
TITLE: Support for Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering

SUBJECT: Disability, Health, Social Services

MOVED BY: Grand Chief Edward John, Proxy, Tl'azt'en Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Cheryl Casimer, Proxy, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, BC

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

- i. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health, and social security.
- ii. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

B. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Preamble states:

- i. (C): The universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination.

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- ii. (M): The valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty.
 - iii. 1.7(8) Awareness-raising: (a) To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; (b) To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life; (c) To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.
- C. Indigenous persons and families living with a disability within Canada represent a marginalized population within an already marginalized population. The disability rate among Indigenous people is over twice that of the national rate and that at every age, Indigenous Canadians are more likely to have disabilities than Canadians who are not Indigenous.
- D. The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) is a not-for-profit, Indigenous organization, supported by Assembly of First Nations Resolution 85/2004 to promote and support the full inclusion of all Indigenous individuals and families living with disabilities in Canada through its delivery of comprehensive, person centered disability and health related services. Through service delivery and collaboration with Indigenous, federal and provincial governments and leadership, BCANDS assists to eliminate barriers, raise awareness and create opportunities for improved and responsive services, and increase inclusion of Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability within Canada.
- E. BCANDS will host its "From the Outside Looking In – Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering," in Victoria British Columbia in November 2017. The 2017 Gathering will bring together a diverse representation of disability and health related stakeholders from across Canada over a three day period to learn, inform, share, collaborate and create new and expanded partnerships to assist in addressing the barriers facing Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability.

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

1. Support the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society's "From the Outside looking In – Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering" in 2017 and encourage the promotion and participation of community, government, service providers and other associated stakeholders.

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