



# FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

---

## RESOLUTION #0602.09

**SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL PROPOSAL FOR REGIONALIZATION OF ABORIGINAL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES**

---

### WHEREAS

- A. Aboriginal People, as defined under section 35 of the Constitution Act of Canada, 1982 recognize that our children and families are the cornerstone of our Nations' futures.
- B. Aboriginal Nations have an inherent right of self-determination, including jurisdiction relating to their children and families:
- C. Aboriginal rights of self-determination and jurisdiction are not respected by the federal and provincial governments.
- D. The federal government is acting in a manner inconsistent with its fiduciary obligation to Aboriginal Nations to act in the best interests of Aboriginal children and families.
- E. The Province of British Columbia is proposing a process of regionalization for child welfare that is in keeping with the trend toward institutionalization, which is a further derogation of Aboriginal rights.
- F. The Ministry for Child and Family Development's regionalization proposal imposes an unrealistic time frame and includes a threat that failure to participate in the process within the time frame allotted will preclude future involvement or participation.
- G. There is a lack of clarity with respect to Aboriginal Governance structures, as referred to in Minister Hogg's correspondence of June 10, 2002.
- H. The Province of British Columbia has dictated the planning and design of the governance of Regional Authorities of Child and Family Services, including the superimposition of a proposed "blended" Regional Authority, without adequate and appropriate consultation to ensure the needs of First Nations are met.
- I. The proposed "blended" authority model reinforces the provincial government's assimilative policies.

PAGE TWO

RESOLUTION #0602.09

SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL PROPOSAL FOR REGIONALIZATION OF ABORIGINAL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly unequivocally reject the concept of "blended" Regional Authorities (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) for child welfare services.
2. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly support, in principle, the concept of Regional Aboriginal Authorities for child welfare services.

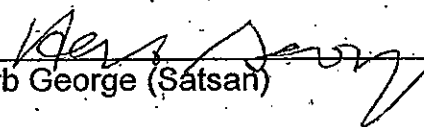
MOVED BY: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation


SECONDED BY: Chief Betty Patrick, Lake Babine First Nation


DATED: June 14, 2002

Passed by consensus:

ENDORSED BY:

  
Herb George (Satsan)

  
Lydia Hwitsum

  
Edward John