OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
MARCH 9TH - 10TH, 2011
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2011-08

RE: Support for the First Nation Early Childhood Development Council (FNECDC)
Signing of the FNECDC Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS the FNECDC was created in March 2007 to advocate for the interest of B.C. First Nations children in the early years (prenatal to six years). The FNECDC cooperates, coordinates and collaborates in efforts to increase the quality of and access to programs and services targeting B.C. First Nations children and families. Members represent B.C. First Nations communities and organizations responsible for the care, education, health and wellness of B.C. First Nations children. The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) has been assisting with the organization of FNECDC meetings and facilitating the implementation of initial activities;

WHEREAS the FNECDC has developed a draft Framework that has been distributed to all First Nations in British Columbia for input;

WHEREAS as of March 16, 2008 the FNECDC established terms of reference;

WHEREAS 37 B.C. First Nations communities and organizations signed the FNECDC Memorandum of Understanding on March 24, 2010;

WHEREAS the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* sets out that:

> Article 14(1): 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.
>
> Article 14(3): States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language;

WHEREAS The FNECDC Memorandum of Understanding states, "It is acknowledged that Early Childhood Development is critical to the success of First Nations children in all aspects of their lives and serves as the foundation for life-long learning. We, the signatories, agree to work together, and within our respective organizations, to improve Early Childhood Development opportunities for First Nations learners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the signing of the First Nation Early Childhood Development Council Memorandum of Understanding;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Executive identify a technical staff representative to participate on the First Nation Early Childhood Development Council.

Moved:	**Chief Wayne Christian, Splatsin**
Seconded:	**Chief Geronimo Squinas,**
Disposition:	**1 Opposed – Chief Fabian Alexis, Okanagan Indian Band**
	Carried
Date:	**March 10, 2011**