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

Resolution no.57/2011

TITLE:	Support for Akwesasne Leadership in Addressing State of Crisis Regarding Substance Abuse
SUBJECT:	Health / Substance Abuse Prevention
MOVED BY:	Grand Chief Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell, Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Bill Montour, Six Nations of Grand River, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Akwesasne is a multi-jurisdictional community separated by the international and political borders of the United States, Canada, New York State, and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

B. The issue of drug abuse in Akwesasne is exacerbated by the multi-jurisdictional nature of the community of Akwesasne.

C. The drug-abuse culture has become an affliction for our youth at unprecedented levels.

D. The lack of drug-abuse treatment facilities in the immediate and surrounding area prevents the afflicted from seeking and obtaining immediate treatment for themselves or family members for crisis intervention, after care and family support.

E. Drug addiction and chemical dependency has been proven to lead to the emotional and physical abuse of family members, especially of children and elders.

F. Communities with higher than average percentages of drug addiction and chemical dependency have higher incidences of suicide, violent crimes, illegal activity and other forms of abuse.

G. The communities of Akwesasne and Six Nations are two of many First Nations that are experiencing rapidly growing drug-abuse and chemical dependency in the youth population.

H. First Nations traditional medicine practitioners, who utilize a mind, body and spirit approach in treatment, maintenance and counseling, are not recognized or funded due to concern for such practitioners being non-certification/license to practice.

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. Fully support the efforts of Akwesasne leadership and their declaration of a state of crisis for the Community of Akwesasne due to its rapidly growing rate of drug abuse and chemical dependency.
2. Urge Federal, Provincial and local governments to support Akwesasne by recognizing culturally-based, wholistic healing approaches.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for funding to address the substance abuse problem.
4. Urge Federal and Provincial governments to identify funds to resource adequate community-based programming and services.
5. Recognize the urgency of the drug abuse issue in Akwesasne and support actions of Akwesasne leadership to address this issue head-on, with or without government assistance.
6. Support communities in the work they are doing while respecting diversified needs.
7. Direct the AFN to work in partnership with Health Canada to recognize our First Nations traditional practitioners, traditional healers, and ceremonial elders.
8. Support the development of a comprehensive national mental wellness system for First Nations that ensures a continuum of care across all services.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF