

DATE: November 6, 2013



RESOLUTION No. 2013-184

**RESOLUTION OF THE UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBAL COUNCIL
REFERENCE: SUPPORT FOR COMMISSION ON AMERICAN INDIAN BOARDING
SCHOOL POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, approved June 6, 1940, and subsequently amended, provides in Article III that the governing body of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe ("Tribe") is the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council and sets forth in Article V the powers of the Tribal Council exercised in this Resolution;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is responsible for ensuring that the basic needs of Tribal Members are properly served, including the need for education;

WHEREAS, the United States, at the urging of and in support of the Christian Churches of the time, adopted the Indian Civilization Act Fund of 1819 to provide financial support for church run schools to "civilize" Native American children through education;

WHEREAS, in 1869 the United States, in concert with and at the urging of several denominations of the Christian Churches, adopted the Indian the Boarding School Policy (also known as the Peace Policy) which was a deliberate policy for the removal and reprogramming of Native American children, the purpose of which was the systematic destruction of indigenous cultures and communities;

WHEREAS, between 1869 and the 1960s as many as 100,000 Native American children were removed from their homes and families, often involuntarily, and placed in Boarding Schools operated by the federal government and the churches;

WHEREAS, Native children that were voluntarily or forcibly removed from their homes, families and communities were taken to schools far away where they were punished for speaking their native language, banned from acting in any way that might be seen to represent traditional or cultural practices, stripped of traditional clothing, hair and all things and behaviors reflective of their native culture, and commonly abused and neglected by inadequate and hostile staff;

WHEREAS, the prevailing attitudes of the time allowed neglect and abuse of children who were overseen but not parented, who were bullied and assaulted not only by the adults but also by older children under the modeling and instruction of the caretakers and staff, and who were exploited and neglected en masse. These children observed and suffered physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, punishment by physical restraints, beatings and isolation in inhospitable surroundings, such as unlighted cellars, and unlighted and unventilated outbuildings designed as jails;

WHEREAS, these children, their children and now their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, have become the legacy of the boarding schools and the federal policy that established and sustained those schools, where the trauma the children suffered has gone unrecognized and unresolved, and the trauma is passed onto each subsequent generation where this historical and inter-generational trauma continues to work in, undermine and devastate Native American individuals, families, and communities;

WHEREAS, neither the United States nor any national denomination of the Christian churches in the United States has offered a meaningful apology or offered to provide any restitution for the generations of harm caused by the deliberate imposition of the policy of cultural genocide on the Native American children, families, communities, Pueblos, Tribes, or Alaskan Villages;

WHEREAS, the facts and history about the pervasive harm caused and continuing to be caused by the trauma and continuing intergenerational trauma attributable to the Boarding School Policy are poorly understood by the American public, the Congress or the Executive Branch of the federal government;

WHEREAS, in order to begin a healing process to address the harms suffered and enduring as a result of the boarding school policy, a comprehensive national study is needed of the history of the policy; such study should include complete documentation of the fate of each of the students and the events that took place at each of the schools, gathering of testimony from those that suffered from abuse, neglect or other trauma, and recommendations to Congress based on the information gathered from individual victims, communities and experts concerning the nature of the harms and potential paradigms for healing and reconciliation;

WHEREAS, similar events in the past have been successfully addressed through Congressional authorization of a Commission to study and report on the issue;

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ute Mountain Tribal Council does hereby support the enactment by the United States Congress of a bill to create a Commission on American Indian Boarding School Policy, to be charged with investigating and reporting back to Congress on the history of the boarding school policy, the impacts of that policy on communities, Tribal nations, and individuals, and suitable methods of support for healing and reconciliation with the communities and Tribal nations impacted by the policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be the policy of the Ute Mountain Tribal Council until otherwise amended or rescinded, or until the goal of this Resolution has been accomplished; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Ute Mountain Tribal Council authorizes the Chairman to sign this Resolution and further authorizes him to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

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The foregoing Resolution was duly adopted this 6th day of November 2013.

Manuel Heart

Manuel Heart, Chairman
Ute Mountain Tribal Council

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that there was a quorum of 5 Tribal Council members present at a regular meeting of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council held on November 6, 2013, that 4 voted for and 0 opposed this resolution and that this resolution was duly adopted.

Michela F. Alire

Michela F. Alire, Recording Secretary
Ute Mountain Tribal Council

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