



Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

SIOUX LOOKOUT FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

Resolution #15-23

CALL FOR DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples declared there is a health crisis affecting Indigenous peoples in Canada and that significant improvements in funding and policy change are desperately needed; and

WHEREAS, Health Canada and many researchers have documented Indigenous people in Canada face extremely high rates of suicide, mental illness, addictions, increasing rates of chronic illnesses such as Type 2 diabetes and other conditions, and high incidence of infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, in April 2015, the Auditor General of Canada reported on the state of health care in the remote northern communities of Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba and found deficiencies in facilities, access to training for healthcare workers, and other problems; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor General of Canada also noted that “Health Canada did not have reasonable assurance that eligible First Nations individuals living in remote communities in Manitoba and Ontario had access to clinical and client care services and medical transportation benefits,” which leads to untreated illnesses and injuries, as well as avoidable deaths; and

WHEREAS, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) has a fiduciary responsibility for First Nations people living on reserve;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Chiefs in Assembly call on the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada to declare a public health emergency for First Nations in the Sioux Lookout area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Chiefs in Assembly also call on the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada to establish a new agency with a clear mandate to address the health gap between Indigenous people and their fellow Canadian citizens and that this agency will work on the following:

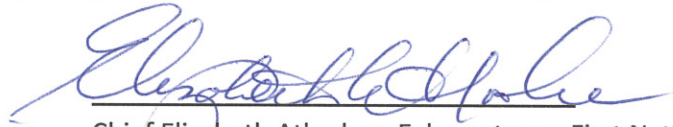
1. Increasing access to critical care on-reserve including physician services, nurse practitioners, and other health care providers
2. Ensuring that basic acute care equipment are available in all nursing stations

3. Ensuring that staff have adequate opportunity for training in all necessary health care skills
4. Ensuring the provision of childhood developmental services in the remote communities
5. Enhancing youth mental health services
6. Supporting improvements in both acute care and chronic disease management
7. Reforming the Non-Insured Health Benefits program
8. Vastly improving and maintaining community health care facilities and equipment

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, AANDC should be involved in the declaration of a public health emergency and should work with this new agency to improve the health status of First Nations communities.

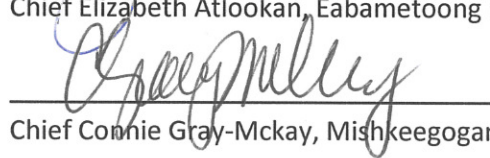
Dated this 17th day of September 2015 in Lac Seul First Nation, Ontario.

Moved by:



Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation

Seconded by:

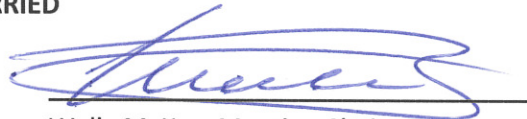


Chief Connie Gray-Mckay, Mishkeegogamang First Nation

Decision:

CARRIED

Signature of Meeting Chair:



Wally McKay, Meeting Chair