



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

## SIoux LOOKOUT FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

Resolution #16-12

### BILATERAL PROCESS

**WHEREAS**, the Chiefs in Assembly wish to protect their special relationship with the Crown which flows from their Treaty making; and

**WHEREAS**, Treaty Rights are recognized and affirmed in Section 35(1) of Canada's *Constitution Act* of 1982; the Chiefs in Assembly affirm health as one of these Treaty Rights under Treaties 3, 5, and 9; and

**WHEREAS**, Canada has fiduciary and statutory obligations to ensure quality health care services for the people of the Sioux Lookout area communities that are culturally appropriate and responsive to unique First Nations needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1997 NAN-Canada Bilateral Agreement on Health Care Relationships was the foundational document to the 1997 Sioux Lookout Four Party Hospital Services Agreement. The primary commitment in these Agreements was that the health status of our people would improve; and

**WHEREAS**, the health status of our people continues to deteriorate, as demonstrated by increasing disease load in the areas of diabetes, cancer, respiratory disease, and heart disease, and by increasing demand for mental health services to address the suicide epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Four Party Agreement has expired; however, there is a continued process to address the outstanding items and ongoing commitments. The Parties developed a Memorandum of Understanding to mark their commitment to this ongoing process; and

**WHEREAS**, a bilateral process specific to the Sioux Lookout area First Nations communities, based on the Bilateral Agreement, is required;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Chiefs in Assembly direct SLFNHA to conduct an analysis of the Bilateral Agreement and provide a full report on the implementation of the Agreement.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, Chiefs in Assembly direct SLFNHA to organize a meeting with the Chiefs to review the report and discuss the outstanding items and define the implications for future funding policies.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, Chiefs in Assembly direct SLFNHA and NAN to explore how First Nations Health System Transformation and governance processes align with the Bilateral Agreement and how the Agreement can be leveraged to further these processes.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT**, the Chiefs in Assembly continue to support the protection and implementation of our Treaty right to health, and we hold the federal government accountable for its constitutional and fiduciary obligations.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2016 in Lac Seul First Nation, Ontario.

Moved by:

  
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Chief Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam First Nation


Seconded by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Owen, proxy, Poplar Hill First Nation

Decision:

**CARRIED**

Signature of Meeting Chair:

  
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Wally McKay, Meeting Chair