

**RESOLUTION REGARDING
DOGRIB SPIRITUALITY, SCHOOL PROGRAMS,
PRAYERS AND THE PROPOSED EDUCATION ACT**

WHEREAS in 1995, the Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing to replace the existing Education Act enacted in 1977 with a new Education Act;

and WHEREAS, in order to conform with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the proposed Act replaces sections 60 and 61 regarding Religious Education with statement that may have the effect of disallowing school prayer and school program on spirituality;

and WHEREAS, the Dogrib are a spiritual people and believe that for our children to live a meaningful life, they must develop respectful relationships with themselves, their families and community, our Land and the Spiritual World;

and WHEREAS, the Dogrib people believe that the development of these respectful relationships require daily prayers and the teaching of our children the ways of the Spirit;

and WHEREAS, the Dogrib people have worked with elders from all parts of Denedeh to develop Dene Kede, a GNWT approved curriculum, which states as a general expectation that the students must recognize and develop their own personal spirituality;

and WHEREAS, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment through its foundation document "Our Students Our Future"(1991) recognizes spiritual education as one of the five goals of northern education

Therefore be it resolved, that we, the representatives of the Dogrib people cannot accept any proposed legislation which may serve to deny us the right to educate our children in a manner consistent with our cultural beliefs

And furthermore, we request that the Government of the NWT amend its legislation to support its own stated goals and curriculum expectations, which would also ensure that we, as a distinct people are able to educate our children in a manner that is supportive of the deepest spiritual beliefs of our culture.

(This was approved by the Dogrib Chiefs and Delegates at their meeting in Wha Ti (Lac La Lamartre) on Wednesday , February 15, 1995

