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

Resolution no.75/2011

TITLE:	Reform of First Nations Policing Program
SUBJECT:	Justice
MOVED BY:	Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 39 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration".

B. Public Safety Canada, Aboriginal Policing Directorate, received an increased budget in the 2011-2012 fiscal year from $105M to $120M which served to only offset a pending 19% cut in funding to the First Nations Policing Program announced by officials in March 2011.

C. Currently, the First Nations Policing Program downloads responsibility and corresponding liability to First Nation governments without adequate resources to meet the responsibilities under the program.

D. In addition to AFN support resolutions 51-2009 and 86-2010, AFN resolution 28-2008 addressed the crisis in First Nation policing and mandated the AFN to advocate for additional resources for First Nations to establish police services that are professional, effective, culturally appropriate and accountable to the First Nations they serve.

E. AFN resolution 25-2010 further called for a new legislative framework and adequate resources for the First Nations Policing Program.

F. The treatment of First Nation police officers and First Nation governments is discriminatory, as all other police services in Canada are recognized as essential services. This means that they are funded at levels to ensure they can meet the governance requirements and that police officers have the necessary tools to perform at peak levels.

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G. In order to keep First Nation citizens and communities safe, First Nation police services require adequate and equitable funding within a new fiscal relationship that respects the jurisdiction of First Nation governments.

H. Within the context of Canada's proposed Bill C10, there are increased concerns regarding policing resources and in particular, the disproportionately high rates of victimization and criminalization of First Nation citizens that must be addressed within a holistic and restorative approach, including adequate funding for basic services, First Nations policing, and justice initiatives.

I. The Ipperwash Inquiry recommends fundamental changes to the First Nations Policing Program to strengthen First Nation policing services, including sustainable funding commitments.

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

1. Direct the AFN to call upon Minister Toews to transform the fiscal relationship in order to change the status of the First Nations Policing Program from "enhancement program" to an essential service.
2. Direct the AFN to urge the Aboriginal Policing Directorate to fully assess the funding adequacy related to the First Nations Policing Program.
3. Direct the AFN to assess the merits of a human rights complaint under the *Canadian Human Rights Act* in relation to the discriminatory funding practices under the First Nations Policing Program.

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