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

Resolution no.53/2011

TITLE:	First Nations e-Community Strategy
SUBJECT:	Economic Partnerships
MOVED BY:	Chief Gilbert Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg First Nation, QC
SECONDED BY:	Doug Kelly, Proxy, Soowahlie First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states in Article 20:: "Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

B. Broadband connectivity and integrated Information Communication Technology (ICT) services are essential to providing First Nations with the economic, social and cultural capacity to support new opportunities and developments locally, regionally and internationally.

C. E-Health investments within First Nations are key to ensuring technological and health care advances. E-Health is a key enabler in the sustainment of community ICT infrastructures, underscoring the need for clear and ongoing coordination between sectors.

D. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) resolution 16/2008 passed in July 2008 mandates the AFN National Technical Working Group to develop and implement an ICT Strategic Plan that will address broadband connectivity, technical and service management, capacity development, hardware and software, and information management to service First Nations in Canada.

E. Work had been conducted on an ICT Strategic Plan that advocates and supports a First Nations e-Community model that is driven, owned and controlled by First Nations, and which identified strategic priorities on Infrastructure; Connectivity, and Human Resources Capacity Building.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

F. In order to complete a comprehensive ICT Strategic plan, more in-depth analysis and research is required on each of the strategic priorities as well as considering inclusion of: date management; First Nations engagement when considering new national approaches to connectivity; and, the role of the corporate community in connectivity.

G. First Mile Connectivity Consortium work celebrates Inuit and First Nation successes in building, owning, controlling and accessing community and regional IT networks and applications. The report "Putting the last-mile first: Re-framing Broadband Development in First Nations and Inuit Communities" has been produced by the First Mile research project and is complementary and supportive of the AFN ICT work.

H. The Federal Government introduced the Digital Economy Strategy for Canada and the wireless spectrum auction with minimal dialogue and input from First Nations.

I. Ongoing work is required on the development of connectivity strategies and program design within the federal government in order that First Nation e-Community needs are appropriately considered, supported, funded and addressed.

J. Recently, some First Nations connectivity projects have encountered substantial delays over the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) requirements to obtain Section 28(2) permits for non-exclusive land use, allowing for third party infrastructure to be placed upon a reserve.

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

1. Affirm that Canada and industry must consult with and include First Nations in the development of national and regional approaches to connectivity.
2. Reaffirm their strong support for the continued development and advocacy of a First Nations e-community strategy by the AFN National ICT Working Group.
3. Direct the AFN to include the advice and expertise of ICT specialists, researchers, and legal advisors which strongly inform and complement the work of the AFN, and require that they report to the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development as the mandated body to provide guidance on the development of an e-community strategy for First Nations.
4. Direct the AFN to include important data policy and management considerations as part of the strategy development and continue to work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), and First Nations Statistical Institute (FNSI) while promoting and adhering to the principals of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP).
5. Direct the AFN to work with regional organizations to share work done on the development of 'tools of governance' – systems to manage First Nations lands and resources, services, people and finances so that 'an investment in one First Nation will be an investment in all First Nations'
6. Direct the AFN to urge Canada to ensure First Nation regional and local ICT infrastructure are sustainable through new and ongoing core funding.

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