Resolution no. 2018-33

RE: Medical Student Education Funding

WHEREAS The Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan was developed and endorsed by the Province of BC, BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and UBCIC, and within that health action plan, it states that one of the outcomes to improve health service for First Nations in British Columbia is to:

• #25 Increase the number of professional and skilled trades First Nations in health professions;

WHEREAS The Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan states, “The University of BC provides 13 dedicated seats for First Nations medical students and works with health authorities to ensure relevant community residency experience.” However, even with this in place, the current funding from Indigenous Services Canada is inadequate for a student accepted into the medical program to resource the extensive MD Undergraduate Program costs including: tuition, living expenses, textbooks and supplies, student fees, health and dental fees, accident and disability insurance fees, annual CPR course, travel costs, housing and food. First Nations families do not have the resources to cover such costs;

WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualifications, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implement, affirms in Article 14 that “Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their education systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning”;

WHEREAS the Skeetchestn Indian Band wishes to work collaboratively with the First Nations Health Authority, Department of Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations Education Steering Committee and the New Relationship Trust to pursue new funding and/or grant opportunities for all First Nations students who have been accepted into medical school;
WHEREAS the First Nations Memorandum of Understanding was signed November 27th, 2006 and under “Priorities and Actions” it states again, under health services that the intention is as quoted:
• “Increasing the number of trained FN health care professionals”; and


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the First Nations Health Council to develop a committee to secure new funding resources for First Nations medical students attending UBC, and all other public post-secondary institutions that provide health-related degrees, in order to increase the number of professionals and First Nations with skilled trades in the health professions;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the First Nations Health Council to ensure the committee includes representation from the First Nations Leadership Council, First Nations Health Authority Board and Executive, Department of Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations Education Steering Committee, and the New Relationship Trust who will jointly secure new funding to resource the full costs for all First Nation students who are accepted into the UBC medical program, and all other public post-secondary institutions that provide health-related degrees thus, successfully increasing the number of First Nations medical professionals;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the committee to assert to both the Federal and Provincial governments the urgent need to fully fund First Nations health professionals enrolled in medical programs, as the current funding arrangement is completely inadequate, and because bursaries and scholarships as these sources of funding are incapable of fully resourcing a student pursuing a medical degree; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to provide assistance formulating this committee.

Moved: Kukpi7 Ryan Day, Bonaparte Indian Band
Seconded: Terry Denault, Skeetchestn Indian Band (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 28, 2018