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| TITLE | Support for First Nations to prepare for arrival of newly registered members resulting from amendments to the *Indian Act* |
| SUBJECT: | *Indian Act* Registration |
| MOVED BY: | Grand Chief Konrad H. Sioui, Huron Wendat Nation, Wendake, Quebec |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames, ON |
| DECISION: | Carried by Consensus |

WHEREAS:

A. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) estimates that there will be 45,000 new registrations following the upcoming adoption of the amendments to the *Indian Act* to respond to the BC Court of Appeal decision in the *McIvor* case;

B. Funding from the federal government is already insufficient;

C. The lands reserved for First Nations and the available infrastructure are clearly not sufficient and will not allow for adequate housing for all First Nations families and citizens;

D. The registration process established by INAC is already very long and often burdensome for applicants and this situation will only worsen with the addition of a great number of new registration applications;

E. The federal government has not yet been able to provide clear answers to First Nations as to how it will address the above-mentioned problems, despite the fact that the adoption of amendments to the *Indian Act* is imminent;

F. Newly registered members of First Nations have the right to be received into their communities with respect and to have equal access to the services offered there;

G. The federal government has a fiduciary duty towards First Nations and, as such, must take all appropriate means to ensure that all First Nations members can live with the honour and dignity to which they are entitled;

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H. All treaties between First Nations and the Federal Crown concluded before and after Confederation, including peace and alliance treaties, must be equally honoured, protected and fully implemented;

I. Pursuant to those treaties, First Nations and the Federal Crown have a treaty relationship and, as treaty partners, owe each other mutual assistance, alliance against common threats, economic and commercial co-operation and the sharing of territory and resources.

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

1. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government to establish a specific and practical plan of action to deal properly with new registrations, which includes the following elements:

    a. Retention of the services of well-known commissioners to develop a quicker and more efficient registration process, including in particular the presumption of "Indianness" for the applicants, thus requiring the Department to prove that the applicant does not meet the conditions of registration;

    b. Securing of adequate resources, based on realistic budget forecasts to allow First Nations to prepare for the arrival of new registrants and able them to offer the services to which they are entitled, including access to decent infrastructure and housing in their community;

    c. The development of a calculation method, similar to that used in many treaties, that would ensure that the surface area of each reserve is proportional to the size of its population.

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