OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
JUNE 1ST – JUNE 2ND, 2011
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2011-24

RE: First Nations Education System

WHEREAS First Nations in BC have been working together for almost two decades to advance quality educational opportunities for First Nations students, and working together, First Nations have established a solid foundation for a comprehensive, integrated, well-supported BC First Nations K-12 Education System;

WHEREAS First Nations in BC have demonstrated the capacity to implement research-based, appropriate, and relevant programs to promote quality education at the classroom, school, and collective levels;

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

> **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 18**: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions;

WHEREAS to further advance this work, First Nations in BC require funding from the federal government that: provides First Nations schools with sufficient core funding that reflects the principles of equitable and sustainable resources; fully recognizes the need for language and culture and technology programming; and provides for ongoing, well-planned, and meaningful second-level services;

WHEREAS a key component of the comprehensive First Nations Education System is the implementation of BC First Nations' legally-recognized jurisdiction over education for those First Nations who opt into the jurisdiction initiative. However, in order for jurisdiction to be fully

implemented First Nations and the federal government must finalize the funding component of the jurisdiction agreements, which will require recognition of the need for indexing; continued access to targeted programming, and language, culture and technology funding; and will require that the federal government honour the existing jurisdiction agreements that were signed by Canada, BC and the First Nations Education Steering Committee in 2006, which do not include any reference to the application of the federal Own Source Revenue Policy;

WHEREAS the Crown cannot unilaterally act without regard to Aboriginal governance rights in relation to education, as to do so would not be in keeping with the honour of the Crown.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council unanimously supports the comprehensive First Nations K-12 Education System that has been designed;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon the Government of Canada to negotiate education jurisdiction agreements based on the shared commitments set out in the *Transformative Change Accord*;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council also calls on the Government of Canada to honour the 2006 signed agreements by withdrawing the newly-imposed condition that the federal Own Source Revenue Policy apply to the education jurisdiction negotiations;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Government of Canada to uphold the honour of the Crown and immediately re-engage in negotiations with the First Nations Education Steering Committee regarding both the advancement of the model First Nations K-12 Education System and the implementation of the education jurisdiction initiative. Re-engagement must occur with the recognition that reasonable funding is required for First Nations schools in BC that reflects the principles of sustainability, equitability, and the need for language, culture and technology programming.

Moved: **Chief Ko'waintco Michel, Nooaitch First Nation**
Seconded: **Chief Coreen Child, Kwakiutl Indian Band**
Disposition: **Carried**
Date: **June 2nd, 2011**