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

Resolution no.64/2011

TITLE:	Support for a Negotiated Joint Panel Review in Matawa Region
SUBJECT:	Resource Development
MOVED BY:	Stan Beardy, Proxy, Eabametoong First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Norm Hardesty, Moose Cree First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The Matawa First Nations have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programs for indigenous peoples for such conservations and protection, without discrimination (Article 29 of UNDRIP).

B. The Matawa First Nations Chiefs support mineral development upon completion of all due diligence in the environment and which supports the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations people.

C. The Matawa First Nations have called for a negotiated Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment to provide due diligence on the environmental impacts of mineral development and accompanying infrastructure in the Matawa region.

D. The Mushkegowuk First Nations have supported the Matawa First Nations in their efforts for a negotiated joint review panel.

E. The government of Canada is only willing to support a comprehensive Environmental Assessment, which fast tracks the development in a mostly paper based process and does not provide for extensive community consultations.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to support the Matawa First Nations in advocating that the Government of Canada support a negotiated Joint Review Panel for the mineral development and accompanying infrastructure in their area.

2. Direct that the negotiated Joint Review Panel be guided by a Memorandum of Understanding between the individual First Nation, Canada and Ontario which could include the following, according to the direction of each First Nation:

    - Process for appointment of the panel;
        - consideration of specific environmental effects,
        - infrastructure alternatives and the regional environment,
        - direct and cumulative effects of development on the cultural values, socio economic conditions, and
        - The needs of present and future Matawa First Nations members.

    - Hearings within First Nations during the EA process and provisions for oral and written translation in our languages;
    - Inclusion of Matawa knowledge and perspectives within the environmental assessment process;
    - Adequate funding, timelines and related process consideration that reflect the needs of First Nations;
    - Joint implementation provision for Canada, Ontario and First Nations.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF