

FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

RESOLUTION #0217.10

SUBJECT: RECEIPT AND SUPPORT FOR THE SPECIAL ADVISOR'S REPORT ON INDIGENOUS CHILD WELFARE TITLED *INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE, CONNECTEDNESS AND REUNIFICATION – FROM ROOT CAUSES TO ROOT SOLUTIONS*

WHEREAS:

- A. In September 2015, Grand Chief Edward John was appointed by the BC government as Special Advisor on Indigenous Children in Care.
- B. In that role he travelled to many Indigenous communities to hear directly from the families and communities about their children who are in care.
- C. The Special Advisor's mandate included: engaging with Aboriginal, First Nation and Métis communities on permanency discussions; reviewing policy and legislation within the ministry to find ways to improve the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in care; and providing Early Years advice to the Minister of Children and Family Development.
- D. In this role, the Special Advisor was requested to prepare reports to the Minister regarding progress, identification of barriers and potential strategies to address them. Further, the Special Advisor was mandated to submit a final report summarizing activities relating to permanency planning, addressing items in The Council of the Federation report and any activity relating to early childhood development.
- E. On November 21, 2016, in a special ceremony that included the Premier, Minister of Children and Family Development and Indigenous leaders, the Special Advisor presented his final report, *Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – From Root Causes to Root Solutions*.
- F. The final report contains 85 recommendations to overhaul the child welfare system and improve outcomes for Indigenous children and youth in BC by changing focus from intervention and separation to strengthening and keeping families together.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly acknowledge receipt of the Special Advisor on Indigenous Children in Care's final report, *Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – From Root Causes to Root Solutions* (the Report).

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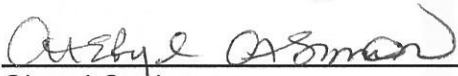
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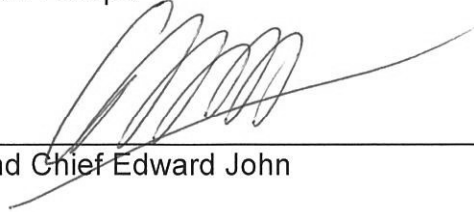
2. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly support and endorse the Report, *Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – From Root Causes to Root Solutions*, including its identification of:
 - a. the necessary government investments required to support and enhance the health and well-being of Indigenous children in BC; and
 - b. a path forward for First Nations and governments to work together to prioritize the health and well-being of Indigenous children in BC.
3. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly encourage the governments of BC and Canada to support and implement all 85 recommendations contained in the Report, on a priority basis.

MOVED BY: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Joe Bevan, Kitselas First Nation
DATED: February 10, 2017

Passed by consensus.

ENDORSED BY: 
Cheryl Casimer


Robert Phillips


Grand Chief Edward John