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

Resolution no.74/2011

TITLE:	Call for Investments to Respond to the National Water & Wastewater Engineering Assessment Report
SUBJECT:	Water & Wastewater Infrastructure
MOVED BY:	Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Joel Abram, Oneida Nation of the Thames, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states "Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individual, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law".

B. The UN General Assembly declared in July 2010 that safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right essential to the full enjoyment of life and all other human rights.

C. The main United Nations body dealing with human rights has affirmed that the right to water and sanitation is contained in existing human rights treaties, and that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of this and all other basic human rights.

D. In July 2011, the federal government released the National Assessment of First Nations Water and Wastewater Systems and identified a national funding need of $4.7 billion over 10 years. The implementation of the recommendations in this report is a required before any further steps on the proposed federal water and wastewater legislation and before any intended implementation of regulations.

E. Budget 2010 extended the First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan for another two years and will expire March 2012.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

F. The Government of Canada has not identified funds it will allocate to meet the stated need of $4.7 billion dollars to address the recommendations contained in the report.

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

1. Call upon the Government of Canada to undertake its fiduciary responsibility to protect the health and safety of First Nations and immediately develop a 5 year capital plan and provide immediate and sustainable funding for the short- and long-term to address the high and medium and low overall risk water and wastewater systems needs identified in the report.
2. Direct the AFN to request the government assist First Nations and their technical support organizations to carry out a knowledgeable analysis of their community reports.
3. Direct the AFN to request the Government of Canada provide yearly progress reports on the progress made on reduction of the high, medium and low overall risk water and wastewater systems.
4. Direct Canada to provide resources to build new water and wastewater treatment plants that are required by First Nations.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF