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

Resolution no.67/2011

TITLE:	Investigating Options for the Implementation of the First Nations Natural Resource Institute: We are the Land; the Resources are Us
SUBJECT:	Environment and Natural Resources
MOVED BY:	Chris Lewis, Proxy, Okanagan Indian Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Isadore Day, Proxy, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources they own and traditionally own, and Canada has endorsed these principles.

B. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognizes the importance of including indigenous peoples and their unique knowledge in the stewardship of biological resources, and Canada is a party to this agreement.

C. First Nations have been under-represented in all resource sectors and in activities related to the development of resource sectors, including policy development, legislation, negotiations on use and protection of natural resources, regulatory approvals, and various key decision making activities related to fisheries, forest products, forest tenure reform, ecosystem management, the global carbon economy, and other natural resource sectors.

D. First Nations must have the technical capacity to support the rights-based agenda to access economic benefit from environmentally responsible development, the extraction industry, harvesting rights and the sustainable management of natural resources.

E. First Nations must take a leadership role in Canada's natural resource sectors in order to support their rights, title and ownership over their traditional lands, as well as encourage meaningful decision making, shared management of resources, and the equitable sharing of economic opportunities and benefits associated with their lands and the natural resources therein.

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F. First Nations leadership in natural resource sectors can be promoted and facilitated through information, guidance and support at the national level.

G. Resolution #27/ 2011 directs the AFN to collaborate with First Nations, First Nation sector organizations, government agencies, industry partners, academic institutions, and private sector organizations to examine and develop options for the creation of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute, reporting through AFN processes, to advance sustainable growth and development in various natural resource sectors through research, policy, education, capacity development, advocacy and support.

H. The Chiefs-in-Assembly have directed the AFN to bring these options and recommendations on the creation of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute to Chiefs-in-Assembly for further consideration and decision-making.

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

1. Affirm that the First Nations National Resources Institute will support inherent jurisdictional rights and responsibilities over natural resources.
2. Direct the AFN to develop and seek consensus on options related to the establishment of the First Nations Natural Resource Institute.
3. Direct the AFN to develop an implementation plan for the establishment of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute.
4. Direct the AFN to bring the implementation plan, including funding options, to Chiefs-in-Assembly for further consideration and decision-making.
5. Direct the AFN to deliver a due diligence platform as to what extent funding options are in keeping with and respecting a rights-based approach.

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