



**ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**  
**2015 Annual General Assembly – Montréal, QC**  
**Final Resolutions**

NUMBER	TITLE
1	Support for the Full Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action
2	Support for Implementation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action #18-24 by the Canadian Medical Association
3	First Nation Involvement in Emergency Preparedness
4	Support for Indigenous Energy Resource Development Forum
5	Support for Gottfriedson et al v. Her Majesty the Queen (Day Scholar Class Action)
6	Revitalization of Indigenous Languages: Concrete Actions to Support Indigenous Language Teachers and Cultural Centres
7	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
8	Advancing Rights: Respecting First Nations Autonomy in Fisheries
9	Interactive On-line Non-Insured Health Benefits Drug Benefit Listing
10	Call for a Program Review of the Home and Community Care Program to Address Impacts of Insufficient Funding Increases
11	Support for First Nations Health Managers Association Certified First Nations Health Manager Designation
12	Support for Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada to Address Nursing Challenges in Northern and Remote Communities
13	Support for Collaborative Knowledge Building and Action for VisitAble Housing in First Nations Communities in British Columbia
14	Support for It's Our Time First Nations Education Tool Kit
15	Support for the Katzie First Nation in the Opposition to the Quarry Application 1015131 B.C. Ltd.
16	Support for Social Innovation/Financing to Enhance Funding for First Nation Socio-Economic Development
17	Support for the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario's Successful Bid to Host the 2017 North American Indigenous Games
18	Support for the 2017 Long-term Renewal of the Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS)
19	Support for Increased Funding of the First Nation and Inuit Child Care Initiative
20	Support for Native Hawaiian Opposition to the Construction of a Thirty Meter Telescope on the Sacred Land of Mauna Kea

NUMBER	TITLE
21	Support for Continued Investment of First Nations Data and Information Governance
22	Support for Including Wood Buffalo National Park on the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger
23	Support of the First World Indigenous Games – 2015 Brazil
24	Support for Equitable Application of Shelter Allowance Program
25	Call for the Implementation of the Auditor General Report on Health
26	Urge the Mental Health Commission of Canada to use the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework in Development of a National Mental Health Action Plan
27	National Museum of Indian Residential Schools
28	Recommendation to Reinstate the National Policy Review Committee
29	Recommendation to Create a National First Nations Children's Commissioner
30	Rejecting Canada's Process for Comprehensive Claims Policy Reform
31	Public Release of Ministerial Special Representative Benoit Pelletier's report to Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development of Canada on Specific Claims Tribunal Act Five-Year Review
32	First Nation Involvement in Future Development of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy
33	Independent Environmental Decision-making
34	Reconciliation and Compensation for First Nations Boarding Home Students
35	Preservation of Independent Assessment Process Records
36	Indian Status Application Process
37	High Cost Special Education Program Funding and Analysis
38	Canada's Obligation to Develop with Indigenous Peoples a National Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
39	Incorrect Barring of Survivors from Admission to the Independent Assessment Process Deadline
40	Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in First Nations Advocacy
41	Site C Hydroelectric Dam on the Peace River
42	Creation of an Indigenous National DNA Database – "Re-unification of Families through Indigenous DNA"

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**TITLE:** Reconciliation and Compensation for First Nations Boarding Home Students

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**SUBJECT:** Indian Residential Schools

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Henry Moore, Laxgalt'sap Village Government(Nisga'a), BC

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**SECONDED BY:** Debra Foxcroft, Proxy, Hesquiaht First Nation, BC

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**DECISION** Carried by Consensus

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**WHEREAS:**

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

- i. Article 8, (1): Indigenous people and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
- ii. Article 8, (2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
  - a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
  - b) Any action which has the aim of or the effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
  - c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
  - d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
  - e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

**B.** First Nations boarding home students were First Nations students who attended federally sponsored and operated schools during the 1950s through to the late 1970s. These First Nations students were sent away to

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attend school under the federal Boarding Home School Program, and were boarded in private homes in cities such as Terrace, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, and others.

- C. Former students of the Boarding Home School Program who boarded with non-Aboriginal families report having suffered terrific culture shock. With no guidance or counseling and no prior experiences with non-Aboriginal people, former boarding home students report suffering ridicule, embarrassment, and racism, both inside boarding homes and at the schools they attended.
- D. In 2006, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) was approved and provided Common Experience Payments to former students of Indian Residential Schools. However, the claims of First Nations boarding home students were not addressed in this settlement agreement.
- E. Like Indian Residential School former students and day scholars, First Nations boarding home students endured loss of culture, loss of language, and often emotional, spiritual, sexual, and physical, and psychological abuse and other injuries. This severely affected these individuals and their experience continues to have devastated intergenerational effects on First Nation families and communities.
- F. Many First Nations in British Columbia (BC) have members who were boarding home students and who do not qualify for automatic compensation under the IRSSA, including the Nisga'a Nation who has approximately 500 known Nisga'a members who were boarding home students.
- G. The Nisga'a Volunteer Working Group on the Nisga'a Boarding Home Program (the Working Group), headed by Mr. Reginald Percival has the support of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive. The Working Group have been meeting since the Fall of 2005 and are committed to obtaining redress for Nisga'a boarding home students, committing significant financial and human resources to-date.
- H. Based on their efforts and communications with Nisga'a boarding home students and boarding home students from other First Nations in BC, the Working Group continues to urge that a comprehensive First Nations led strategy is required in BC and nationally to deal with the abuses and trauma suffered by First Nation citizens who were boarding home students.
- I. Should the Government of Canada continue to deny redress to First Nation boarding home students, the Working Group are interested in and have already begun undertaking preparations in order to launch a class action suit and the Working Group invite other affected First Nations to join their suit.

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

1. Support the Nisga'a Volunteer Working Group on the Nisga'a Boarding Home Program, in their efforts to seek redress for the First Nations boarding home students, including possible pursuit of a class action suit.
2. Call upon the Assembly of First Nations to engage the Government of Canada in development of a conciliation and compensation package for First Nations boarding home students, and failing progress to work to support a class action suit on this matter.

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