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# IROQUOIS CAUCUS

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## Iroquois Caucus rejects *First Nations Education Act*

For immediate release

**(Kahnawake – February 6, 2014)** The Iroquois Caucus announced today that they have signed a Declaration unanimously rejecting the Harper government's proposed *First Nations Education Act*.

The resolution was passed during a duly-convened two-day meeting of the Caucus, which is comprised of elected leaders from Akwesáhsne, Kahnawà:ke, Kanasatake, Oneida of the Thames, Six Nations of the Grand River, Tyendinaga and Wahta.

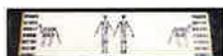
The Resolution states that the Iroquois Caucus member communities reject the *First Nations Education Act* in its entirety, including all of its components and contents, and any and all federally or provincially imposed legislation in this matter.

Additionally, the member communities demand that Canada recognize and respect the Aboriginal Right to jurisdictional control of our own education systems and meet with our communities to discuss and take steps necessary to address chronic underfunding of our education systems.

The Caucus has pledged that they will take all actions necessary to work with partners to counter the proposed legislation.

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# IROQUOIS CAUCUS

## Iroquois Caucus Resolution Rejecting the First Nations Education Act

DATE: 6, Enniska/February 2014

No. of Pages: 2

PROPOSED BY: RILEY HAY

SECONDED BY: JOE LAZORE

**WHEREAS** the Iroquois Peoples are self-determined Peoples, that consistently and historically assert their right to govern their own affairs;

**WHEREAS** the Iroquois Peoples abide by the philosophies, values, traditions, concepts and principles of Peace, Power and Righteousness prescribed in, and in accordance with, the Kaianere'kó:wa;

**WHEREAS** these principles have governed, and continue to govern, the direction of the Iroquois Peoples since time immemorial;

**WHEREAS** the Iroquois Peoples have an historic, inherent and inalienable right to education;

**WHEREAS** the Iroquois Peoples have never ceded traditional territory, Title or Rights, and continue to assert their rights as Peoples;

**WHEREAS** the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the right of the Iroquois peoples the right to establish and control our education systems and institutions providing education in our own languages, in a manner appropriate to our cultural methods of teaching and learning.

**WHEREAS** the Declaration further calls upon Canada to work with the Iroquois Peoples to "take effective measures, in order for Indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language."

**WHEREAS** "effective measures" include the guarantee of funding that will cover the actual costs of a linguistically and culturally responsible education, from early childhood to post-secondary.

**WHEREAS** the member communities of the Iroquois Caucus are aware of plans of the Federal government implement legislation known as the *First Nations Education Act*;

**WHEREAS** the Federal government has not properly, nor meaningfully, met its duty to engage member communities of the Iroquois Caucus in the development of any federal legislation related to education;

**WHEREAS** the member communities of the Iroquois Caucus are strongly opposed to imposition of any federal or provincial legislation upon any Indigenous communities, and in particular, Iroquois communities, which do not explicitly acknowledge the exclusive jurisdiction of our communities;

**WHEREAS** the member communities of the Iroquois Caucus reiterate that the Federal government has unfairly and chronically underfunded community education systems, jeopardizing student success and outcomes;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the member communities of the Iroquois Caucus reject the *First Nations Education Act* in its entirety, including all of its components and contents, and any and all federally or provincially imposed legislation in this matter;

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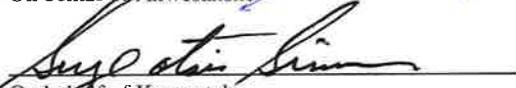
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**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the member communities of the Iroquois Caucus demand that Canada immediately cease any further development, passage or implementation of legislation on First Nations education;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the member communities of the Iroquois Caucus demand that Canada recognize and respect the Aboriginal Right to jurisdictional control of our own education systems and meet with our communities who are the legitimate rights holders to discuss and take steps necessary to address the chronic underfunding of our education systems;

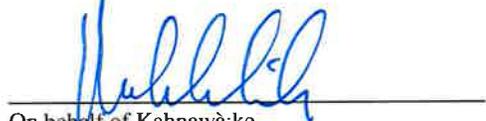
**FINALLY BE IT LASTLY RESOLVED** that the member communities of the Iroquois Caucus take all actions necessary to work with partners to counter the First Nation Education Act.

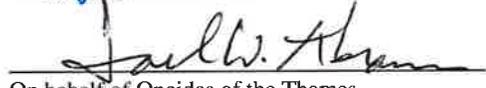
  
On behalf of Akwesáhsne

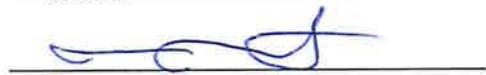
  
On behalf of Kanesatake

  
On behalf of Six Nations of the Grand River

  
On behalf of Wahta

  
On behalf of Kahnawà:ke

  
On behalf of Oneidas of the Thames

  
On behalf of Tyendinaga