



Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Resolution #26-08

Regional Board Governance and First Nation Representation

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Policy (1979) committed Canada to strengthen capacity and support First Nations-led health systems; however, the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program continues to impose restrictive policies that deny access to medical care in culturally appropriate ways; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) states that Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development.

WHEREAS, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolution 09-08, Physician Services Long-Term APP Agreement Governance and Management, which stated that “the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) and First Nations Inuit Health – Ontario Region (FNIH-OR) have proposed a governance and management model for the APP Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, self-determination indicates that First Nations hold the autonomy to decide priorities, allocate resources, and design programs with the goal of improving health outcomes. This includes the inherent right to exercise their authority and jurisdiction over health; and,

WHEREAS, the Chiefs-in-Assembly acknowledge that First Nation Governance includes: First Nations participation in health governance; culturally appropriate and respectful health services; community involvement in decision-making; accountability to First Nations patients and communities; and health systems that recognize northern and remote First Nations unique needs and experiences; and,

WHEREAS, the Sioux Lookout Regional Physician Services Incorporated (SLRPSI) operates with the mandate to govern, manage, and coordinate physician services for the town of Sioux Lookout and 31 remote First Nations communities in the region; and,

WHEREAS, Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Center (SLMHC) was created through the 1997 Four Party Agreement, signed by Nishnawbe Aski Nation (representing First Nations), the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. The Four Party Agreement was a historic commitment to create a new model of health care delivery based on partnership, shared responsibility, and meaningful participation of First Nations communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Center (SLMHC) Board of Directors is undergoing an internal by-law review to address disparities; and,



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WHEREAS, Regional Board Governance is not representative of the First Nation communities and thus, does not reflect the voices of the members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Chiefs-in Assembly request a review of the current Governance models being used by all Boards of Directors in the region, including SLRPSI and SLMHC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate that the board membership for all Boards of Directors in the region, including SLRPSI and SLMHC, be expanded to adequately ensure majority representation of First Nations in the region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by majority, Chiefs-in-Assembly wish to establish that Board Directors reside in a community within the Sioux Lookout region during their time on the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Regional Board Governance must include regular updates and reports to Sioux Lookout Regional Chiefs to ensure transparency and accountability.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Ontario Ministry of Health to renegotiate the Regional Board Governance structures to ensure majority representation of First Nation members, such as SLMHC and SLRPSI.

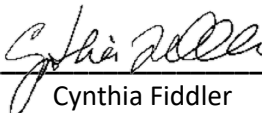
Dated this 10th day of September 2026 in Lac Seul First Nation, Ontario

Moved by: Chief Archie Wabasse, Wunnumin Lake First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Carla Beardy Duncan, Muskrat Dam First Nation

Decision: **CARRIED**

SLFNHA Board Chair:


Cynthia Fiddler