



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

Resolution 05/2020

Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 101 Gordon St., Nanaimo, BC
March 4 & 5, 2020

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR NVIT'S IMMEDIATE ENTRY BURSARY FOR ALL GRADE 12 INDIGENOUS GRADUATES ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

MOVED BY: CHIEF HARVEY MCLEOD, UPPER NICOLA INDIAN BAND

SECONDED BY: CHIEF DEREK MACDONALD, LAKE BABINE NATION

DECISION: OPPOSED: MELINDA SWAN, PROXY, AHOUSAHT
CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Employment and Training of First Nations peoples is a priority for the BC Assembly of First Nations;
- B. The TRC Calls to Action state:

7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

- i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.*
- ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates.*
- iii. Developing culturally appropriate curriculum*
- iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.*

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of March 2020, at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Snuneymuxw, Nanaimo, BC

A blue ink signature of Terry Teegee, the BC Regional Chief.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- v. *Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.*
 - vi. *Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.*
 - vii. *Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.*
11. *We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.*

C. The United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* state:

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.*
- 2. *Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.*
- 3. *States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.*

Article 15


- 1. *Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.*

- D. NVIT responds to community needs throughout British Columbia and Canada by ensuring public post-secondary education remains accessible and relevant; and
- E. The NVIT Immediate Entry Bursary directly responds to BC's Bill 41 – 2019: *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Specifically, removing a financial barrier by providing Indigenous learners greater access to NVIT, resulting in an educational experience immersed in Indigenous ways of knowing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly support the implementation of the Immediate Entry Bursary for all Indigenous Grade 12 graduates across British Columbia; and
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly calls on the Province of BC to adequately support and fund NVIT.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief