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

Resolution no.81/2011

TITLE:	Support for the National Indian and Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization (NIICHRO)
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Leonard Polson, Long Point First Nation, QC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Allison Metallic, Listuguj Migmaq First Nation, QC
DECISION:	Passed by the AFN Executive Committee

WHEREAS:

A. The National Indian and Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization(NIICHRO) has been supporting Community Health Representatives (CHRs) for nearly 20 years (incorporated in 1992).

B. NIICHRO lost core funding in 1999 and currently operates as a project-based organization.

C. Following the signing of the CHR Settlement (wage parity) Agreement in 2000, the CHR Program was removed from the federal compendium of programs in 2002, leaving no targeted support for CHRs from the federal level.

D. The organization is recognized for developing culturally appropriate tools and resources specifically for CHRs, who are a trusted and stable workforce.

E. CHRs need on-going training, capacity building and networking opportunities which the NIICHRO strives to offer through the development and delivery of national training sessions however, for the last two years there has been no funding for a national CHR training session as it was not deemed a priority by First Nations & Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada(FNIHB).

F. NIICHRO has attempted to identify other project funding sources such as the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the Coalition Linking Action, Science and Prevention (CLASP) but was not successful in these national competitions.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 19th day of December, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

G. The federal government recognizes NIICHRO as a stakeholder on various health topics and issues yet the organization has seen a steady decline in project funding over the last few years from Health Canada to the point where this fiscal year, there is no funding.

H. FNIHB representatives have implied that there is no national funding available siting this is as per the direction of the Assembly of First Nation chiefs saying that funding should be regionally and locally focused.

I. NIICHRO has already taken proactive measures to extend its ability to keep running by reducing its core staff to one day and reducing office space rental, however are in a critical position with the latest rejection letter from the regional & programs (tobacco) division and therefore is faced with the prospect of closing its doors unless measures can be taken that will lead to funding.

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

1. Affirm that the National Indian and Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization (NIICHRO) is an important national partner that supports Community Health Representatives (CHR)work at the local level by:
    a. Directing the AFN to call upon the Minister of Health to secure funding for NIICHRO on an urgent and ongoing basis
    b. Supporting a national celebration of 50 years of CHR service to be coordinated and implemented by NIICHRO

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of December, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF