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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JULY 25, 26, & 27, 2017, REGINA, SK**

**Resolution no. 14/2017**

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**TITLE:** Post-Secondary Education Federal Review

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**SUBJECT:** Education

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Anne Wildcat, Ermineskin First Nation, AB

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Stanley Grier, Piikani Nation, AB

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**DECISION** Carried by Consensus

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**WHEREAS:**

- A.** The United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
- i. Article 13 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
  - ii. Article 13 (2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that Indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.
  - iii. 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.
  - iv. Article 14 (2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
  - v. Article 14 (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.

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**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

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- vi. 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 through their own institutions.
- B. First Nations have an inherent and Treaty right to education, including post-secondary education.
- C. The federal government is obliged to uphold and honour the authority of First Nations to exercise control over education. The Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed Assembly of First Nations (AFN) resolutions 36/2016 *Inherent and Treaty Right to Post-Secondary Education* and 40/2016 *Call on Canada to address the backlog for eligible First Nation post-secondary student* that affirm and uphold this autonomy.
- D. The federal government is required to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations on any proposed changes to post-secondary education programs and/or policies relating to First Nation education administered by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) or other federal departments or agencies.
- E. The 2017 Federal Budget announced a comprehensive and collaborative review, with Indigenous partners, of all current federal programs that support Indigenous students who wish to pursue post-secondary education. The purpose of the review will be to ensure that these programs meet the needs of individual students while supporting attendance at, and completion of, a post-secondary degree or credential.
- F. The Chiefs Committee on Education's (CCOE) Terms of Reference states that "The CCOE will perform the following objectives: Advocate for the protection of education Treaty rights and advance First Nations jurisdiction over First Nations education."
- G. The National Indian Education Council's (NIEC) Terms of Reference states that "The NIEC will perform the following objectives: Provide technical advice and assistance to the CCOE and the AFN Education Sector in the form of recommendations. Undertake technical lobbying in cooperation with the CCOE. Assist in the process of policy development in First Nations education that is initiated from First Nations and First Nations institutes."

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

1. Call on the federal government to ensure the federal post-secondary review will have a First Nations specific review, separate from the broader review, and have a separate First Nations report and/or submission.
2. Direct the Chiefs Committee on Education to lead the First Nations portion of the federal post-secondary review, with support from the National Indian Education Council, and to work in partnership with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada.

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