MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

Box 370

Moose Factory, On. P0L 1W0

Tel: 705-658-4222

Fax: 705-658-4250

MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL 16TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-09-13

Attawapiskat First Nation MOVED BY:

Chief Norm Hardisty Jr. Moose Cree First Nation

Kashechewan First Nation

SECONDED BY:

Fort Albany First Nation Chief Theresa Hall Attawapiskat First Nation

Moose Cree First Nation

New Post First Nation

ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS

Chapleau Cree First Nation

Certified copy of a Resolution passed on September 26, 2001

Missanabie Cree First Nation

> Ignace Gull Grand Chief

September 26, 2001 Attawapiskat, Ontario

FIRST NATIONS CHILD WELFARE

WHEREAS our children are our sovereignty and as such are our most precious legacy for our future as Mushkegowuk people and;

WHEREAS the child welfare reforms introduced by Bill 6 of the Child and Family Services Act has forced more children being brought into care, directly attacking the integrity of the family and the nation through;

- the imposition of foreign standards and risk assessment processes that do not recognize the unique circumstances and culture of the Mushkegowuk people;
- the alarming statistics regarding the increased number of children coming into the care of Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services and the speed with which permanent wardship is granted by a system which has no regard for our social and economic realities and;
- the lack of placement resources resulting from our economic and social realities such as the housing shortages, high unemployment, addictions and

- and the continuing debilitating intergenerational impacts of the residential school era;
- the inequity of the funding provided to Payukotayno making it difficult to provide customary care;
- the inadequacy of funding for the Band Representative program and;

WHEREAS Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services was mandated by the Mushkegowuk Chiefs in Assembly to provide culturally sensitive and appropriate child welfare services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mushkegowuk Chiefs in Assembly reaffirm our authority to represent the best interests of our children and families and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Mushkegowuk Chiefs in Assembly vigorously opposes the continuing imposition of the Child and Family Services Act and gives notice to the province of Ontario reaffirming our First Nations' authority over child welfare in the Mushkegowuk Territory.