

DRAFT RESOLUTION # 36 / 2016
AFN Annual General Assembly, July 12 - 14, 2016, Niagara Falls, ON

TITLE: Responsibility to Investigate Allegations of Abuse brought against Mr. John Furlong

SUBJECT: Justice

MOVED BY: Chief Wilf Adam, Lake Babine First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cheryl Maloney, Proxy, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, BC

WHEREAS:

- A.** The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms through Articles 7, 8, 15, 24, 38 and 40 that Indigenous individuals have the right to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- B.** There are serious concerns about the conduct of investigations into certain allegations of abuse made against John Furlong, while a teacher, by former First Nations students of Immaculata Day School in Burns Lake, B.C. and Prince George College, in which the alleged acts took place between the late 1960's to mid-1970's.
- C.** These allegations were not part of the *Robinson v. Furlong* lawsuit dismissed by the B.C. Supreme Court in September 2015—see “Waiting to be Heard”: <http://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/11/26/opinion/waiting-be-heard-claimants-versus-johnfurlong>)
- D.** Although on November 26, 2015 various hereditary Chiefs, and other members of, Lake Babine First Nation, wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau asking that the abuse allegations be addressed, the Government's sole response—received in June 2016 (over seven months later) from The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities—is that the Court decision is definitive of the matter. Such is not so.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the federal government and the RCMP to conduct, as expeditiously as possible, a thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of abuse brought by Mr. Furlong's former students.

2. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to meet, as expeditiously as possible, with the affected members of Lake Babine Band Council, Burns Lake Band Council, and any other affected former students to hear their concerns about the conduct of investigations and to discuss with them acceptable remedies.