
Assembly of First Nations

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5
Telephone: 613-241-6789 Fax: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

55, rue Metcalfe, Suite 1600
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6L5
Téléphone: 613-241-6789 Télécopieur: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 24, 25 & 26, 2018, VANCOUVER, BC

Resolution no. 25/2018

TITLE: Next Steps on a Distinct First Nations Labour Market Strategy

SUBJECT: Employment and Training

MOVED BY: Chief Jacqueline Thomas, Saik'uz First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Harvey Mcleod, Upper Nicola Indian Band, BC

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including inter alia, in the area of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security; and
 - ii. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- B. First Nations in Canada require a future that fosters improvements to the socio-economic circumstances of First Nations by addressing personal and systemic barriers to labour market opportunities and thereby increases access to these opportunities.
- C. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 95/2016, *First Nations Focused Labour Market Strategy*, and Resolution 32/2017, *Distinct First Nations Labour Market Strategy*, have recommended that a distinct First Nations Labour Market Strategy be developed.
- D. The Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development (CCHRD) has made recommendations to Canada in that respect.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 24th day of July, 2018 in Vancouver, British Columbia


PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

25 – 2018
Page 1 of 3

Head Office/Siège Social

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 24, 25 & 26, 2018, VANCOUVER, BC

Resolution no. 25/2018

- E. The recommended approach directed the CCHRD to outline and recommend the necessary structural change required to recognize First Nations jurisdiction and governance authority for a distinct First Nations approach and to recommend a level of resources needed that will address the distinct needs of First Nations.
- F. The CCHRD and its technical team developed and provided Government of Canada officials with the necessary research, policy documents and information that supported the First Nations view and vision for the establishment of a new long-term First Nations specific labour market strategy that will assist First Nations in addressing their unique needs.
- G. The Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour has met with the CCHRD and has been apprised of the recommended new approach that will make fundamental changes to the current labour market program; one that is rooted in a government-to-government, Nation-to-Nation relationship with Canada and upholds proper recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.
- H. On April 30, 2018, the CCHRD met again with the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour following the Budget 2018 announcement to inform her that the Budget fell short in responding to the impacts of inflation and population growth amongst First Nations over a 20-year freeze on resourcing. The CCHRD also emphasized that the main feature of a First Nations distinct approach is centered on the creation and development of a First Nations Labour Market Council and Secretariat. This body would lead the evolution of our new relationship and begin to develop the institutional capacity that is a prerequisite to successful implementation. Without its development, the status quo remains and First Nations cannot begin to evolve the government to government approach that is envisioned by the Government of Canada and First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development (CCHRD) and its Technical working group of experts to continue working with Employment and Social Development (ESDC) officials to:
 - a. Respond to the impacts of inflation and population growth amongst First Nations.
 - b. Communicate regularly on the co-development and implementation of the new distinct First Nations labour market strategy.
- 2. Direct the CCHRD to call on the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour to:
 - a. Address the shortfall of Budget 2018 due to inflation and population growth.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 24th day of July, 2018 in Vancouver, British Columbia


PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 24, 25 & 26, 2018, VANCOUVER, BC

Resolution no. 25/2018

- b. Provide the necessary financial supports for the development of capacity.
- c. Initiate a parallel process to for the full devolution of labour market authority and jurisdiction under the control of First Nations governments.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 24th day of July, 2018 in Vancouver, British Columbia



PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

25 - 2018
Page 3 of 3

