Chief Robertson's leadership reflects the collective voice of many families and Nations who continue to carry the lived impacts of child removal across generations, and who are walking the path of healing, belonging, and cultural restoration for all Survivors.
2. Acknowledge that this resolution is also grounded in the lived experience and advocacy of Troy MacBeth Abromaitis, a Sixties Scoop Survivor and proud member of the Nlaka'pamux Nation, who, after being separated from his family and community for more than thirty years, returned home and dedicated his skills to support the rebuilding of his Nation—including his service on the Lytton First Nation Economic Development Board following the devastation of the 2021 wildfires. In recognition of his quiet commitment to serve in a good way, Troy was honoured by his family in 2023 through a sacred blanket ceremony and given the ancestral name Lex7em'ken—symbolizing his full return to kinship, belonging, and identity. Before her passing, Troy's mother shared one final wish: that Survivors be honoured nationally, not only in name, but through sacred ceremony, so that all who were taken may one day be fully welcomed home. Through Troy's ongoing personal advocacy and leadership, formal provincial proclamations have already been secured recognizing June 30 as a day to honour Survivors of Indigenous child removal systems—including the Sixties Scoop, Millennium Scoop, foster care, and birth alerts—in the Provinces of British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.
3. Call upon Canada to acknowledge and honour the Survivors, families, and Nations whose strength, courage, and sacred journeys have carried forward this profound work, and to recognize the growing circle of support that already exists across this country. This includes formal proclamations issued by the Provinces of British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, who have designated June 30 as a day to honour Survivors of the Sixties Scoop, Millennium Scoop, foster care, and birth alerts—and to bear witness to those returning home after years and decades of separation. Canada is called upon to

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recognize this growing movement as an expression of national readiness to address both historical and ongoing child removal systems, and to stand with First Nations in ceremony, healing, and belonging.

4. Call upon Canada to formally establish the National Day of Recognition for Indigenous Child Removal Survivors—to be known in ceremony as National Blanket Ceremony Day–Indigenous Survivors—as a federally recognized day of ceremony, healing, and sacred commemoration, to be observed annually on June 30. Further call upon Canada to work in full partnership with Survivors, Elders, and First Nations leadership to advance and enact federal legislation to enshrine this day in Canadian law—ensuring that Survivors are honoured not only in name, but through sacred ceremony, belonging, and restoration to family, community, and Nationhood.
5. Call upon Canada to provide dedicated and sustained funding to support Survivors, families, communities, and First Nations in the full development, ceremonial implementation, and public education necessary for the National Day of Recognition for Indigenous Child Removal Survivors (National Blanket Ceremony Day–Indigenous Survivors) to be fully established and upheld across the country. This work shall be led in full partnership with First Nations leadership, and guided by Indigenous laws, teachings, and ceremonies—including the sacred blanket ceremony—ensuring that every Survivor is seen, honoured, and welcomed home in a sacred way that restores dignity, belonging, and intergenerational healing.

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