

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO
ANNUAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
June 13-15, 2023**

**RESOLUTION 23/22A
PAGE 1 OF 2**

SUBJECT: FIRST NATIONS FOOTCARE: A PODIATRY MODEL IN ONTARIO

MOVER: Chief Mary Duckworth, Caldwell First Nation

SECONDER: Chief R. Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

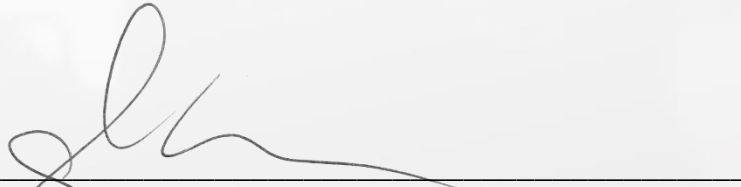
1. High rates of Diabetes and Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) in Ontarians are causing foot-related health issues including increased rates of lower limb amputations among First Nations communities;
2. Unnecessary and costly referrals to general practitioners (GP) for foot-related issues can be more effectively and efficiently treated by podiatrists, causing additional stress on emergency rooms by patients with foot-related concerns that can be effectively treated off site in podiatry clinics to address foot and ankle surgery backlogs;
3. Less than 50 Registered Podiatrists are currently practicing in Ontario because of the Chiropody Act prohibiting registration of new Podiatrists since 1993;
4. The Podiatry model is regarded as the most modern approach to footcare in helping to keep patients out of hospital and reducing the rates of lower limb amputations in First Nation communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Chiefs in Assembly:

1. Support an Ontario-based university podiatry program- full scope Podiatry practice to treat conditions of the foot and ankle by foot care specialists, including foot surgeries, as exists in other provinces in Canada.

2. Call for the removal of current legislative cap on registration of Podiatrists in Ontario, under Subsection 3(2) of the Chiroprody Act for Chiroprodists and Podiatrists.
3. Direct the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCOH) to communicate and advocate for the removal of the restriction within Subsection 3(2) of the Chiroprody Act for Chiroprodists and Podiatrists to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones to advocate.

Certified Copy of a Resolution passed June 15, 2023



Glen Hare, Ontario Regional Chief