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| TITLE: | 2011 National Indigenous Water Conference |
| SUBJECT: | Environment |
| MOVED BY: | Ron Lameman,,Proxy, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, AB |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowinini Serpent River First Nation, ON |
| DECISION: | Carried by Consensus |

WHEREAS:

A. Water is essential to human life — for basic health and survival, as well as for food production, economic activities and cultural and spiritual ceremonies.

B. In November 2002, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights affirmed that access to adequate amounts of clean water for personal and domestic uses is a fundamental human right of all people.

C. The United Nations Water Development Report of March 2006, and other related documents, state that climate change and a combination of lower precipitation and higher evaporation rates in many regions of the world are resulting in diminished water quantities in rivers, lakes and groundwater, and increased pollution is damaging ecosystems and the health, lives and livelihoods of those without access to adequate, safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

D. In 2002, the Canadian government amended the Fisheries Act's Metal Mining Effluent Regulation (MMER) to allow lakes and other freshwater bodies to be re-classified as "tailings impoundment areas," thereby permitting mining companies to circumvent the general prohibition of dumping toxic material into fish-bearing bodies of water.

E. Mining, pulp, and chemical companies and the oil and gas industry are coming into traditional ancestral homelands and are consciously being allowed to destroy lakes and other waters with toxic tailings, despite objections by First Nations.

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F. Water is being treated as a commodity by the Government and industry which is unacceptable to many First Nations communities.

G. Health Canada reported in a "National Overview (1995-2007) on Drinking Water Advisories in First Nations Communities" that a total of 162 advisories had been in effect for longer than one year. Inadequate disinfection was cited as a reason in the majority (57%) of advisories, followed by unacceptable microbiological quality (45%), equipment malfunction (20%), and situations where operation of system could compromise public health (16%). The report also stated that there exists a significant increasing trend in the number of Drinking Water Advisories *in effect* between the periods 2003 to 2007.

H. The Assembly of First Nations has passed approximately 15 resolutions from 1999 to 2009 concerning water related issues including: safe drinking water as a human right, water and waste water legislation, protection of treaty and Aboriginal right to water, the export of water under NAFTA, First Nation water management, a national environment and water summit, supporting clean water campaigns and the adverse effects of climate change on source water availability.

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

1. Hold a First Nations-specific National Water Conference in Alberta in 2011 to discuss current water related issues and develop a strategic action plan aimed at the recognition of First Nation jurisdiction over water and ensuring First Nations access to safe, adequate sources for freshwater as a treaty and Aboriginal right for the preservation of health, economic and spiritual activities - now and for future generations.

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