



Huu-ay-aht First Nations

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Report to Executive Council

Title: *Implementation of Huu-ay-aht Social Services Jurisdiction*

Type of Decision: Approval

Submitted by: Sheila Charles, Chair, Citizen Development Committee

Date: February 12, 2013

ISSUE

Executive Council approval to implement action plan to assume social services jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

Facilitating programs and workshops on healing the spirit and improving the emotional, social and physical health of our people, our staff and our organization are a strategic priority.

This is because the safety, health and well-being of our Huu-ay-aht families and children is of paramount importance.

We have the power and jurisdictions as a self-governing First Nation to create a safe, healthy and positive living environment for our children and families. And Huu-ay-aht, not outsiders, should make the final decision on what is best for Huu-ay-aht children and families.

DISCUSSION

The Citizen Development Committee met on January 25th to discuss implementation of HUU-ay-aht social services jurisdiction.

We unanimously passed a motion recommending that Executive Council adopt the following 2013 action plan to assume social services jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Citizen Development Committee recommends to Executive Council that immediate steps be taken to:

1. Hold a community meeting in Port Alberni with HUU-ay-aht families and children to identify what changes are needed to improve the environment in which our children grow up and invite Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond to speak;
2. Direct the administration to develop a family and child support protocol to immediately assert HUU-ay-aht jurisdiction, including a veto, over any decisions made by outsiders regarding our children and families;
3. Make allowance in the 2013/2014 budget to enforce HUU-ay-aht jurisdiction if it is challenged; and
4. Develop a comprehensive plan to negotiate the assumption of all available Treaty self-government jurisdictions related to children and families as soon as practicable.

OPTIONS

Option 1 - Approve the recommendation, with or without amendments

Option 2 - Reject the recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend the following motion for consideration of Executive Council:

Be it resolved to approve the action plan for the implementation of social services jurisdiction set out in the report entitled "Implementation of HUU-ay-aht Social Services Jurisdiction" dated February 12, 2013 and further to authorize and direct the Executive Director to implement this resolution by June 30, 2013.