



POLICY SECTION 104: Local Control of Education

The Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board of Education believes that while it is important to promote local control of education and to work with other First Nations and tribes to promote local control, its main purpose must be the betterment of education for Akwesasne's students.

In December 1985, the Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board of Education assumed control over education by agreement with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and by Akwesasne Mohawk Council Resolution 1985/86 - 762. This step was in conjunction with the position taken by the National Indian Brotherhood Policy Paper "Indian Control of Indian Education," Ottawa, Ontario, 1972.

"In Indian tradition each adult is personally responsible for each child, to see that he learns all he needs to know in order to live a good life. As our fathers had a clear idea of what made a good man and a good life in their society, so we modern Indians, want our children to learn that happiness and satisfaction come from:

- *pride in one's self,*
- *understanding one's fellowmen, and*
- *living in harmony with nature.*

These are lessons which are necessary for survival in this twentieth century.

- *Pride encourages us to recognize and use our talents, as well as to master the skills needed to make a living*
- *Understanding our fellowmen will enable us to meet other North Americans on an equal footing, respecting cultural differences while pooling resources for the common good.*
- *Living in harmony with nature will insure preservation of the balance between man and his environment which is necessary for the future of our planet, as well as for fostering the climate in which Indian Wisdom has always flourished.*

We want education to give our children the knowledge to understand and be proud of themselves and the knowledge to understand the world around them.