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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

NAME: Rebecca Janieson
 ORGANIZATION: Grand River P.S.
 FAX: 1-519-445-4286
 FROM: Manshill
 DATE: 28 Nov 08
 SUBJECT: P.S. Information
 PAGES: 9 (including cover sheet)

COMMENTS: _____

Urgent Reply FYI Hard Copy to Follow

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Assembly of First Nations

473 Albert Street, 8th Floor
 Ottawa, Ontario K1R 5B4
 Telephone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808
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**Assemblée des Premières Nations**

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 July 15, 16, & 17, 2008, Quebec City, QC

Resolution no. 08/2008

SUBJECT: Emergency Resolution on Post-Secondary Education

MOVED BY: Chief Gilbert Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, QC

SECONDED BY: Toby Joseph, Proxy, Tsawout First Nation, BC

DECISION: Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

- A. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has refused to recognize First Nations post-secondary education as a Treaty and Inherent Right;
- B. INAC continues to fail First Nation post-secondary students by offloading and abandoning their fiduciary responsibility to provincial governments;
- C. INAC is openly considering the option of an independent third party organization such as the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, or even INAC to take over the administration of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and deliver it to individuals;
- D. Discussions between AFN staff and INAC are at an impasse, with INAC officials stating that "First Nations education is beyond repair", that PSE will not receive any increase or changes to the program unless "First Nations account for every penny they receive", and that "the chances of increased funding to PSE are less than zero";
- E. INAC claims, without evidence, that many First Nations are not accountable for PSSSP funding;
- F. Two INAC audits by Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Hanson Macleod Institute demonstrated that First Nations are fully accountable and INAC's non-compliance with its own policies is an issue;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 16th day of July, 2008 in Quebec City, QC.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

08 - 2008

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Head Office/Siège Social

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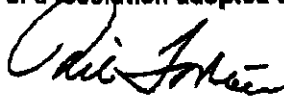
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- G. Transferring program delivery to a third party organization would decrease the accountability of First Nations governments to students and would reduce the services and support to First Nations students now provided;
- H. Article 14 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states that, "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning";
- I. The Government of Canada formally apologized for the devastating impacts that its residential schools policy has had on First Nations people; and
- J. The Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development recommended to the federal government that quotes "the 2% annual cap on spending increases for INAC's Post-Secondary Education Program be eliminated immediately and that spending increases for PSE programming be based on actual costs associated with program components."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to make the federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada aware of the consequences and ramifications of the federal government's attempted offloading to third parties of the federal fiduciary responsibilities for First Nations Post-Secondary Education.
2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the AFN to pursue corrections from the Minister of Indian Affairs concerning the damaging misinformation regarding First Nations governments' management of post-secondary education programs.
3. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the AFN to engage with the Minister of Indian Affairs and First Nations governments to improve the PSSSP and the core funding of First Nations Institutes of Higher Learning by:
 - Increasing the funding to the First Nations PSSSP programs locally based on need;
 - Funding First Nations and the AFN to establish centralized data collection and performance management systems for post-secondary education to ensure the best value for money; and
 - Improve the accountability of INAC to First Nations regarding the PSSSP.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 16th day of July, 2008 in Quebec City, QC.



Phil Fontaine, National Chief

08 - 2008
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20374**Marshall George**

From: "Thanissa Laine" <TLaine@cepn-fnec.com>
To: <mgeorge@sfns.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2008 4:09 PM
Attach: Communiqué pour pétition _anglais.doc
Subject: First Nation postsecondary education

Hello,

In response to your request for more information we are happy to provide you the following details. The attached press release explains why we are doing this petition and the homepage of our website (www.cepn-fnec.com) provides a little more insight into the context of the petition.

Concerns over the situation arose when rumors began circulating in the various regions of Canada. When asked by our regional chief to find more information on the situation we discovered that Minister Prentice had made reference to transferring First nation Student Support to the Canada Loans and Bursary Program in his response to the Standing committee findings attached below. From there we did receive more recent information on the potential of the transfer of responsibility from a ADM (Assistant Deputy Minister) of Indian and Northern Affairs. There has yet to be an official announcement on the transfer. However, the following information is very suggestive:

The Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, published in February 2007, *No Higher Priority: Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education in Canada*; <http://www.naiihl.com/NoHigherPriorityStgCmtreportfeb07.pdf> It outlines clear recommendations and none have been implemented to date. Prentice's response suggests that none of them will. <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=3030369&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=39&Ses=1>

We also suggest that you visit www.avenir-future.com a website concerning the underfunding of First Nations Education (many stats and studies in this Website)

There are also numerous reports of meetings between INAC and AFN that clearly demonstrate that INAC is pushing gradually First Nations Students into the provincial system, regardless of their rights. Finally, we have the following excerpt from AFN/INAC meeting notes:

Message of an employee of the AFN that met with INAC headquarters:

MESSAGE: PSE

On Tuesday August 12th, 2008 the AFN met with INAC to discuss issues regarding Education. PSE was discussed and ADM Neil Yates stated that the INAC PSE program is undergoing an internal audit and they expect it to be a damning audit. INAC has stated previously they have concerns with the PSSSP program ...

...one key point and that came up during the discussion was about the INAC PSE Audit that is currently underway, we did ask about what INAC intended to do about the damning audit and ADM Neil Yates did state that change would need to occur within the PSE program. When we pushed to know what that change might entail he did state that the Government of Canada currently operates a very successful PSE student assistance program and that they were implementing a new grants program as well and that seems to meet

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students needs, so why should they waste time reforming the PSSSP program. That is where the concern about INAC shifting towards Canada Student Loans Program came from.

Thamissa Lainé

Conseil en Éducation des Premières Nations
 First Nations Education Council
 95, rue de l'Ours, Wendake (QC) G0A 4V0
 Tel.: 418-842-7672
 Fax.: 418-842-9988
 Site Web [CEPN](#)

De : Neel, Lou-Ann ABR:EX [mailto:LouAnn.Neel@gov.bc.ca]
Envoyé : 27 novembre 2008 14:34
À : Dany Bond
Objet : Follow up an email

Good morning - I've now received about a dozen copies of the email below which appears to have originated from your organization, and am wondering what this is all about.

I couldn't help but notice the rather uncertain language the originator used here...that INAC programs 'may' come to an end...and that there are '*strong rumours*'. While I am a very strong advocate for FN post-secondary education, I'd like to know more before I sign an online petition, and would certainly be prepared to also send letters to INAC and whomever is involved in making such changes.

Would you happen to know whether any First Nations education organizations in BC have been involved in discussions with INAC about this?

For instance, do you know whether any of the BC Education and Training Partners Committee made formal statements about this?

Lou-ann Neel
 Kwagwalth/Mamalilikulla Tribes

Hello,

It is becoming more and more evident that for First Nations people to be financially supported to attend post-secondary programs and Institutions via INAC programs may **soon come to an END.**

The evidence is mounting. There are **STRONG rumours** that INAC is getting out the "Post-Secondary business" and that this support will no longer be managed by our communities via INAC programs, **EFFECTIVE APRIL 2009**. What would this mean?

- o Our people may have to apply for funding, much like non-native students apply for post-secondary loans and bursaries.

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- o Communities may not have the opportunity to get support to develop local programs through the Indian Studies Support Program.
- o First Nations Post-Secondary institutions may not receive funding to operate.

Following these relentless INAC off-the record comments concerning the planned transfer of the Post-Secondary Support Program (PSSSP) to a third party, Kitigan Zibi and the FNEC have combined their effort to prepare a petition for the future of Post-Secondary education.

The objective is to obtain over 10 500 signatures across Canada, which corresponds to the number of projected students that did not access to Post-Secondary education funding support between 2001 and 2006, due to a lack of funding.

Your collaboration is precious, that is why we invite you to sign the petition at http://www.cepn-fnec.com/index_e.aspx and to distribute the link to all your contacts.

Thank you for your precious collaboration,

Therissa Lainé

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