SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 6, 7 & 8, 2011, OTTAWA, ON

Resolution no.77/2011

TITLE:	Support for Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Demand for Moratorium on Oil and Gas drilling in the Maqtugweg (Gulf of St-Lawrence)
SUBJECT:	Environment
MOVED BY:	Quentin Condo, Proxy, Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, QC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Leonard Polson, Long Point First Nation, QC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The Mi'gmaq, having inhabited the Gespe'gewa'gi territory since time immemorial, have inalienable title to the land, surrounding waters and have un-extinguished aboriginal rights, title and treaty rights throughout the territory.

B. The Mi'gmaq are caretakers of their traditional lands, minerals and waters for all future generations in order to fulfill the rights, obligations and the sacred instructions of their ancestors.

C. According to the prospecting licenses granted by the Crown, exploratory drilling is set to take place by 2012 at Old Harry in the Maqtugweg and, which is only 80 kilometres away from the Magdalen Islands and is located within the boundaries of the Gespe'gewa'gi territory.

D. This initial drilling operation will set the stage for hydrocarbon exploitation in the Maqtugweg without having sufficiently taken into account the possible harmful impacts that may occur.

E. An oil spill in the Maqtugweg may have devastating repercussions on the Gespe'gewa'gi samuqwann and the surrounding medicines, plants, food and animals from all elements of creation.

F. Many non aboriginal communities depend on the Maqtugweg for their socioeconomic activities, such as fishing and tourism.

G. Exploding human numbers, technological power, consumptive demand, and global economy are putting the Maqtugweg under multiple stresses.

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H. Nature cannot be forced to conform to human borders and economy: instead we must maintain its health and subordinate our interests to Maqtugweg.

I. Given the unique relationship that the Maqtugweg and the Mi'gmaq have together, any oil and gas exploration and subsequent hydrocarbon exploitation in the Maqtugweg constitutes a major infringement on Mi'gmaq rights, title and interests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi in their demand to the Quebec government to maintain its current moratorium on oil and gas drilling and demand the Federal government to institute a moratorium for the entire Gulf of Saint-Lawrence.
2. If the moratorium fails, support the St-Lawrence Coalition in its efforts to:
   a. establish an integrated management of the Gulf;
   b. assess the environmental, social and economical risks and impacts of oil and gas resources development;
   c. demand that the strictest rules and the most advanced technology be used for oil and gas resources development;
   d. choose, as a collective group, to drill or not in the Gulf.

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