

DEH CHO FIRST NATIONS
Spring Leadership Meeting
Fort Liard, Denendeh — 97 MAY 26-30

DCFN LEADERSHIP RESOLUTION 97MAY27-#01

Re. Deh Cho Health & Healing

WHEREAS the Deh Cho Assembly and Deh Cho Women's Gatherings have consistently called for health and healing to be priorities for Deh Cho First Nations,

AND WHEREAS the authority of Deh Cho aboriginal governments to develop and deliver programs to our peoples — including programs for health and well being — has not been and is not recognised by Canada's Crown representatives, and Deh Cho aboriginal governments have received only insignificant funding toward community health and healing,

AND WHEREAS, for nearly 10 years, Deh Cho Leaders have been asking for a Deh Cho Health Board to look after the kind of health care our peoples want,

AND WHEREAS the NWT Ministry that has been delegated responsibility and funding for health programs to Deh Cho communities has neglected its 1995 commitment for Deh Cho Leaders to establish a Deh Cho Health Board to meet our peoples' needs,

AND WHEREAS the DCFN Leadership at its Winter Meeting directed that the Fall Leadership Resolution be carried out to set up a Deh Cho Health Working Group to review and report on the best way to establish a Deh Cho Health Board to meet our peoples' needs,

AND WHEREAS the DCFN Leadership objects in the strongest possible terms to the federal and NWT governments for dismantling the agency that had responsibility and funding for health programs to Deh Cho communities: that is, the former Mackenzie Region Health Service,

AND WHEREAS the DCFN Leadership is opposed to any changes to the health care of Deh Cho peoples made by the federal and NWT health ministers without the direct participation, agreement, approval, and consent of the DCFN Leadership —

THEREFORE, by our inherent right to govern ourselves, the Deh Cho First Nations Leadership affirms its direction to the Deh Cho Health Working Group to

- (1) continue developing a draft report on the best ways to set up a Deh Cho Health Board that can look after the kind of health care our peoples want, and
- (2) present this report to the 1997 Deh Cho Assembly;