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| TITLE: | First Nations' Control of First Nations' Education |
| SUBJECT: | Education |
| MOVED BY: | Chief Gilbert Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi, QC |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Marianna Couchie, Nipissing First Nation, ON |
| DECISION: | Carried by Consensus |

WHEREAS:

A. The National Indian Brotherhood adopted the national policy paper "*Indian Control of Indian Education*" in 1972 which was affirmed by the Minister of Indian Affairs in 1973.

B. The full spirit and intent of the policy of *Indian Control of Indian Education* has never been supported in a meaningful manner by the federal government who have failed to support a comprehensive First Nations learning environment and systems, as envisioned by First Nations, that would lead to an overall improvement in learning outcomes.

C. First Nations have been severely and inter-generationally impacted by the imposition of residential, provincial and territorial schools, as well as other imposed forms of forced assimilation and integration. These impacts are being perpetuated by continued chronic underfunding despite a commitment and a federal fiduciary obligation to adequately support First Nations' jurisdiction over education.

D. First Nations leaders and educators recognize that the right to and policy of *Indian Control of Indian Education* still applies in 2010 as it did in 1972. However, it is necessary to revise the thirty-eight year old policy to reflect changes in education and current challenges to provide further support for the realization of education as a tool to eradicate poverty by building the necessary skills for the survival and future prosperity of First Nations collectivities and peoples in Canada.

E. Revising and updating the AFN national education policy and developing regional First Nation provincial/territorial education policies, that feed into and support it, would provide a strong foundation for local First Nation control over education. It would also allow for an alignment of the AFN national

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policy with the intentions of the First Nations-Federal Crown Political Accord on the Recognition and Implementation of First Nation Governments.

F. In December 2009, the AFN Chiefs in Assembly approved Resolution #37 to :

- Hereby adopt in principle the new national First Nation education policy as *First Nation Control of First Nation Education*, based on the understanding that the paper will be revised to ensure that the development of policies are community based.
- Direct the National Chief, with support of the Chiefs Committee on Education and National Indian Education Council, to do all things necessary to circulate *First Nation Control of First Nation Education* for ratification at the 2010 Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly.
- Support the development of regional community driven First Nation education policy that feeds into, supports and strengthens *First Nation Control of First Nation Education*.

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

1. Hereby adopt the new national First Nation education policy as *First Nation Control of First Nation Education*, based on the understanding that this paper is a living document that is community based.

2. Commit to supporting communities in the development of regional First Nation education policies that informs and strengthens the *First Nation Control of First Nation Education* national education policy.

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