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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**July 23, 24 & 25, 2019, FREDERICTON, NB**

**Resolution no. 18/2019**

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**TITLE:** Proper Funding for Digital Health Tools Required to Support Health System Transformation

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**SUBJECT:** Health

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Elaine Johnston, Serpent River First Nation, ON

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Walter Spence, Fox Lake First Nation, MB

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**DECISION:** Carried by Consensus

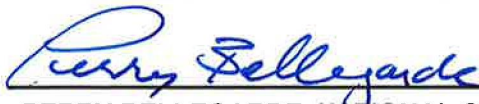
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**WHEREAS:**

- A. The First Nations Digital Health Advisory is a national body dedicated to increasing access to digital health and Internet Communications Technology opportunities and innovation for all First Nations in Canada.
- B. The First Nations Digital Health Advisory advocates for the development, adoption and effective use of Internet Communications Technology and/or Digital Health solutions for First Nations in Canada.
- C. The First Nations Digital Health Advisory had drafted a Framework for investing in First Nations digital health in Canada that respects the Assembly of First Nations, regional and community processes.
- D. Articles 1, 3, 18, 21, 23, 24, 29, and 39 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples describe the rights, the purpose, the benefits and the means by which First Nations will be supported to adopt and use digital health tools to improve health services and support Health System Transformation objectives.
- E. Provincial governments have invested in health information management / digital health support for health services for several decades and have recognized digital health tools to be “mission-critical” for integrated health care processes.
- F. Efficient, patient-centric circle-of-care coordination with provincial partners is critical to support the healthcare needs of First Nations community members.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019 in Fredericton, New Brunswick**



**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

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**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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- G. The absence of First Nation health organization-level digital health tools impedes care coordination, delays communication, impacts patient safety and creates barriers to First Nations Health Data Sovereignty and Health System Transformation.
- H. Digital Health is an important catalyst for First Nations in Canada to efficiently participate in the healthcare industry. These solutions compliment traditional face to face exchange between provider and patient to achieve better outcomes.
- I. The Government of Canada has a responsibility to provide funding for the sustained use of reasonable, needs-based digital health tools and processes in all First Nation health organizations.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:**

1. Call upon Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to authorize a funding envelope to support First Nation health organizations' adoption and sustained use of digital health tools.
2. Call upon ISC to ensure that this funding be an ongoing augmentation to existing community-level contribution agreements or funding mechanisms.
3. Call upon ISC to ensure that this new funding acknowledges the reasonable costs associated with the adoption and use of digital health tools (e.g. implementation, training and change management, information technology infrastructure, ongoing licensing costs, clinical workflow integration, etc.) as identified in the First Nations Digital Health Framework.
4. Call upon ISC to ensure that this new funding is made available within the next 12 months through an approach that does not introduce unnecessary administrative or bureaucratic processes and burdens on First Nation health organization administrators.
5. Direct ISC to address funding inequities between provincial health agencies, First Nation health organizations and communities who continue to face challenges with care coordination due to their lack of digital health infrastructure and create funding solutions that are meaningful and sustainable.

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**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**18 – 2019**  
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