



# FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

RESOLUTION #0907.17

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BRITISH COLUMBIA**

## WHEREAS

- A. In April 2006, the Hon. Ted Hughes released an independent review of BC's child protection system that called for sweeping changes to the child welfare system, entitled *BC Children and Youth Review*.
- B. Subsequent to the release of the *BC Children and Youth Review*, the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* was passed by the Government of British Columbia, establishing an independent office of the Legislature responsible for the following:
- To support, assist, inform and advise children and their families;
  - To increase accountability of ministries or other public bodies responsible for the provision of designated services by monitoring, reviewing and auditing the provision of those services, and
  - To review, investigate and report on the critical injuries and deaths of children in the child welfare system.
- C. Justice Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond was appointed as the Representative for Children and Youth, BC on December 5, 2006.
- D. Children in care have higher rates of illness, injury and death by all causes, including suicide; have a slower rate of academic progress and lower rate of high school graduation; and have higher rates of incarceration and eventual dependence on income assistance.
- E. As more than 50 per cent of children and youth in care are Aboriginal, compared to 8 per cent in the general population, and 43 per cent of youth in custody are Aboriginal, First Nations must play a key role in providing advice to the Representative for Children and Youth, BC.
- F. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the Representative for Children and Youth has been developed to establish an ongoing process for dialogue and cooperation as it relates to the role of the Representative for Children and Youth, BC.

## THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly support the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and

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- Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the Representative for Children and Youth, and direct the Task Group to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the First Nations Summit.
- 2. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly direct the First Nations Summit Task Group to report regularly to the Chiefs in Assembly on progress under the Memorandum of Understanding.

MOVED BY: Michelle Corfield, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council  
SECONDED BY: Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Sto:lo Tribal Council  
DATE: September 28, 2007

Passed by consensus.

ENDORSED BY:

  
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Chief Judith Sayers

  
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Dave Porter

  
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Grand Chief Edward John