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

Resolution no.56/2011

TITLE:	Support for the Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Healing Networking Center and other Indian Residential Schools Healing Initiatives beyond 2012
SUBJECT:	Indian Residential Schools
MOVED BY:	Wendall Nicolas, Proxy, Madawaska First Nation, NB
SECONDED BY:	Darrah Beaver, Proxy, Tobique First Nation, NB
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 8 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states: (1) Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture. (2) States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities; (b) Any action which has the aim of or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights; (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration; (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

B. The Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) has been funded with $475 Million between 1998 and 2012 to support healing initiatives which address the legacy of physical and sexual abuse suffered in Canada's Indian Residential School System.

C. The survivors-driven Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Healing Networking Center (MMHNC), established in 2003, is one of 12 remaining healing initiatives funded through the AHF through to September 2012.

D. The Clinical and Traditional First Nation-based and mental wellness approaches adopted by these initiatives for survivors and their descendants has established greater individual, peer, familial, intra- and inter community opportunities for healing.

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E. The Federal Government has not announced new funding to support this critical work.

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

1. Call on the National Chief to meet with the federal Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and Health Canada on an urgent basis to undertake the following:
   a. Establish a new “evidence-based” dialogue on the on-going impact of Indian Residential Schools;
   b. Consider shared priorities and opportunities for sustaining first nation-based and driven clinical and traditional care approaches to healing for survivors, their descendants, and communities;
   c. Seek an agreement to extend financial support for existing and expanded initiatives, such as the Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Healing Networking Center.

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