OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
42ND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 15TH-17TH, 2010
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2010-34

RE: Call to Negotiate Redress for Day Scholars

WHEREAS First Nations across B.C. support all students of all residential schools including day scholars as they seek redress through healing including compensation and reconciliation;

WHEREAS the day scholars were subject to systemic discrimination, environmental, psychological, physical and sexual abuse and the loss of their culture and language that continues to have devastating intergenerational affects;

WHEREAS many First Nations have band members who do not qualify for automatic compensation under the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, including the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc who have 60 to 70 band members who attended the residential school as day scholars in Kamloops, B.C.;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2008-04, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Council directed the Executive to fully explore options and develop a comprehensive strategy for assisting First Nations citizens to seek redress for the abuses and trauma suffered by First Nations citizens while attending Indian day schools;

WHEREAS the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Executive sent a letter to Former Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Chuck Strahl, on April 30, 2008, strongly urging that First Nations citizens who attended Indian day schools be similarly compensated for abuses suffered by them at these schools;

WHEREAS by Resolution 18/2008, the Assembly of First Nations was directed to coordinate a strategy that achieves redress for all day scholars including extension of compensation;

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS by Resolution 22/2010, the Assembly of First Nations was directed to coordinate a political action plan that seeks redress for day scholars;

WHEREAS further, by Resolution 22/2010, the Assembly of First Nations was directed to engage the Government of Canada in a reconciliation and compensation package for day scholar students and failing progress, to seek support for a class action suit on this matter;

WHEREAS in 2009, thousands of day school students across Canada launched a class action lawsuit filed by Winnipeg lawyer Joan Jack seeking redress, which if successful, could apply to an estimated 75,000 Aboriginal students who attended government-funded and church-run day schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Union of BC Indian Chiefs to continue to bring forward the interests of day scholars and advocate for the development of a strategy of redress for all day scholars, and develop a coordinated and unified strategic and political action plan for our nation members; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Indian Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Union of BC Indian Chiefs to support engagement in a government-to-government reconciliation process and full compensation package for day scholar students; and;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that failing any progress with a settlement package, the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Union of BC Indian Chiefs to support the class action suit against the government for the "irreparable harm and damage to First Nations culture, language, way of life, family, community and social structures" as stated in their 2005 class action suit on behalf of residential school students.

Moved: **Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Kamloops Indian Band**
Seconded: **Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band**
Disposition: **Carried**
Date: **September 17, 2010**

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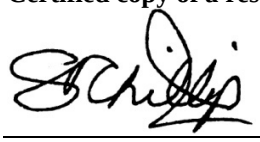

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President