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| TITLE: | Support for Band and Reserve Status for Whitewater Lake First Nation in Ontario |
| SUBJECT: | Exercising and Implementing Rights |
| MOVED BY: | Chief Arlene Slipperjack, Whitewater Lake First Nation, ON |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief James Mamakwa, Kingfisher First Nation, ON |
| DECISION: | Carried by Consensus |

WHEREAS:

A. The Whitewater Lake First Nation (WLFN) is facing a critical situation in its struggle to achieve band and reserve status under the *Indian Act*.

B. Several Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Chiefs of Ontario (COO), and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) resolutions have been passed over the years in support of WLFN, including Resolution 10/35 at the NAN Keewaywin Chiefs Conference on June 8, 2010 and Resolution 48/2005 at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly held October 31-November 2, 2005.

C. Despite these resolutions, the WLFN community does not appear to be any closer to band and reserve status.

D. The community is surrounded by the Wabikimi Park, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has threatened enforcement action against the community under the provincial *Public Lands Act* and other grounds.

E. The Chief of WLFN met recently with the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, which may result in a positive process to deal with some of the issues connected with the Park.

F. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will not deal substantively with WLFN until a lawful obligation can be established through the land claims process, which will take several years to complete.

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G. The current INAC policy on new bands and reserves cannot accommodate the WLFN situation, unless a lawful obligation is established.

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

1. Confirm their support for band and reserve recognition for Whitewater Lake First Nation (WLFN).
2. Direct the National Chief to work with WLFN, Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation on a priority basis to achieve band and reserve status in the shortest time possible.
3. Direct that this collaborative work shall include strategic and tactical planning, advocacy, communications management, and support for the claim, subject to available resources.
4. Further direct that the National Chief prioritize negotiations with INAC aimed at adjusting the policy on new bands and reserves to accommodate situations like WLFN.
5. Request that AFN report on progress at subsequent Annual and Special Chiefs Assemblies.

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