All Chiefs Forum

April 11, 2019
Dartmouth, NS

RESOLUTION # 2019-02

Issue: Indian Day School Settlement Agreement

Whereas on March 12, 2019, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations, along with the Claudette Commanda and Regional Chief Roger Augustine announced the parties have reached a proposed settlement agreement recognizing the harms suffered by former students of Indian Day Schools;

Whereas class members currently have an opportunity until May 3, 2019 to review the proposed settlement agreement and provide their comment to the courts;

Whereas the parties will be seeking federal court approval of the proposed settlement agreement in May 2019;

Whereas the proposed settlement agreement includes $10,000 in individual compensations for thousands of Indigenous people who suffered harms while attending Indian Day Schools;

Whereas class members who experienced physical and sexual abuse are eligible for an additional $50,000 to $200,000 based on the severity of abuse;

Whereas the proposed settlement agreement provides an investment of $200 million to the McLean Day School Settlement Corporation for legacy projects that support healing, wellness, education, language, culture and commemoration for class members and their communities;
Whereas as of March 2019, the proposed list of recognized Indian Day Schools has 26 Atlantic Indian Day Schools in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, and additional schools may be added in the region; and the number of Indian Day School class members far exceeds the previous Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement;

Whereas this Indian Day School settlement agreement proposes to be an expedited process where applicants have only one written application to complete in a limited timeframe;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Atlantic Chiefs mandate the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat to provide support for Atlantic First Nations communities using existing resources; and to lobby additional resources from the Government of Canada to support Atlantic First Nations during the life of this settlement agreement.

MOTIONED BY: Chief Matilda Ramjattan, Lennox Island First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Aaron Sock, Elsipogtog First Nation
DECISION: Passed by unanimous decision
DATE: April 11, 2019

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: ____________________________
John G. Paul, Executive Director