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

Resolution no.72/2011

TITLE:	Treaty Land Entitlement Claims in Manitoba
SUBJECT:	Treaties
MOVED BY:	Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, Proxy, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief David Crate, Fisher River Cree Nation, MB
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Certain First Nations in Manitoba entered into or adhered to various Treaties, particularly Treaties No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10, with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada between 1871 and 1910 which provided, among other obligations, that Canada would lay aside and reserve tracts of land for the exclusive use and benefit for these First Nations.

B. These First Nations did not receive the full allocation of lands as promised within the written terms of their respective Treaties with the Crown.

C. These First Nations established the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee ("TLEC") of Manitoba to act as their representative in the negotiation of an agreement to address and remedy the outstanding land entitlement that they possessed under their Treaties.

D. The Manitoba Framework Agreement ("MFA") on Treaty Land Entitlement ("TLE") was signed by the TLEC, on behalf of 21 Entitlement First Nations, Canada and Manitoba on May 29, 1997, at the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba, which was intended to provide up to 1.1 million acres of additional Reserve lands to these 21 Entitlement First Nations.

E. Under the MFA the TLEC is mandated to assist and support its Member Entitlement First Nations in the implementation of their TLE agreements and in all aspects of the Reserve creation process.

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F. 15 of these 21 Entitlement First Nations have signed their individual TLE agreements under the MFA and the total Crown land and Other land amounts they are entitled to select and acquire is 963,097 acres.

G. As of September 2011, Canada has set aside a total of 453,338 acres of land as Reserve for these 15 Entitlement First Nations.

H. In 2005,Canada's Auditor General criticized Canada for its lack of progress in meeting and satisfying its obligations under all TLE agreements in Manitoba, including the slow rate of converting lands to Reserve status for the Entitlement First Nations.

I. In 2008, TLEC secured a five year funding commitment from Canada under the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development enabling it to fulfill its MFA TLE implementation responsibilities, and this funding arrangement is set to expire at the end of fiscal year 2012/2013.

J. There remain a total of 509,759 acres of land selections and land acquisitions to be converted to Reserve status for these 15 Entitlement First Nations.

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

1. Express their support for the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) as it continues with its efforts to settle the outstanding Treaty land obligations owing to its Member Entitlement First Nations.

2. Call upon Canada to uphold the Honour of the Crown and continue to support the TLEC beyond 2013 so the TLEC can continue to meet its mandate to assist and support its Member Entitlement First Nations in converting TLE land selections and acquisitions to Reserve status under the MFA.

3. Direct the National Chief and Executive to support TLEC in its efforts to secure a new funding commitment with Canada beyond 2013 to enable all land selections and land acquisitions to be converted to Reserve status.

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