

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO SUPPORT FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES

- WHEREAS** the KO Telehealth program provides comprehensive telemedicine services in partnership with 25 First Nations in Ontario; and
- WHEREAS** the KO Telehealth delivery is a community-based service model managed and directed by communities, building capacity for community health workers by connecting communities to health resources with the support of local coordination; and
- WHEREAS** KO Telehealth is recognized by the partner First Nations, regional organizations, Nishnawbe Aski Nation by way of Chiefs' resolutions and nationally, by peer organizations for excellence in delivering innovative and successful telemedicine services and is viewed as a leader for community-based First Nations Telehealth; and
- WHEREAS** KO Telehealth uses the community owned broadband telecommunication network working with the Kuhkenah Network (K-Net) and the provincial Smart Systems for Health Agency (SSHA) which allows for the delivery of the spectrum of health services essential for the provision of health services in each First Nation; and
- WHEREAS** telehealth is a service provided by the provincial government, available to all citizens of Ontario to improve access to essential health services that has been supported by Health Canada on project-based funding over the past four years; and
- WHEREAS** the current financial crisis in e-Health funding from Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch is resulting in scarce financial resources being utilized to support telehealth; and
- WHEREAS** provincial and federal stakeholders are currently being identified to provide sustainable financial resources to invest in the continued and sustainable development of all telehealth services that can be shared throughout Canada as a model for First Nations owned and controlled health services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Chiefs of Ontario in assembly support the work that KO Telehealth is delivering in the remote First Nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

The Chiefs of Ontario political organization will work with Keewaytinook Okimakanak to identify strategies to make sustainable community-based telehealth for First Nations in Ontario supporting the ongoing operation of these essential health services and programs in our communities acknowledging that it will complement, not compete with future First Nations community and Telehealth activities;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT

This support resolution is without prejudice to any ongoing First Nations initiative.

MOVED BY: Chief Royal Meekis, Deer Lake First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Tom Bressette, Kettle & Stoney Point First Nation

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO SUPPORT FOR THE KUHKENAH NETWORK PARTNERSHIP
WITH SMART SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH AGENCY**

WHEREAS the Chiefs of Keewaytinook Okimakanak established K-Net Services to support the development of community-based telecommunication broadband networks to deliver a variety of local services including telehealth, internet high school, high speed internet, video conferencing, justice, etc; and

WHEREAS First Nation owned and managed community networks are being established across Ontario to support a variety of broadband connections in local schools, health centres, band offices providing these services; and

WHEREAS over the past ten years, Keewaytinook Okimakanak's K-Net service supported the delivery of Industry Canada's First Nations SchoolNet program working with First Nation schools across Ontario; and

WHEREAS K-Net services is working with Health Canada and the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Telehealth program to develop sustainable broadband network connections in partnership with First Nation community networks to deliver e-health applications including telemedicine and public health initiatives; and

WHEREAS Smart Systems for Health Agency (SSHA) is contracting K-Net to establish broadband connections to their network in Aboriginal health centres and programs across Ontario where local health applications require their services ; and

WHEREAS SSHA support broadband connections ensure the long term sustainability of local community networks.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Chiefs of Ontario political organization will work with KO in addition to all other First Nations currently engaged in Telehealth activities and those wishing to participate in the development of a province wide strategy to benefit all First Nations in Ontario; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT

This support resolution is without prejudice to any ongoing First Nations initiative.

MOVED BY: Chief Joe Meekis, Keewaywin First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake First Nation