

Forum: UNESCO

Question: Ensuring quality education for all

Submitted by: Canada

NUSAB resolution letter

The general assembly,

Believing that education is a fundamental human right and that it should be accessible to all,

Asserting that Indigenous Peoples are equal to any other population,

Thanking the 144 states which accepted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007,

Acknowledging that Canada ratified this declaration rather late,

Remembering what the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states in the article 14.2 that the Indigenous community, and particularly children, have the right to access to all levels and forms of public teaching without any discrimination,

Taking into account the difference between Canadian education and Indigenous teaching,

Recognizing the small amount of Indigenous people studying at public schools: 48,4% of Aboriginal people (from 25 to 64 years old) had a postsecondary qualification in 2011, whereas 64,7% of the non-Aboriginal population (from 25 to 64 years old) had a postsecondary qualification, according to the Canadian government,

Congratulating the recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission between the government of Canada and Indigenous Peoples in 2015,

Taking into consideration the value of Indigenous traditions, culture, methods and education and showing great respect towards them,

1. *Commits* to include Indigenous methods such as demonstration, group socialization, cultural and spiritual rituals, as well as traditions, in the Canadian curriculum,
2. *Engages* to avoid cultural uprooting for Indigenous children, as it would be a true loss for the country,

3. *Declares ready* to ask and take into account advice from Indigenous people themselves because their opinions matter and as they are directly impacted by this issue, they could have solutions to ensure education for all in Canada,
4. *Undertakes* to give to all students studying in Canada the opportunity to begin or to keep learning Indigenous languages,
5. *Considers necessary* to build schools closer to areas where the Indigenous population is settled, in order to limit the isolation of children from their family and culture by choosing to study at a boarding school, as many schools are too far from their home, to reduce the traveling time and to limit home-schooling.
6. *Devotes* to hire more Indigenous teachers to increase the opportunity for the Indigenous population to work and to allow them to carry on the traditions and culture through traditional teaching methods,
 7. *Commits* to help financially Indigenous students with grants, as well as free transportation if necessary, as schools are sometimes far from their living areas, to allow them to go to school and have a strong education and degree,
8. *Continues* to recognize and include even more Indigenous people in education and every other sector,
9. *Encourages* governmental and non-governmental organizations to invest in transportation such as proper bus stops and regular bus lines as well as guaranteeing a better access to knowledge with infrastructures for education like libraries, areas with an internet access and available computers for research in Indigenous living areas,
10. *Promises* to increase the number of Indigenous children in Canadian schools in order to reach the same percentage of postsecondary qualification for Indigenous people and the non-Indigenous population.