



**KWAYACIIWIN**  
Education Resource Centre  
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## **Annual General Meeting**

March 27-28, 2018

### **RESOLUTION #07/2018**

#### **First Nations School Board System**

**WHEREAS** the First Nations peoples of Canada are members of sovereign nations and the federal government has an obligation to honour its fiduciary responsibilities which includes a responsibility to First Nations children to provide all necessary and appropriate educational resources; and

**WHEREAS** Canada signed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People recognizing that Indigenous people have the right “to self-determination” and that they could “freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development” including a number of specific rights Indigenous people have to their lands, resources, culture and languages; and

**WHEREAS** First Nations leaders have recommended the implementation of a First Nations education system that is developed by First Nations, respectful of Treaties and which remains under First Nations authority; and

**WHEREAS** the Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre (KERC) has been in existence for over 15 years and its role has evolved from its original mandate, based partly on direction from the First Nations Chiefs and partly on available resourcing from the federal government; and

**WHEREAS** in 2016, the federal government made a commitment to renew its relationship with Indigenous people to support the transformation of the current on-reserve education system by taking action to provide funds to those First Nations ready to become a district education authority; and

**WHEREAS** for the benefit of children, a secure guarantee of on-going financial support is necessary for KERC to plan for the long-term, to attract educators intent on building careers and expertise in First Nations programming, and to develop grass roots capacity with the goal of supporting and employing First Nations community members in positions of authority; and

**WHEREAS** negotiations to create First Nations regional school boards in B.C., Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia and most recently in Ontario (Bill C-61) granting education governance to 23 of the Union of Ontario Indian’s 40 communities; and

**WHEREAS** the creation of these First Nations regional school boards outside the Indian Act, has resulted in large increases in funding to support Second Level services and significant increases in the Grade 12 graduate rate; and

**WHEREAS** Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre produced a Final Report in November 2017 based on a Community Engagement process in all 13 KERC communities which confirmed that 82.4% of responses to the surveys indicated support for Option 2 – District School Board; and

**WHEREAS** participating members in this new regional school board will have the opportunity to opt-out of the agreement by giving a two-year notice.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chiefs-in-Assembly give a mandate to the Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre to establish a regional First Nations School Board System as identified in the Concept Paper Options for Developing a Regional School Board: Mamawi Ishkoonowin Pimowiichiikewin.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018 in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Moved by: *Dinah Kanate*  
(Chief Dinah Kanate, North Caribou Lake)

Seconded by: *Sadie McKay*  
(Proxy, Sadie McKay, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug)

Chairperson: *Joe Chapman*