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Administration

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March 3, 2014

National Chief Shawn Atleo  
Assembly of First Nations  
55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600  
Ottawa, ON, K1P 6L5

Economic Development

(519) 753-1950

(f) 758-0768

Dear National Chief Atleo:

Health Services

445-2418

(f) 445-0368

**RE: First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act:**

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, it was reported over the news wires that the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Federal Government had reached an agreement regarding the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. The Six Nations of the Grand River Territory was not consulted on this agreement, nor did we provide our free, prior and informed consent. Any legislation that Six Nations has not been consulted on, or that does not appropriately accommodate our rights, is unacceptable.

Housing

445-2235

(f) 445-2778

Six Nations is extremely displeased with the lack of information and clarity regarding this proposed agreement that was struck between the Prime Minister and the AFN. We understand that, despite repeated requests for more information, by individuals involved in education, there continues to be silence from the AFN office. We are further displeased that we, along with other members of the Political Confederacy of the Chiefs of Ontario, were excluded from the AFN Executive Conference Call that took place on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We were on the line seeking clarification to a number of questions and concerns that we had and we were not allowed to participate.

Human Resources

445-2223

(f) 445-2266

Lands/Membership

445-4613

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At the Specials Chiefs Assembly in December 2012, the Iroquois Caucus signed a Protocol Agreement with the AFN. This Agreement aims to foster a harmonious and cooperative relationship between the AFN and the Iroquois Caucus by facilitating information sharing, developing strategies for advocacy approaches and promoting the principles of Nation rebuilding. It is extremely disappointing to Six Nations that the AFN has not respected this Protocol Agreement and the relationship with the Iroquois Caucus to work collaboratively to inform, collaborate and strategize on advancing an issue of significant importance.

Lands & Resources

519-753-0665

(f) 519-753-3449

Parks & Recreation

445-4311

(f) 445-4401

On February 6, 2014, I contacted you to inquire about the announcement on education that was to be made the following day by Prime Minister Harper. When I asked you if the FNEA was done, you stated "the FNEA is dead". Is it really dead or was it just re-named? Regardless of the fact that there has been no substantive information regarding the *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act*, the limited information released does not quell Six Nations objections to the FNEA.

Public Works

445-4242

(f) 445-4763

Social Services

445-0232

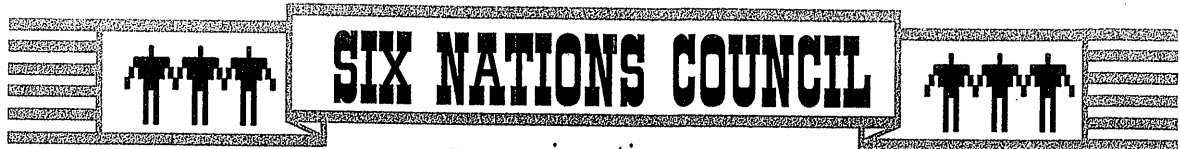
(f) 445-1783

Although, the inclusion of investments in the announcement is a step in the right direction, decreasing the significant gap between First Nation learners and others is far from being sustained. There is no indication that the proposed \$1.9 billion will be above and beyond the current investment for First Nations education. It is also not clear as to whether or not

Welfare

445-2084

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this is "new" dollars. Given the recent cut-backs that have been made for infrastructure projects, organization funding and Band Advisory Services, we question whether the Federal Government is merely shifting dollars around.

Economic Development  
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The implementation funding of \$160M over four years beginning in 2015/16 will only amount to \$63,000 per year for each First Nation. With respect to the 4.5% "escalator", there has been a 20 year 2% cap on First Nation education. Both Statistics Canada and AFN reports have stated that 6.3% is required to keep pace with the growing population and to lessen the gap. The AFN report stated that the shortfall on the 2% cap in 2010/11 was \$747 Million, and that was four years ago. Therefore, the proposed 4.5% "escalator" falls significantly short of addressing the necessary increase. Furthermore, if the 4.5% is used as another cap, the funding levels will continue to fall farther behind.

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Six Nations schools continue to deteriorate and its population of learners continues to increase, thereby stretching our infrastructure needs. In regards to infrastructure, as of 2009/10, the Parliamentary Budget Office found that First Nations' existing schools required approximately \$410 Million per year for capital construction, operations and maintenance. The proposed \$500 million for 7 years, which is proposed to start in 2015/16, would amount to \$71.4 million a year. This amount is far from meeting the needs of existing schools, even if it is added to the existing budget of \$200 million per year. This formula is short for existing schools, let alone addressing the need for new schools.

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Six Nations has not delegated its decision-making authority to the AFN. As has been said by you many times before, the role of the AFN is to act as a key advocate in lobbying for our rights and interests to be protected from Federal encroachment. Being informed of an agreement after the fact demonstrates that the AFN is over-stepping its role as an advocacy organization.

Lands & Resources  
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I would also like to point out that, during the Special Assembly in December, we participated in a panel on Nation Re-Building as a member of an Interim Task Force which would look at AFN Structure and Processes. This Task Force was to continue its work leading up to the General AFN Assembly to be held in July in Halifax. Despite an inquiry to your office, no meeting of this Task Force has been convened. Given the recent set of circumstances, including this joint agreement between the Federal Government and the AFN and the exclusion of the Ontario Political Confederacy from the AFN Executive Conference Call, I believe that it is imperative that this Task Force begin their work as soon as possible.

Parks & Recreation  
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Public Works  
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We believe that to effectively advance First Nations Control of First Nations Education, we need to move forward working in cooperation, partnership and collaboration.

Social Services  
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Yours truly,

Chief G. Ava Hill  
Six Nations of the Grand River

Welfare  
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