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

Resolution no. 49/2011

TITLE:	Funding of First Nation Libraries
SUBJECT:	Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Hazel Fox-Recollet, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. First Nation communities across Canada have some of the lowest literacy levels in the world.

B. There is broad recognition and support for the concept of continuing education at the community level as well as increased accessibility to all educational outlets, including public libraries.

C. Public libraries often serve as an accessible gathering place and information sharing resource for many First Nation communities.

D. The challenges to secure adequate resources to establish public library facilities in all of Canada's First Nation communities is well understood.

E. The federal government does not provide financial support dedicated specifically for the ongoing operations of First Nation public libraries.

F. A national group of First Nations librarians has been established, called the National Aboriginal Public Libraries Organization (NAPLO), to promote the creation and sustainability of public libraries on reserve.

G. First Nation communities can draw on two valuable resources for creating and sustaining public libraries on reserve, namely, *Our Way Forward*, a strategic plan developed by First Nations librarians, and *Speak Up*, a series of promotional videos to increase public awareness of the need for First Nation libraries.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of December, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Support the objectives of the National Aboriginal Public Libraries Organization (NAPLO) and encourage First Nation communities to use *Our Way Forward* and *Speak Up* to assist in creating and sustaining their own public libraries.
2. Support the need to advocate for federal funding that is dedicated specifically for ongoing operations of First Nation public libraries.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF