

TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Appendix C
2003/04 No. 012
APFA**

REJECTION OF SAGE CONSULTANTS REPORT

October 30, 2003

WHEREAS: The Okanagan Nation asserts an inherent right of self determination including jurisdiction relating to our children and families;

WHEREAS: To protect Aboriginal rights it is essential that the Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord “conduct itself in a way that is consistent with each First Nation’s unique laws, practices and customs”.

WHEREAS: Through the signatories to the *Memorandum of Understanding for Aboriginal Children* (September 2002), the Okanagan Nation has committed to working with the Province in a government-to-government partnership towards improving the well-being of all Aboriginal persons in our traditional territory.

WHEREAS: The Province has acknowledged through the Memorandum of Understanding for Aboriginal Children that planning, policy and program development, implementation evaluation and decision-making must be undertaken jointly between the provincial government and First Nations, the Métis Nation, Inuit and other Aboriginal communities.

WHEREAS: The Province has committed to create a “new and collaborative relationship with First Nations” in the territory known as British Columbia”, as expressed through the Tsawwassen Accord. However, the Province’s Sage Consultants report proposes a process of regionalization that is not consistent with such collaborative relationships and ignores the principles of the Tsawwassen Accord.

WHEREAS: Our inherent right of self-determination will only be achieved through our active and meaningful participation in the design and development of endogenous institutions and the Province’s recent recommendations would co-opt our leadership and undermine local and regional control of the regionalization process.

WHEREAS: The Province's recommendations are not consistent with the best interests of our children and families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Aboriginal leadership in the territory known as British Columbia must work with the Province to jointly develop the terms of reference for a government-to-government partnership with the Province. These terms of reference will describe the process for joint dialogue and collective decision-making between the Province and the Aboriginal leadership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Okanagan Nation rejects unequivocally the Province's proposal to create a process that would: 1) create an interim blended authority; 2) limit community participation, 3) not recognize the uniqueness of each region, and 4) not be in the best interest of our children.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Okanagan Nation requests the Province to direct the Ministry for Children and Family Development to respect that the interests of Aboriginal children are best met through Aboriginal-governed structures, to which the Province has committed.