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It has been more than twenty years now since the federal government revised the First Nations schools funding formula. This situation is totally unacceptable and seriously endangers the future of First Nations, meaning that the government has no choice but to act immediately in order to change things before they get to the point of no return.



On September 19, 2007, the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) organized a marathon and demonstration in Ottawa to make the government and the Canadian population aware of the First Nations education situation. The marathon was just one of many awareness activities organized by the FNEC over recent months as part of its important awareness-building campaign.

A total of over 300 people took part in the event and more than half of them ran the 3km marathon through the streets of Ottawa, finishing on Parliament Hill, where the rest of the demonstrators were waiting for them. Most of the runners were youngsters from elementary or high school and represented more than five communities in Quebec. The high level of participation also enabled the FNEC to teach the youngsters about the cause, which was a big success in itself.

On Parliament Hill, a group of traditional drummers from Manawan, the Black Bears, and a number of dancers, entertained the crowd of demonstrators.



The activity ended with speeches and, more importantly, the signature of an alliance between Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan. This signature will make it possible for the provinces that are united by the alliance to exert joint pressure on the government, meaning that they will have more weight than if they were to do so alone.

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Lastly, in accordance with its stated objective, the FNEC obtained excellent media visibility following the event. Chief Ghislain Picard, for example, featured in an interview shown on Radio-Canada, and the Canadian Press also wrote an article on the subject. It also goes without saying that, along with the excellent participation, the support of organizations such as Amnesty International and the CSQ significantly helped the FNEC in acquiring this visibility.

Although the event was a success across the board, the FNEC will continue to exert pressure on the government for as long as it takes for its demands to be heard. The FNEC is appealing for the ongoing support of everyone concerned. To keep up with developments, all you need to do is to visit the campaign's official Internet site at www.avenir-future.com.

