



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
JULY 2012
RESOLUTIONS UPDATE REPORT FOR 2011 RESOLUTIONS

1	Coordination and Support for the Youth, Women's and Elders Councils	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, proxy, Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Reaffirm their strong support for the on-going roles of the Assembly of First Nations Elders Council, Women's Council and Youth Council.
2. Direct the AFN to designate a resource development coordinator to work with all three councils and designate support staff as required to assist.
3. Direct the AFN to coordinate annual Tri-Council meetings to facilitate partnerships, share information, and discuss strategies and actions to move forward on collectively fulfilling their mandates.
4. Direct the AFN to explore options for increasing funding for the work of the Councils.
5. Direct the AFN to work with the Councils to discuss options for meaningfully including all Councils in decision-making and policy processes, ensuring family and gender balance in all aspects of work.

UPDATE:

The AFN has recently created two positions in the core team to respond to this resolution. The first is a full-time fundraiser who will be tasked with helping to raise funds in cooperation with the Tri-Council. The second is a staff person specifically tasked to support the Tri-Council. It is expected that through the creation of these two positions the AFN will be better able to support the Tri-Council can collectively fulfill their mandates.

2	Call for a Royal Commission on Violence Against Indigenous Girls & Women	Chief Bob Chamberlain, Kwicksutaineauk Ah-kwa- mish First Nation, BC	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the Federal government to convene a Royal Commission on Violence Against Indigenous Girls and Women to make concrete and specific recommendations to end violence against Indigenous girls and women at a national level.
2. Recommend that the Royal Commission on Violence Against Indigenous Girls and Women should include Indigenous and/or woman chief commissioner(s), along with an Indigenous youth council, infusing the inquiry with both Indigenous, woman and girl perspectives.

3. Direct the National Chief and Assembly of First Nations to use every opportunity to raise awareness about violence and sexual exploitation through the world wide web against Indigenous women and girls, and to work with like-minded organizations to further advocate for a Royal Commission.

UPDATE:

National Chief Atleo and the AFN Executive have been active in advocating to end violence against Indigenous women and girls, and to support families who have lost loved ones.

The AFN participated in the Expert meeting on Violence Against Indigenous Women as per article 22 of UNDRIP on January 18-22, 2012 in New York to continue to advocate to end violence against Indigenous girls and women. National Chief Atleo tabled a joint statement on ending violence at the meeting of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2012.

AFN hosted a National Justice Forum on February 21-23, 2012, to engage leaders and frontline workers to develop a national justice strategy and an action plan to end violence against Indigenous girls and women. A draft strategy called *Ensuring the Rights of First Nations Women and Girls* will be discussed at the Annual General Assembly. Also, a declaration will be available for Chiefs and leaders to sign, declaring their personal commitment to do all they can to stop violence against women and girls.

3	Support for Indigenous Women in Community Leadership Program	Chief Candice Paul, St. Mary's First Nation, NB	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the *Indigenous Women in Community Leadership (IWCL)* program and the implementation of Asset-Based Community Development skills and tools.
2. Encourage First Nation Governments to provide placement opportunities for IWCL participants.

UPDATE:

The AFN Women's Council has been promoting this program through its networks at community, regional, and national levels to ensure First Nation women are aware of the unique opportunities available through this program. In support of the IWCL and their graduates and educators, Chief Candice Paul of the AFN Women's Council delivered supportive and encouraging remarks on behalf of the National Chief to the IWCL graduates at their first graduation ceremony at the Cody Institute in August 2011. In addition, youth council representative Ashley Julien referenced this program in a June 2012 presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women, as part of its study on improving the economic prospects of girls.

4	Making First Nations Health a Priority	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON	Chief Pierre Pelletier, Red Rock Band, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate the National Chief to make First Nations health a priority.
2. Mandate the National Chief to raise with the Federal Health Minister the need to urgently recognize First Nations' Inherent and Treaty Rights to Federal health services and the Crown's fiduciary duty to First Nations.
3. Mandate the National Chief to call on the Government of Canada to honour the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Action Plan.
4. Mandate the AFN to advocate for appropriate coverage of required prescriptions on the NIHB coverage list.
5. Mandate the AFN to advocate for and influence sustainable and meaningful system change in cancer control for First Nations people, utilizing current partnerships, such as the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Action Network, and developing new partnerships with appropriate cancer-related organizations in an effort to initiate system-wide change.
6. Direct the National Chief to seek greater government accountability and transparency of health transfer funding.
7. Direct the AFN to strongly advocate for First Nation representation in all national and regional level discussions addressing integration to include *Jordan's Principle*, Home and Community Care and Assisted Living.
8. Direct the AFN to continue to work with the Government of Canada to create a First Nations specific approach to address First Nations issues.
9. Mandate the AFN to advocate and ensure the Federal government and other bodies such as the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, the Council of the Federation and Provincial Health Ministers, include First Nations in revising and extending the *Health Accord* beyond 2014, and further include a parallel commitment for a First Nations Health Transfer.

UPDATE:

The AFN held a National First Nations Health Forum on November 7-9, 2011. Approximately 800 delegates participated over the three days discussing matters related to health. Over 80 presenters provided workshops on numerous topics such as: the AFN Health Leadership Action Plan; the Regional Health Survey; National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program Renewal; the AFN First Nations Health Plan; Sustainability Dialogue – Health Accord 2014, Shortfalls and Transfer; First Nations e-Health; Jordan's Principle; Non-Insured Health Benefits – Leadership Action Plan; Governance – British Columbia Tripartite; and, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples & Health.

The National Chief issued a press release on November 9, 2011, stating that First Nation rights, responsibilities and jurisdiction must be respected and First Nation governments must be supported to implement equitable and culturally-relevant health systems that will achieve better outcomes. The AFN presented to the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology on November 17, 2011, to impress the importance of First Nation leaders being part of the 2004 Health Accord renewal discussions. In addition, on December 21, 2011, the National Chief wrote each of the Premiers, reminding them of the need for action in addressing First Nations health concerns and involving First Nations in any and all discussions related to Health Accord Renewal.

Phase 2 of the Health Canada- AFN- Public Health Agency Canada (PHAC) Task Group also addresses First Nations health issues within their workplan, including as Sustainability, Mental Wellness and Non-Insured Health Benefits.

5	Non-Insured Health Benefits - Medical Transportation	Councillor Brent Wilson, Proxy, Rolling River First Nation, MB	Chief Dennis Cameron, Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve No.292, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call for immediate attention of the National Chief and First Nation leaders to the inadequate funding of Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Medical Transportation.
2. Mandate the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to work with Health Canada's NIHB program specifically on Medical Transportation to conduct a cost-analysis on recent gas prices and the cost of air travel against the medical transportation budgets for First Nation communities and to take remedial and proactive action based on the results.
3. Direct the AFN to urge the Federal government to increase the medical transportation budgets for First Nations to accommodate for the increase in gas prices.
4. Direct the AFN to urge the Federal government to resolve the financial deficits in Medical Transportation budgets resulting from the increase in gas prices.

UPDATE:

Medical transportation funding was discussed at the November 2, 2011 First Nations Caucus meeting with NIHB Regional Managers and HQ. NIHB has committed to working with the Caucus to review the medical transportation policies where there are issues. The AFN included NIHB cost estimates in the pre-budget submission that took into account A-Base shortage, Mclvor and Qalipu new registrants. In addition, the AFN is in the process of conducting a cost analysis of current fuel and airfare rates compared to NIHB Medical Transportation (MT) allocations. This analysis is expected to be completed by the fall 2012.

6	Support to Amend First Nations Non-Insured Health Benefits Program National Policy	Chief Warren White, Naoikamegwanning First Nation, ON	Chief Simon Fobister, Grassy Narrows First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for a review and amendment to the national policy on Non-Insured Health Benefits to increase the quality of healthcare service delivery for First Nation members.
2. Mandate the AFN to work in conjunction with First Nations to develop the business case to support and increase services to First Nations based on needs, not a formula, and to provide advice to First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) with a proposed course of action recommending solutions to increase the

health status of all First Nation communities and First Nation citizens.

3. Support First Nations to establish a National Forum with the Federal Minister of Health, to address all current health-related issues and concerns.

UPDATE:

Issues with NIHB have been raised at every opportunity. The AFN participates on a number of committees with FNIHB regarding NIHB policies and program-related issues. The AFN has also partnered with a number of national organizations such as the Canadian Dental Association in an effort to educate Canadians on the current health inequalities faced by First Nations and advocate for improved health care service delivery to all First Nations. In addition, a letter was submitted to the Standing Committee on Health (HESA) in January 2012, requesting a study be conducted on NIHB on five key areas: a comparative analysis to other federal health benefits programs, new client population requirements, using Nation-to-Nation consultation processes for health management issues, contractual obligation for Express Scripts, and a review of administrative procedures (e.g. predetermination, prior approvals, etc.). To date, a response from HESA has not yet been received.

7	Support for Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand Council Treaty #3 Strategy on "Restoring our Nations: Action Plan for Community Recovery from Opioid Addiction"	Bruce Achneepineskum, Proxy, Marten Falls First Nation, ON	Chief Warren White, Naotkamegwaning First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT#3) "Restoring Our Nations: Action Plan for Community Recovery from Opioid Addiction", a strategy to address the increasing addiction to opiate drugs so they can fund programs and services for their members.
2. Direct the National Chief and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Executive Committee to urge the Federal government to develop, implement and fund a First Nations Opiate Recovery and Prevention Strategy, outside of the National Native Alcohol and Drug Program.
3. Direct the AFN to assist NAN and GCT#3 with securing funding for the "Restoring Our Nations: Action Plan for Community Recovery from Opioid Addiction" strategy.
4. Direct the AFN to report back to Chiefs-in-Assembly on progress developing a National First Nations Opiate Recovery and Prevention strategy.
5. Direct the AFN to urge other jurisdictions to examine how this opioid epidemic has placed innocent women and children at risk and has violated their rights to live in a safe environment due to lack of resources for security and policing and targeting those who prey on innocent women, youth and children.
6. Direct the National Chief and AFN Executive Committee to advocate for First Nations inclusion in the Anti-Drug strategy that will fund community security members to implement search and seizure of illicit drugs and charges against drug dealers and to encourage that the profits from illicit drug trade be directed back to the community for prevention programs.
7. Direct the AFN to lobby for NIHB access to Suboxone and Subutex for medical detoxification and/or maintenance, and ensure controls are in place for documented medical legitimacy for OxyContin.

UPDATE:

The AFN Health and Social Secretariat coordinated a Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) and Community Programs meeting on August 26, 2011, to discuss opioid addiction and requested that NIHB provide access to Suboxone for affected community members in Northern Ontario. The AFN also requested that NIHB and Community Programs provide the necessary health supports – such as mental health counseling. A commitment was obtained from NIHB to approve Suboxone for limited use for those clients who are properly supported by a health professional in their community. The AFN is continuing its ongoing efforts to ensure NIHB and the Community Programs Directorate are working together to develop addictions programs for illicit drugs and Opioids.

On March 20, 2012, AFN co-chaired the first expanded meeting of the Prescription Drug Abuse Coordinating Committee (PDACC) in Ottawa, Ontario. Originally, a committee internal to the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB)-Health Canada (HC), the committee was expanded to include the AFN, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, and the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation, after the Deputy Minister of HC directed FNIHB to work in partnership with First Nations, the provinces and territories and the afore-mentioned organizations. The AFN intends to bring this issue forward to this committee.

8	Increases to Sports Funding for First Nation Communities	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate that the Sport Participation Development Initiative Fund is accessible and equitable to all First Nations communities.
2. Direct the AFN to include the Sport Participation Development Initiative Funding as part of their mandate to move forward to develop a New Fiscal Relationship between First Nations and Canada.
3. Direct the AFN to seek increases to the Federal funding available for sports to First Nation communities.

UPDATE:

The National Chief met with the Minister of Heritage and Sport to share work on IndigenACTION, advocate for equitable access to the Sport Participation Development Initiative Fund for First Nations and to seek increases in funding for sports in First Nation communities. The National Chief also sent a letter to the Minister to formalize these requests including a request for participation in future Federal, Provincial/Territorial Minister of Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity meetings and to ensure First Nation inclusion in the 2015 Pan Am Games. The AFN is awaiting a formal response from the Minister.

9	Support for Further Work, Education & Awareness of Canadian Blood Services' OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network in Partnership with the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC	Clifford Atleo Sr., Proxy, Ehattesaht First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the work of the Canadian Blood Services' OneMatch Stem Cell & Marrow Network (OneMatch) and the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (ANAC), and understand that:
 - a. ANAC members, with the support of OneMatch, will ensure that all potential OneMatch registrants are fully informed of what it means to be a potential stem cell donor if they are found to be a match to a patient in need.
 - b. OneMatch will respect the traditions and beliefs of all Aboriginal peoples while carrying out the mission and mandate of OneMatch in compliance with applicable legislation and industry standards.
2. Encourage all First Nations who want to pass similar resolutions to generate awareness of the need for Stem Cell and Marrow donors and to support OneMatch's recruitment of First Nation peoples in order to better support First Nation patients in need.
3. Mandate the Assembly of First Nations to promote awareness of the Canadian Blood Services' OneMatch Stem Cell & Marrow Network (OneMatch).

UPDATE:

The AFN met with Canadian Blood Services' OneMatch to discuss and align priorities. OneMatch hosted an information booth during the AFN Health Forum, where they disseminated information on their Stem Cell and Marrow donor programs.

OneMatch presented to the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN) in January 2012. Since then, discussions have focused on the need for OneMatch to develop new material that is specific for First Nations. OneMatch would like to move forward with this and is looking to the AFN to provide guidance.

10	Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve – Denying Opportunities and Discriminating Against the Children of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation	Valerie Whyte, Proxy, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, MB	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Disagree with Health Canada's decision to deny the children of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve (AHSOR) program support to learn the language, customs, traditions and protocols unique to their culture and community.
2. Assert that adequate funding is required to ensure that all of our First Nation children are able to access AHSOR programs and services.

3. Direct the National Chief to raise this matter with the Minister of Health and request that Health Canada work directly with the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation.
4. Direct the National Chief to advocate for adequate financial and capital funding to ensure that all First Nation children, including the children of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, are able to access needed AHSOR programs and services.

UPDATE:

The AFN met with the AHSOR team from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to update them on the resolution and a copy of the resolution was shared. A letter raising AHSOR funding and accessibility concerns, and detailing Mathias Colomb First Nations' situation was sent to the Health Canada Director General. Manitoba First Nations and Inuit Health regional office (FNIH) was also briefed on the situation. Advocating for increases for AHSOR and Daycare Centers will continue to be part of all national advocacy, including briefings and correspondence.

11	First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Consolidated Contribution Agreement and First Nations Intellectual Property Rights	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON	Chief Dennis Cameron, Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve No. 292, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to ensure that Health Canada reinstate the original provision respecting the intellectual property rights and documents produced by First Nations whereby the copyright and ownership of such documents remains with the First Nation and their respective organizations and research partners in question. This reinstated clause will replace the new clause that was placed in all new First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Consolidated Contribution Agreements effective April 1, 2011.

UPDATE:

The AFN has been advocating for changes referenced in this resolution for several months and have had some successes, however, the Intellectual Property Rights Clause remains outstanding. A letter notifying FNIHB of our ongoing concerns and the related resolution was sent on September 30, 2011. In a letter dated November 9, 2011 from FNIHB, it was indicated they are willing to meet again and discuss further the issues raised in the resolution. To address ongoing concerns, the AFN continues to advocate for a satisfactory resolution of these issues, and for the reinstatement clause to replace the former clause.

12	Support for Lands Rights Over \$150M	Valerie Whyte, Proxy, Matthias Colomb First Nation, MB	Chief Harry St-Denis, Wolf Lake First Nation, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on Canada to support First Nations with land rights valued over \$150M to access a clear, fair and timely process to address their land rights.
2. Call on the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to honour the 2007 Political Agreement with the Assembly of First Nations with respect to land rights valued over \$150M.
3. Call on Canada to work cooperatively, collaboratively and in a true partnership with First Nations that have land rights valued over \$150M to put in place a clear, fair and timely process (with no preconceived criteria) to address these issues, coordinated by a committee of First Nations with these land rights.
4. Call on the Federal Parliamentary Standing Committee to proceed with the study that had been scheduled prior to the last election and to call on all First Nations with large-valued land rights grievances to testify.
5. Confirm the intentions of First Nations with land rights valued over \$150M to form a voluntary committee to develop strategies with respect to:
 - a. Appearing before the Parliamentary Committee if a study is to be completed; and
 - b. Concluding an agreement with Canada as soon as possible.

UPDATE:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) continues to oppose engagement on this issue with the AFN. As a consequence, AFN has sought to advance this issue elsewhere, including as a part of two think tanks held early in 2012 for Canada's 5-year review of Justice at Last. AFN will continue to support First Nations that have these claims in the development of an effective advocacy strategy.

13	Review of the Potential Impacts of Administrative Law on Aboriginal & Treaty Rights	Chief William Montour, Six Nations of the Grand River, ON	Grand Chief Konrad Sioui, Huron Wendat Nation, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations to take all action necessary to ensure Federal and Provincial governments do not attempt to use administrative law to override Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.
2. Direct the National Chief, within two years of the passage of this resolution, to make recommendations to the Chiefs-in-Assembly as to the specific steps that could be taken to help protect the exercise by First Nations of their inherent right to self-government in the areas of the establishment, jurisdiction, operations and processes of such regulatory, dispute resolution and advisory bodies as they see fit to create.

UPDATE:

The AFN continues to review options with respect to the implementation of this resolution, including the possible commissioning of a study to examine and make recommendations for moving forward, as well as working with the Cree-Naskapi Commission to identify other appropriate actions. Efforts are underway to partner with other groups / bodies that are interested in pursuing this issue. Further reporting will take place at upcoming Assemblies.

14	Additions to Reserve and Economic Development	Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, ON	Chief Joe Knockwood, Fort Folly First Nation, NB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Affirm that enabling First Nation economic development is a key element of exercising our rights, jurisdictions and assuming our responsibilities as First Nation governments.
2. Agree that the current Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy lacks clarity and presents significant impediments to First Nation economic development, such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Completely unacceptable timeframes and delays that inhibit and significantly diminish economic potential and benefit from claim settlements;
 - b. Land purchase prices and transaction costs that can exceed the appraised land value (based on a multiplier of one acre);
 - c. The impacts of Provincial and Municipal governments that do not have a veto over a First Nation's ATR but that often frustrate the timely conversion of land; and
 - d. Land selections policies / practices for commercial development purposes that are unduly restrictive and/or ineffective.
3. Agree that the ATR policy be amended to ensure that First Nation rights, economic interests and self-sufficiency are promoted rather than restricted and that the process be streamlined to a target of two years.
4. Call on the AFN to report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly as progress is made.

UPDATE:

AFN is actively engaged in discussions with Canada aimed at improving the ATR policy and process. This includes working on a complete renovation of the current ATR policy, as well as consideration of options for a legislative solution to address some elements of the current policy. A Joint Working Group has been formed with representation from several regions across Canada to inform these joint discussions. AFN has finalized a report and recommendations based on a series of 7 regional dialogue forums that took place in 2011 – this report is now up on AFN's website in both French and English. Recommendations with respect to the pursuit of options – including legislative reform options – will be brought to the AGA in July.

15	The Protection of Intellectual Property Rights and the Integrity of the First Nations Strategic Information and Research Governance	Grand Chief Konrad Sioui, Huron-Wendat Nation, QC	Quentin Condo, Proxy, Gesgapegiag First Nation, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Declare that the unauthorized use, misappropriation, reproduction and theft of First Nations' cultural expressions, traditional knowledge and genetic resources are prohibited and unlawful under First Nation laws.
2. Mandate the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for changes to Canada's intellectual property regime to accommodate First Nation interests and ownership over their intellectual property rights, as well as the entrenchment of adequate protections, both civil and criminal, to prevent further theft of traditional knowledge.
3. Direct the AFN to advocate for the development of a First Nation-governed national body to review patent, copyright and trademark applications before any intellectual property right is granted to an innovator. Any application that contains traditional knowledge or cultural expressions should be denied unless it is supported by an agreement with First Nations.
4. Direct the AFN to develop First Nation research, ethics and conflict of interest guidelines and standards for potential adoption by research centres, corporations, government and education institutions and present these at the December 2011 Special Chiefs Assembly for adoption by the Chiefs-in-Assembly.
5. Direct the AFN to develop a strategy to deal with those institutions that do not adopt or implement the said guidelines.
6. Assert that the government or private institutions that fund research programs and projects or that administer research chairs and programs dealing with Aboriginal peoples must reach an agreement with the First Nations concerned on a research co-management protocol. Such protocol shall set out the directions of research, orientation, methodology, ethics, intellectual property, dissemination, and access to research data and such institutions shall be served notice thereof by the Assembly of First Nations.

UPDATE:

The AFN is engaged in discussions at the World Intellectual Property Organization. The AFN has made recommendations for further inclusions in discussions on the Sub Committee's negotiations on an international treaty on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Based on the demands of the AFN and other like-minded Indigenous peoples' organizations, the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization is seeking comments on enhancing participation of observer organizations. The AFN will be providing written comments on this matter. In addition, the AFN has been active in negotiations leading up to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

In all international fora, AFN continues to advocate for an international regime that recognizes First Nation ownership and rights over its traditional knowledge, customary arts, stories, songs, other intangible expressions and knowledge of Genetic Resources. The AFN advocates for the protection and prohibition of outsiders to use, modify or steal First Nation intellectual property and derivatives.

16	Support for Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay First Nation)	Chief Miles Nowegejick, Gull Bay First Nation, ON	Councillor Patricia Magiskan, Proxy, Aroland First Nation, ON
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the Gull Bay First Nation in their land claim and encourage both the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government of Canada to work towards reaching a resolution of this claim with the Gull Bay First Nation. 2. Support the Gull Bay First Nation's call to cease all third-party activity in its territory until the boundaries of the Gull River have been confirmed. <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The National Chief has sent a letter of support on behalf of Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek to highlight its concerns and to seek an effective remedy to this situation, and will take further action as necessary in coordination with Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek.</p>			

17	Specific Claims Tribunal Act Timelines	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urge Canada to reverse its decision to arbitrarily cut-off negotiations using the timeframes provided for in the <i>Specific Claims Tribunal Act (SCTA)</i>. 2. Affirm that a decision to terminate negotiations ought to be based on the principles of good faith, respect and mutuality, rather than arbitrariness and unilateralism. 3. Call on Canada to stop the <i>de facto</i> rejection of specific claims through letters of partial acceptance and the requirement for sign-off on more issues than those identified by the partial acceptance. <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The National Chief has written to the Minister expressing concern about AANDC's approach to the SCTA timelines. A request for data / information has been followed up upon. An analysis based on this information has been presented at two think tanks hosted by AFN early in 2012 and has formed part of its submission to Canada for its 5-year review of Justice at Last (which can be found in French and English at www.afn.ca).</p>			

18	Moving Forward on First Nations Control of First Nations Education	Tyrone McNeil, Proxy, Cheam First Nation, BC	Chief Doug White, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Reaffirm the obligation of the Federal government to work with our Nations to implement the Inherent and Treaty Right to education which is recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act* and in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).
2. Assert that all agreements between the Federal government and First Nations should include a clause which affirms the commitment of the Federal government to implement the principles of the UNDRIP.
3. Encourage all First Nations to involve their youth and all citizens in advancing the Call to Action on Education by initiating local activities which build alliances, and call attention to the inequities and solutions required in First Nations education.
4. Call upon the National Chief to work with the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education to develop a strategy for engagement with the Federal government in anticipation of the completion of the report of the National Panel.
5. Direct the National Chief to inform the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Treasury Board Secretariat that 2011-12 funding for First Nations targeted programs must be fully restored to budgeted amounts prior to the holdback.

UPDATE:

The National Chief has communicated to the Prime Minister the need to implement First Nations Inherent and Treaty rights and to live up to the standards expressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Call to Action on First Nations education continues and many meetings have taken place with First Nations, Government, educators, and the private sector.

A number of reports have been generated since December 2011, which universally present recommendations for reform of First Nations education. Following the Crown-First Nations Gathering (CFNG) in January 2012, Canada committed to engaging First Nations in the development of Education legislation.

Building on the outcomes statement from the CFNG and the First Nations Education report recommendations, AFN Education will take the lead to develop a plan to reform First Nations education. A Working Group, comprised of members from the AFN National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and supported by the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE), has been established to explore and advise on the development of options for adequate, sustainable, long-term and predictable funding of First Nations education that will include the establishment of a national funding formula(e) that respects and supports diversity among and within the regions (including all cost drivers within regions) which may include options for amendments to current policy/regulation to improve life long learning outcomes for all First Nations learners.

19	Support for the First Nations Information Governance Centre to Conduct a Survey on Education and Employment On-Reserve and in Northern First Nations Communities	Chief Carolyn Buffalo, Montana Cree Nation, AB	Grand Chief Mike Mitchell, Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) in collaboration with the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE), the National Indian Education Council, and other national partners (to be identified) to implement a survey on education and employment for on-reserve and northern First Nation communities, that is compliant with Ownership, Control, Access and Protection (OCAP) principles and incorporates a holistic framework.
2. Direct the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education, the National Indian Education Council to work in collaboration with other First Nations education experts and the Federal government to develop the survey built upon the established Regional Health Survey structure and procedures in place, and that financial resources will be made available to ensure First Nations participation.
3. Define, through their regional resolution processes, the First Nation regional organizations that will work with the FNIGC in developing and implementing this survey.
4. Call on the FNIGC to develop a communication strategy in collaboration with First Nations regional organizations to engage First Nations at the local and regional levels, ensuring national and regional statistics collected are representative of First Nations people living on-reserve and in northern First Nations communities.

UPDATE:

The First Nations Regional Education and Employment Survey (FNREES) National Advisory Committee (NAC) has been struck until March 31, 2016, and Terms of Reference have been developed. Members are comprised of First Nations education representatives from regional First Nation organizations and recommended through CCOE/NIEC. The NAC is responsible for advising on the development of all survey questions, and will meet regularly to provide advice, recommendations, and perspective throughout the FNREES survey cycles. The data collection phase of this project will take place in 2012-13.

20	Request that the Assembly of First Nations Rescind Resolution 41/2009	Chief Warren White, Naothamegwaning First Nation, ON	Chief Simon Fobister, Grassy Narrows First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Rescind Resolution 41/2009 according to the request of Treaty#3 Chiefs.

UPDATE:

As directed, AFN has rescinded Resolution 41/2009: Support for Constitutional Challenge to Ensure Parity of School Funding Between On-reserve and Off-reserve Schools. To support of Treaty #3's efforts, AFN provided \$15,000 from the First Nations Rights Fund in February 2012.

21	Support for Indian Residential Day Scholars	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC	Clifford Atleo Sr., Proxy, Ehattesaht First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct that the AFN provide moral, political, legal, and financial support as able to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and Sechelt First Nation Day Scholars and Day Students Class Action and other legal actions, using available and appropriate means such as the First Nations Rights Fund.
2. Direct the AFN demand that the Government of Canada extend automatic compensation to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and Sechelt First Nation Day Scholars and Day Students and all other affected Day Scholars and Day Students from other First Nations or in the alternative, with regards to Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and Sechelt First Nation, demand that the Government of Canada pay Day Scholars and Day Students compensation reflecting an increase of 30% over the Common Experience Payments provided to former residents of Indian Residential Schools under the 2006 Indian Residential Settlement.
3. Direct the AFN to engage with the Government of Canada to obtain redress for the Day Scholars and Day Students to include an ongoing financial commitment for the required healing and support systems and processes in each community.
4. Direct that the AFN continue to act in the best interest of the Day Scholars and Day Students by advocating to the Government of Canada to seek just compensation for Day Scholars and Day Students.

UPDATE:

The AFN continues to support class actions launched by Joan Jack Law Firm and Spirit Wind as well as the Tk'emlúps Indian Band and Sechelt First Nation in their efforts to seek redress for the Day Scholars and Day School Students.

A report was filed with Chiefs in Assembly on Day Scholar/Day School issues at the December 2011 Assembly. The AFN IRS continues to provide information and connect supports with other First Nations communities or Day Scholar/Day School students seeking information on the proposed class actions.

The AFN jointly sponsored a National Chiefs meeting on Day Scholar/Day Schools in May of 2011 as well as attended a conference in Winnipeg Manitoba in early May of 2012.

AFN provided \$15,000 from the First Nations Rights Fund in April 2012 to support a class action launched on behalf of day scholars and day school survivors.

22	Inherent Right of Nation to Nation Trade	Chief Bonny Acoose, Sakimay First Nation, SK	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to assert and advocate for the recognition of tobacco use and trade as an Aboriginal Right which is protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
2. Affirm the First Nations' Inherent Right to trade within and between Nations as pursued since time immemorial, including the right to acquire, possess, store, transport, handle, trade, regulate, or retain First Nation-manufactured products, in particular tobacco products, without restriction as to quantity or proposed or actual use or disposition.
3. Direct the AFN to work to uphold this inherent right to Nation to Nation trade, and to inform the Crown governments that any infringement on the inherent right of Nation to Nation trade will not be tolerated.
4. Direct the AFN to work with the appropriate Ministers for one purpose of establishing federal recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over its industries including tobacco.
5. Recognize regional initiatives to ensure the exclusion of First Nations from Provincial legislation in the regulation of the tobacco industry which will negatively impact on our Inherent and Treaty Rights.

UPDATE:

A letter has been sent to the Minister of Revenue to advocate and inform of the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolution on our inherent right to trade, and specifically with relation to tobacco. The letter reinforced the resolutions points on First Nations legitimately asserting authority and jurisdiction regarding tobacco sales and distribution, and noted that prosecutions against First Nations peoples for alleged violations of tobacco laws and regulations pursuant to provincial law are violations against the First Nation rights of self-government, pursuant to Section 35 of the Constitutional Act, 1982. Similar correspondence to that which was sent to the Minister of Revenue has been sent to all provincial and territorial Premiers.

Given the economic and trade potential many sectors present, including that of the tobacco industry, the secretariat has continued its work on building trade relationships and revitalizing trade networks. The letter pointed out the significant tax revenue gains the country has made based on First Nation tobacco trade with foreign markets.

The AFN has also undertaken a legal strategy with respect to taxation issues. The AFN intervened in the Bastien and Dube cases whereby the courts ruled in favor of First Nation tax exemption on GIC and other debt interest. The AFN will continue to pursue options to expand case law on taxation matters.

23	Joint Committee of Chiefs and Advisors to Move Forward on “Pursuing First Nation Self-Determination – Realizing our Rights and Responsibilities”	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Affirm their clear and collective commitment to implementing their self-determination, consistent with Treaties, Inherent Rights and jurisdiction.
2. Respect the inherent authority of all First Nations to represent and negotiate their own interests, and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.
3. Receive the draft “Pursuing First Nation Self-Determination – Realizing our Rights and Responsibilities” understanding it is for full discussion, consideration and refinement.
4. That any potential Federal recognized legislation must be developed and led by our Nations and must be optional.
5. Mandate a Joint Committee of Chiefs and Advisors, which will be comprised of regional representatives, to review and refine priorities, actions and strategies contained in the draft paper, firmly grounding these in principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and previous work as directed by Chiefs-in-Assembly, such as *“Our Nations, Our Governments: Choosing Our Own Paths”*.
6. Direct the Joint Committee of Chiefs and Advisors to report to subsequent Chiefs Assemblies on progress.
7. Note that nothing in this resolution or the process envisioned within it is intended to impede or derogate from any existing processes or initiatives involving any First Nation, Tribal Council or Provincial/Territorial or Treaty Organization working with the Federal government.

UPDATE:

Work continues to support and advance self-government interests, including elaboration of principles to guide work on achieving a new fiscal relationship and exploration of considerations in assuming jurisdiction as part of the National Dialogue on First Nation Citizenship.

The Crown-First Nations Gathering outcomes statement committed to action to “work to develop solutions to remove barriers that hinder First Nations governance”. Key areas of focus include community capacity and support for community development frameworks; development and adherence to transparent and accountable negotiation standards; and implementation of agreements.

The Joint-Committee will be struck to lead and oversee this work.

24	Establishing a New Fiscal Relationship between First Nations and Canada	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to update and continue its analysis on comparability of funding transfers for services provided by First Nation governments and those delivered by other orders of government.
2. Direct the National Chief and AFN to work to address the inequitable and unsustainable budget transfers for First Nations with Canada.
3. Direct the AFN to work with First Nations communities to identify funding transfer needs and priorities for such funding transfers.
4. Direct the AFN to examine and analyze mechanisms for own source revenues, provide First Nations with information on options and advocate for the removal of barriers to the pursuit and implementation of these options.
5. Direct the AFN to provide progress reports regarding this resolution to future assemblies and to make this information available on the AFN website.

UPDATE:

AFN has led advocacy on the need to move to new funding relationships with First Nations, particularly in the 2012 Pre-Budget Submission and associated presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance.

The Crown-First Nations Gathering outcomes statement committed to renew the relationship with financial self-sufficiency as the goal for all First Nations. A joint working group with First Nations, AANDC, Finance Canada and the Treasury Board Secretariat will be struck to review the structure of existing financial arrangements. Terms of reference and materials to support this work will be available on www.afn.ca.

25	Creation of an Indigenous Virtual Institute on Energy and Mining	Craig Makinaw, Proxy, Ermineskin First Nation, AB	Chief Blaine Commandant, Wahta Mohawk First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Fully support the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to work together to assist and support Indigenous participation in aspects of energy and mineral development in ways that work for our nations, the environment, and our economies.
2. Mandate the AFN to work with the NCAI to establish a North American Indigenous Task Force on Energy comprised of representative organizations and to identify a work plan for the Task Force.
3. Direct the AFN to work with the NCAI to create an information hub on the energy and mining sector, via a virtual center of excellence or institute, to assist and support Indigenous Nations, according to their own plans and priorities, to build expertise and capacity in the area of energy and mining development and provide information to assist Indigenous nations to access existing market opportunities such as debt financing, energy and carbon markets, and be respectful of free, prior and informed consent principles.
4. Assert that any endeavour undertaken by the North American Indigenous Task Force on Energy and/or

Indigenous Virtual Institute (as a centre of excellence) on Energy and Mining shall not absolve any state or government from their obligations to First Nations via Treaty, Inherent, or Aboriginal Rights, nor will it aim to establish policy, nor be a policy resource related to federal or provincial governments on resource exploration, extraction or development.

5. Direct the AFN to report back to Chiefs-in-Assembly to get further direction on the Indigenous Virtual Institute (centre of excellence) on Energy and Mining.

UPDATE:

AFN submitted an application for funding towards this initiative. As of June 2012, AANDC will provide \$50,000 for AFN to conduct an environmental scan towards the establishment of a virtual resource centre. A draft report will be provided to Chiefs in Assembly, at the December 2012 Special Chiefs Assembly.

The National Chief has provided an update on the proposed Virtual Resource Centre to the Provincial and Territorial leaders during the April 2012 Aboriginal Affairs Working Group meeting. AFN has also offered to provide the appropriate ITK technical counterparts an overview briefing on this initiative. AFN has contacted NCAI to initiate discussion on how to move forward on the shared objectives.

26	Establishment of First Nations Fisheries Product Certification Body	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC	Chief Perry Bellegarde, Little Black Bear First Nation, SK
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Declare support for First Nation communities, regions, associations and organizations that have established, are establishing or seek to establish local labels and marketing techniques to support and certify First Nation fisheries products.
2. Encourage First Nations that have established, are establishing or are seeking to establish local labels to come together to form a body to set criteria for the certification of fisheries products as First Nation and/or sustainable.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to facilitate the establishment of a body to set criteria for fisheries product certification.
4. Encourage all First Nations that have established, are establishing or seek to establish local labels to voluntarily adopt the national certification criteria for their own local initiatives in order to promote consistency, transparency, and to open new opportunities for domestic and international marketing.
5. Recognize that only First Nations peoples of Canada may own the intellectual property to the certification of products as First Nation and any art, logos, or marketing that promotes a product as First Nation in nature, character, or origin.

UPDATE:

The AFN has established a national network and Working Group to provide input, advice and recommendations to establish national criteria for the certification of fisheries products. Several background papers have been developed and shared with First Nations, as well as terms of reference for the ongoing Working Group deliberations and tasks. The AFN also established relationship with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada who also provided assistance along with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) at the Calgary Nov 2-3, 2011 inaugural meeting. A follow up meeting was held in February 2012 in Vancouver, BC to draft terms of reference for the Marketing Working Group (MWG). The AFN will continue scoping methods to fully design a certification system and will seek partnerships in 2012 to undertake necessary methodological research.

27	First Nations Natural Resources Institute	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC	Chief Perry Bellegarde, Little Black Bear First Nation, SK
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to collaborate with First Nations, First Nation sector organizations, government agencies, industry partners, academic institutions, and private sector organizations to examine and develop options for the creation of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute, reporting through AFN processes, to advance sustainable growth and development in various natural resource sectors through research, policy, education, capacity development, advocacy and support.
2. Direct the AFN to bring these options and recommendations on the creation of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute to Chiefs-in-Assembly for further consideration and decision-making.

UPDATE:

Options and potential models for the creation of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute are under development, based on dialogue at the 2011 Special Chiefs Assembly. These will be disseminated for discussion to Chiefs at the 2012 AGA. The AFN will seek further direction from the Chiefs-in-Assembly while developing and implementing plans to create a Natural Resources Institute.

28	Call for Canadian Government to launch formal investigation into cumulative impacts of shale gas developments on First Nation lands, resources and environment	Dave Porter, Proxy, Peace River, BC	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the National Chief to instruct the Crown to convene an inquiry to investigate in an in-depth manner the cumulative effects of shale gas developments on the environment and public health and safety.
2. Instruct that the Inquiry Commission include First Nation representation and develop a policy framework to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts of shale gas development on the land, air and water, taking into account Aboriginal interests and Treaty Rights in all affected First Nations' territories.
3. Further instruct that such an inquiry have the power to compel witnesses to testify, be open to members of the public, be required to publicly report its findings and make recommendations on how to mitigate cumulative impacts and ensure compliance in the Oil and Gas industry.

UPDATE:

The National Chief wrote letters to both the Hon. Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment, and Elizabeth Dowdeswell, President and CEO of the Council of Canadian Academies, regarding a recently announced review of the environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing called "shale gas fracking". We have asked that a thorough and impartial investigation be launched that involves First Nations representatives and that the investigation include an examination of cumulative impacts of fracking. We have also asked that the outcome of the investigation be communicated in a manner that is accessible and relevant to First Nations decision makers. In addition, we have left open the option for a meeting to discuss this matter further.

29	Support for the Tsilhqot'in Nation and Call for Rejection of the "New Prosperity" Mine	Chief Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government, BC	Chief Francis Lacey, Tribal Chair, Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Fully support the efforts of the Tsilhqot'in Nation to protect their lands of profound cultural and spiritual value from the proposed New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine, and will stand behind the Tsilhqot'in Nation in defence of these lands regardless of whether the Federal and Provincial governments deem the new proposal worthy of review or approval.
2. Call upon the Federal and Provincial governments to heed the cautions of the independent Panel which conducted the environmental assessment, demonstrate commitment to environmental protection and the cultural survival of First Nations, and deem the New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine proposal not worthy of environmental review.
3. Advise the Federal and Provincial governments that First Nations across Canada are watching their decisions to see whether there remains any value or integrity in environmental assessments for major projects, or whether First Nations must turn to litigation and other means to assert our rights and protect our cultures.
4. Caution the Federal and Provincial governments that proceeding with a review of the proposed New Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine, despite the clear warnings of the independent Panel and the clear objection of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, would demonstrate utter disregard for the survival of First Nations as distinctive cultures within Canada and its commitment to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
5. Direct the National Chief and Assembly of First Nations to advocate on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation and communicate the clear support of Chiefs-in-Assembly.

UPDATE:

The AFN has provided ongoing support to the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) in their efforts to prevent the Government of Canada from approving the New Prosperity Mine proposal. Following the acceptance of a the New Prosperity Mine project description by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), the AFN helped coordinate advocacy activities nationally and in Ottawa. AFN staff secured meetings between TNG representatives and senior bureaucrats and parliamentarians. Press releases have been sent out in the weeks preceding CEAA's decision to allow for an environmental assessment on the project. The National Chief has made several public statements calling for the Government of Canada to respect the wishes of the Tsilhqot'in people and to follow international obligations set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The AFN frequently references the New Prosperity Project as an example of development done the wrong way. AFN will continue to provide support to the TNG as the project moves through the regulatory process.

30	First Nations Economic Development Data	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED) in its continued efforts to advocate for improved First Nation economic data.
2. Support the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), including its references to indigenous peoples having the right to “maintain contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders” (Article 36).
3. Seek funding toward this concept via a proposal and work plan to initiate activities.
4. Direct the AFN CCED to report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly in July 2012.

UPDATE:

AFN has begun to examine data gaps related to First Nations and trade, natural resources, training and employment, and connectivity. AFN has considered possible work linkages needed to support establishing and enhancing data, including those with the First Nation Statistical Institute in order to enhance economic data holdings. In addition, AFN discussed with the First Nation Information and Governance Center possible assistance and linkages to employment data collection. Discussions among the First Nation ad-hoc Technical Working Group on Information, Communication & Technology were held at the annual advisory meeting in Vancouver in February 2012.

To date, partial funding related to First Nation connectivity infrastructure data needs has been identified.

31	Support for Continued Employment and Training Opportunities For First Nations in the Rail Industry	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC	Chief John Smith, Tlowitsis First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Recommend that the AFN and Railway Association of Canada (RAC) Railway Employment and Training Project be continued to encourage additional training and employment opportunities among First Nations youth.
2. Call upon the Federal government and industry to continue to engage with First Nation Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) holders in terms of both training opportunities and education funding.

UPDATE:

The AFN is currently working with the RAC and the Métis National Council, towards the establishment of joint railway training and education project, to be funded primarily by HRSDC, which would begin early in 2013. The secretariat has informed federal officials of this resolution. In addition, the secretariat has informed relevant industry players and parliamentarians of this initiative and the need for continued support and engagement with First Nation Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy holders.

32	Support for the June 2012 World Indigenous Housing Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia	Andrew Leach, Proxy, T'it'qet First Nation, BC	Margaret Pfoh, Proxy, Tseil-waututh Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to support the 2012 World Indigenous Housing Conference (WIHC) as the first international forum for bringing indigenous housing providers from around the world.
2. Encourage indigenous housing leaders from across Canada to attend and participate in the World Indigenous Housing Conference, June 11-15, 2012.
3. Direct the AFN to work with WIHC organizers to develop a strong conference agenda that reflects the aspirations and goals of First Nations housing providers in Canada.
4. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government — through agencies such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development — to provide sponsorship support for the 2012 WIHC.

UPDATE:

The AFN has participated in the conference preparation as a member of the 2012 WIHC International Program Committee, along with Indigenous representatives from Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Committee discussions to date have laid out a number of key areas of focus that include: developing partnerships that work, effective housing governance structures, financing projects, homelessness, home ownership, government relationships, capacity building measures, and organizational development.

The National Chief opened the conference with a keynote address along with Mike Holmes of the Holmes Group. Additional speakers at the conference include Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band, BC and the Honourable Linda Burney, an Aboriginal Member of the Australian Legislative Assembly and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Labour Party. The conference featured interactive presentation sessions and hosted a World Café to encourage large group dialogue and the cross-pollination of ideas.

33	Fire Protection Services for First Nation Communities	Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to provide adequate financial resources to each region to conduct a comprehensive community risk assessment and impact analysis of First Nation Fire Protection and Prevention Services, including, but not limited to, fire-related assets, such as fire halls, fire trucks, and fire protection and prevention services to determine the financial, technical, human resource and policy development needs for each region.
2. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to ensure that the determined levels of financial, technical, human resource and policy development needs for each region be based on recognized standards, regulations, and/or legislation.

3. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to provide the required financial resources and support to those regional First Nation fire organizations and local emergency services that have completed comprehensive risk assessments to provide quality fire protection and prevention to their members comparable to non-Indigenous communities of similar size and circumstances.
4. Direct the AFN to support the activities of the duly mandated regional First Nation fire organizations, local emergency services in their efforts to create community level awareness on fire protection and prevention including community level assessments, with the creation of a Chief's Committee on Fire Protection that will report to the Annual General Assembly, any progress or issues that would require their intervention.

UPDATE:

AFN continues to advocate for adequate financial resources to conduct a comprehensive community risk assessment and analysis of First Nations Fire Protection Services, capacity building of technical and human resources and policy development. AFN will continue to support and work with regional organizations on this work. The Aboriginal FireFighters Association of Canada (AFAC) is the united body of regional First Nations Fire Protection Associations from across Canada.

AFN will continue to work with the duly mandated First Nation Fire Service organizations to secure resources and support for the completion of comprehensive community risk assessment to provide quality fire protection and prevention to their members that is comparable to non-indigenous communities of similar size and circumstance.

34	First Nations and the Human Right to Water	Chief Isadore Day, Serpent River First Nation, ON	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for the application of United Nation General Assembly Resolution #A/RES/64/292 in Canada as a supporting mechanism for the implementation of Indigenous Rights, and constitutionally protected Aboriginal Title, Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Canada.
2. Direct the AFN to work with organizations, such as the Council of Canadians, to promote the human right to water and sanitation in First Nation communities across Canada.
3. Direct the AFN to continue to advocate for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the areas that support the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and our relationship to our territories, including the waters and to provide regular updates.
4. Request that the National Chief and Chair of the AFN Women's Council jointly write a letter to the Indigenous women walkers and organizers in the 2011 Mother Earth Water Walk acknowledging the importance of their journey in promoting the human right to water.

UPDATE:

AFN continues to advocate for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) at every opportunity. Recognition of UNDRIP was raised by the National Chief during presentations on former Bill S-11 and again re-iterated in the May 2012 AFN submission to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples during its review on Bill S-8: *Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Act*. AFN again urged the Committee to review Bill S-8 against the standards in the UNDRIP.

AFN officials met with EcoJustice to discuss potential avenues for a challenge to Canada on the right to water. Discussions are on-going. The Council of Canadians continues to maintain interest on the subject. A workplan on future collaborative activities between AFN and Council of Canadians is under discussion.

The National Chief and the AFN Women's Council sent a letter of support to Grandmother Josephine Mandamin recognizing her involvement in the 2011 Mother Earth Water Walk walkers and ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the human right to water.

35	Water Rights and Consultation with First Nations	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the National Chief to instruct the Provinces and Canada that the prior and un-extinguished water rights of the First Nations of British Columbia must be addressed and given priority before the Province assigns either short-term or long-term water access and water use rights to third parties in First Nations' territories.
2. Direct the National Chief to instruct the Provinces and Canada that mutually-negotiated water consultation protocols between individual First Nations and the Provincial government must be a prerequisite before all future water rights are assigned and that adequate consultations between First Nations and the Provincial governments result in up-front watershed planning that considers the cumulative impacts on First Nations' lands and resources.
3. Direct the National Chief to instruct the Provinces that First Nations strongly endorse a coordinated approach to water application reviews and water rights assignments that demonstrates clear coordination between Provincial agencies and that is transparent to First Nations.
4. Direct the National Chief to instruct the Provinces that First Nations strongly endorse water conservation measures that ensure the highest environmental protections and that in the event that water-pricing is implemented as a means of achieving greater water conservation and protection that revenues are shared equally between affected First Nations and the Provincial government.

UPDATE:

A National Strategy on Water will be discussed at the 2012 AGA and further action will take place fulfilling this resolution, in collaboration with regional First Nation organizations.

36	Support for Child Welfare	Chief Bill Montour, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON	Grand Chief Mike Mitchell, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to support and advocate for those First Nations seeking to have administration of programs and jurisdiction for child and family services in their respective territories through advocacy with Provincial governments and the Federal government officials responsible for Child and Family Services.
2. Direct the AFN to strongly encourage discussions between the Federal government, Provincial governments and First Nations governments to create a coordinated strategy on First Nations Child and Family Services.
3. Request that the AFN ensure that these discussions are respectful of the unique situations and needs of each region, such as that of Ontario, the 1965 Welfare Agreement and must also include relevant partners and stakeholders including, but not limited to: Provincial child advocates offices, law makers and enforcers, mainstream child and family services agencies, First Nations child and family service technicians, and all related and relevant Federal and Provincial government department representatives.

UPDATE:

The AFN is a member of the advisory committee for the First Nations Canadian Incidence Study on Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (FN CIS). In November 2011, the FN CIS – 2008 report “Kiskisik Awasisak: Remember the Children” was released. It is the largest and most comprehensive collection of data on why First Nations children are taken into the Child Welfare system. This report is an important source of information for the development of a national strategy. The AFN owns the copyright to this report.

On February 13-15, 2012, the Federal Court heard an appeal from the AFN and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCS) on the decision made by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Chair. On April 18, 2012, the Federal Court decided in favor of the AFN and the FNCFCS and ruled that a new Tribunal must occur. On May 18, 2012, the Federal Government appealed the Federal Court decision. As of June 1, 2012, it was not yet decided if the appeal would be heard.

Due to the participation in the Human Rights complaint, the AFN has not had the opportunity to discuss a national coordinated strategy with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) regarding child welfare. However, the AFN wrote a letter in June 2011 to the Minister of AANDC and the British Columbia Minister of Children and Family Development (CFD) to encourage discussions with the Secwepmc Nation regarding the restoration of jurisdiction in Child Welfare. The National Chief had a follow up meeting with the Minister of CFD in February 2012 to discuss the items outlined in resolutions #36/2011 and #76/2011 regarding the restoration of jurisdiction of child welfare to First Nations, specifically Secwepmc and Gitanmaax, and encouraging tripartite discussions.

37	Income Assistance Shelter Policy	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to write the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and ask for immediate termination or modification of the current policy on rent and personal mortgage payments within the Income Assistance Shelter Policy and request that the department and its regional offices consult and negotiate with First Nations and their duly mandated organizations in the development of new policies.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to facilitate meetings with AANDC, its regional offices, and Chiefs from any affected regions to work to immediately resolve issues with the current policy on rent and personal mortgage payments within the Shelter Policy and to ensure any new or revised Shelter Policy will not limit the housing options available for Income Assistance recipients.

UPDATE:

The AFN wrote a letter in November 2011 to Minister Duncan to seek assurances that the Shelter Allowance Policy will be temporarily rescinded until the review is completed. The letter also asked that all other regions undertake similar reviews of the policy with direct First Nations input, since it emanates from the National Social Development Policy, while also ensuring that this does not delay or interfere with the ongoing work to set up the joint working group with British Columbia First Nations.

38	Support for Missingkids.ca: Canada's National Missing Children Resource Centre	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Fully support MissingKids.ca and the many public education activities and personal safety education programs developed by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.
2. Commit to working with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection to ensure that their respective citizens and communities are made aware of these key initiatives in the protection of children and that the information and tools are made available to them.
3. Direct the National Chief and Assembly of First Nations to assist in creating awareness of and disseminating tools and resources provided through MissingKids.ca.

UPDATE:

The AFN has supported and worked with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (CCCP), the organization that runs Missingkids.ca. The National Chief appeared in a public service announcement that aired on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network and First Nation-specific resources on Missingkids.ca were launched at the February 2012 National Justice Forum. Additionally, the AFN supported a mail-out to all First Nations that included Missingkids.ca materials and resources. There will be ongoing collaboration with the CCCP to ensure that information is provided to First Nation communities regarding the services and resources that are available to them.

39	Repatriation Of First Nation Ancestral Remains	Chief Dean Sayers, Ojibways of Batchewana First Nation, ON	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for the creation of federal legislation, similar to the U.S. Native American Graves and Repatriation Act, that will enable the repatriation of our ancestors' remains and their funerary objects to their respective First Nation communities, will protect all First Nation gravesites, and repatriate sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony held by museums and other institutions to our First Nations for their use and function.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to communicate the Crown's responsibility to cooperate with and support First Nation efforts to repatriate First Nation ancestral remains, funerary objects and other cultural artifacts.

UPDATE:

Research is underway on how fully implement this priority. Further advocacy will be necessary on an ongoing basis to achieve goals of full repatriation and respect for our ancestors and artifacts.

40	Legal Opinion on the Indian and Northern Affairs Name Change	Grand Chief Stan Beardy, proxy, Whitewater Lake First Nation, ON	Grand Chief Konrad Sioui, Huron-Wendat Nation, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to conduct a legal review to determine the implications of the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) name change on First Nations rights, title and interests.
2. Direct that the legal opinion be developed as soon as possible and that a report be provided to the AFN Executive Committee and at the next Assembly.

UPDATE:

AFN Legal counsel drafted a legal opinion on INAC's name change. The legal opinion noted that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act remained unchanged in its scope and content, as do ministerial powers and responsibilities to First Nation governments. There has been no recent court cases that diverge from existing case law on the Crown's obligations to First Nation peoples.

However, the legal opinion noted that appropriations from parliament and the redirecting of Indian monies may be possible under the new structure. Further research and monitoring of federal budgets will be necessary to determine the longer-term trends and policy shifts.

41	Lake Winnipeg Commercial Fisheries	Chief George Kemp, Berens River First Nation, MB	Chief Glen Hudson, Peguis First Nation, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Request that the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) assist the First Nation commercial fishers of Lake Winnipeg to develop and implement a plan to save their industry from any harmful impacts of the closing of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
2. Direct the AFN to move immediately to convene a meeting in Ottawa or Winnipeg of key ministers in the federal government to begin discussions on developing and implementing a strategy that protects and enhances the livelihood of First Nation commercial fishers on Lake Winnipeg.
3. Direct the AFN to immediately establish a working group of Chiefs from the impacted Lake Winnipeg fisheries communities to ensure that proper consultation and meaningful dialogue takes place between First Nation communities, First Nation fishers and the Province of Manitoba and Federal government.

UPDATE:

The AFN has been providing support and assistance to First Nations in Manitoba for the development of a proposal to host a forum to bring together commercial fishers of Lake Winnipeg to establish a working group to discuss and develop a strategy. First Nation representatives from the prairie provinces were also invited to attend a new AFN First Nations Marketing Working Group (responding to Resolution 26/2011) session in Calgary to learn about the impacts and issues related to FFMC in Saskatchewan and other prairie provinces, and to provide input to the development of a national model for marketing and certification processes for indigenous fish and seafood products.

42	Support for KI Consultation Protocol and KI Watershed Declaration	Fawn Wapioke, Proxy, Iskatewizaagegan #39 Independent First Nation, ON	Martha Pedoniquotte, Proxy, Chippewas of Nawash, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Collectively support Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (KI) by recognizing and respecting the KI Consultation Protocol and KI Watershed Declaration.
2. Commit to supporting KI in implementing and enforcing these KI Indigenous Laws, and accept our joint responsibility to protect water as the sacred source of life.
3. Call on the governments of Ontario and Canada to recognize and respect KI's Consultation Protocol and the KI Watershed Declaration.
4. Call on Ontario to begin respecting KI's Watershed Declaration by immediately giving the watershed interim protection and commencing negotiations with KI on the recognition of KI's governance of the watersheds.

5. Call on Ontario to respect KI's moratorium on all logging, mining exploration and development activity (including airborne exploration, claim staking and early exploration), energy developments, research projects and any other activities that would impact KI lands, resources and environment, unless they have been agreed to through KI's Consultation Protocol.
6. Direct the AFN and National Chief to advocate on behalf of KI and present, as appropriate, the issues of the KI Consultation Protocol, the KI Watershed Declaration, and Moratorium to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Northern Development Mines and Forestry, and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, as well as to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Development, the Minister of Environment, and to other relevant Ministers.
7. Direct the AFN and National Chief to take action to help ensure that KI's Declaration and Protocol are recognized and respected by all governments and corporations.

UPDATE:

Action is underway and ongoing advocacy will continue into the new year.

A National Strategy on Water will be discussed at the 2012 AGA and further action will take place fulfilling this resolution, in collaboration with KI.

43	Intervener Status in Manitoba Métis Federation Court Case	Chief Glen Hudson, Peguis First Nation, MB	Chief Simon Fobister, Grassy Narrows First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to review the MMF factum on the constitutional questions posed to the Supreme Court of Canada and seek intervener status to represent the collective interests and unique perspectives of First Nations in Canada.
2. Direct the AFN to work closely with the Regional Chiefs in moving forward collectively to seeking intervener status in this appeal.

UPDATE:

The AFN has retained Joseph J. Arvay to act as counsel on the matter, On September 29, 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada granted leave for AFN to intervene in the case. The case was heard in in December 2011. The Court reserved judgment and the parties are awaiting the court's decisions.

44	Cross Border Child Welfare	Chief Joel Abram, Oneida Nation of the Thames, ON	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Give the AFN and the National Chief the mandate to address this issue of cross border child welfare immediately through several actions including but not limited to cooperation and interaction with the National Congress of American Indians, lobbying the US government, US state governments, and if appropriate, the Inter-american commission on human rights, and any pertinent legal actions.
2. Establish a technical working group or intergovernmental committee to assist in addressing this issue through the development of an action plan.
3. Foster reciprocity agreements between First Nation child protection agencies and state child protection agencies to enable the continue delivery of culturally appropriate programs for children under the care.
4. Report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly on progress made at subsequent General Assemblies.

UPDATE:

The AFN has been in regular contact with the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) to discuss cross-border child welfare matters. NICWA has a strong relationship with the National Congress of American Indians and is the leading authority on American Indian child welfare policy, research and advocacy. The AFN had one conference call with NICWA to explore areas for possible research and collaboration and attended the 2012 NICWA Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

45	Support for Manitoba First Nations Experiencing Flooded Lands	Chief Glenn Hudson, Peguis First Nation, MB	Chief Gerald Anderson, Little Saskatchewan First Nation, SK
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to advocate for the support for Manitoba First Nations in realizing the lands through the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process immediately.
2. Demand both the Federal Government and Provincial Government of Manitoba work toward reaching an agreement and resolving the ATR process for Manitoba First Nations.

UPDATE:

The AFN is actively engaged in a joint process with Canada to address deficiencies in the ATR policy and process, with representation from Manitoba. Significant progress is expected to be made over the coming year. Specific advocacy has also been advanced by correspondence from the National Chief to the Minister with regard to Manitoba First Nations affected by flooding and the need for long-term sustainable solutions.

46	Call for Fundamental Structural Change to Support all First Nation communities in crisis	Chief Bob Chamberlain, Kwkwwasut'inuxw Haxw'mis, BC	Chief Dean Sayers, Ojibways of Batchewana First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Fully support the leadership and citizens of Attawapiskat First Nation in their efforts to address the emergency needs of their people including ensuring adequate housing and health supports.
2. Extend full support to all First Nations that are facing problems with the living conditions in their communities and commit to reach out to all sectors of Canadian society to respond to these needs and to take all political action necessary to achieve change for First Nation communities and their citizens.
3. Instruct the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and the federal Cabinet to work with the Chief and Council of Attawapiskat to address immediate needs and to begin the work of creating sustainable joint solutions for the future as opposed to unilateral actions, such as the imposition of third party management without involving the community, that undermine the authority of Chief and Council.
4. Demand that the Government of Canada take urgent and sustained action to work with all First Nations, especially those facing emergency situations lacking basic supports, to ensure they have the tools and investments necessary to address infrastructure challenges, including safe and adequate housing, clean drinking water, medical and health supports and education that respect their economic sovereignty
5. Clearly assert that any new action to address these urgent situations does not take away from existing, inadequate resources.
6. Instruct the AFN to request the United Nations Economic and Social Council and Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues appoint a Special Rapporteur to monitor Canada's actions in this area and to hold Canada to its responsibilities under the Treaties with First Nations and additional international treaties and covenants.

UPDATE:

AFN has actively supported Attawapiskat during its housing crisis, including coordinating legal strategies and providing national information updates to all First Nations. AFN stood with Attawapiskat in its calls to remove third party management.

The January 2012 Crown-First Nations Gathering was an opportunity to reset the relationship with the Government of Canada, to work towards collaborative rather than unilateral and imposed solutions. Work to change this relationship will continue through the specific activities review financial arrangements and identifying and seeking solutions to address barriers to governance.

AFN has conducted strong advocacy to address First Nations' housing needs, as well as to ensure that First Nation governments have capacity and support to meet the needs of their citizens. Further work will be undertaken to review and seek changes to AANDC's default management policy and its procedures around third party management.

47	Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation, ON	Quentin Condo, Proxy, Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Appoint Loretta J. Pete Lambert as the Chief Electoral Officer for the election of the National Chief that will be held on July 17, 18 and 19, 2012, in Toronto, Ontario.

UPDATE:

Ms. Lambert was informed of her appointment as Chief Electoral Officer and arrangements have been put in place to operate as such for the 2012 Annual General Assembly.

48	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Education Information System	Chief Gilbert Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg First Nation, QC	Tyrone McNeil, Proxy, Union Bar First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Affirm the right of First Nations Peoples to establish and control their educational systems and institutions; provide education in their own languages in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning and, calls upon the Government of Canada to take effective measures to implement this right.
2. Assert that data collected about First Nations not serve as a basis for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to institute punitive measures on First Nations.
3. Confirm that all data collected from a community belongs to that community for the purpose of supporting its decision-making for the improvement of education.
4. Direct AFN to inform the Minister of INAC of the need to institute a formal process of consultation for the EIS and that until such a process is in place, the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Minister of INAC to halt the implementation process of the EIS.
5. Direct AFN to call upon Canada to comply with the principles and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with respect to any new legislative, policy or program in education.
6. Direct AFN to call upon Canada to ensure that any changes to education policy, programs or legislation, respect the right of free, prior and informed consent of First Nations peoples.

UPDATE:

In February 2012, the National Chief wrote a letter to the Minister of AANDC to bring to his attention this resolution. He outlined the serious concerns that First Nations have with this initiative and called for a process of full engagement, consultation, and accommodation in the future and ongoing development of the EIS, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

A letter was also sent to AANDC staff outlining First Nations' expectations for consultation and the need to contact regions so that regional consultation needs and processes can be reflected.

In March, 2012, the Minister responded by indicating that free, prior, and informed consent does not provide Indigenous Peoples with a 'veto power' and that Canada should foster partnerships to ensure that Indigenous peoples are more fully involved, consulted, and where appropriate, accommodated on development and other decisions that directly affect their rights and interests. He further stated that the EIS complements First Nation School information systems and that the joint AANDC/AFN Technical Working group continues to review privacy and data security requirements, and data governance policies.

Regional First Nation organizations have been meeting with AANDC, and various arrangements are emerging across the country. Reinforcing the notion of free, prior, and informed consent, the AFN will support First Nations representatives of the joint AANDC/AFN Technical Working Group to provide feedback and recommendations to AANDC on the first phase of implementation of EIS.

49	Funding of First Nation Libraries	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation, ON	Chief Hazel Fox-Recollet, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the objectives of the National Aboriginal Public Libraries Organization (NAPLO) and encourage First Nation communities to use *Our Way Forward* and *Speak Up* to assist in creating and sustaining their own public libraries.
2. Support the need to advocate for federal funding that is dedicated specifically for ongoing operations of First Nation public libraries.

UPDATE:

In April, 2012, a funding proposal from the National Aboriginal Public Library Organization (NAPLO) was submitted to AANDC requesting dedicated funding for First Nation libraries comparable to those available to other Canadians. In May, 2012 the National Chief wrote a letter of support reinforcing the need and support for funding for First Nation libraries. A link on www.afn.ca was also created to support the objectives of NAPLO.

50	Support for Ebb and Flow First Nation Development of First Nations Vocational Training	Chief Nelson Houle, Ebb and Flow First Nation, MB	Chief Cameron Catcheway, Skownan First Nation, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Ebb and Flow First Nation in its assertion of its inherent right to education and in its efforts to establish a centrally-located regional secondary vocational institute for the Ebb and Flow First Nation and surrounding First Nations and communities to accommodate the needs of present and future students and provide increased opportunities in a competitive workforce.
2. Direct the National Chief to write to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in support of this initiative and to encourage urgent action in achieving the goals of the Ebb and Flow First Nation.
3. Direct the AFN to work as a collaborative partner on moving forward on the creation of a First Nation Career Technical Institute with the Ebb and Flow First Nation, along with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

UPDATE:

AFN has been collaborating with Ebb and Flow First Nation in the development of their Vocational Training Centre. The proposal is still being refined and work with the committee continues.

51	Design and Minting of Canadian Circulation Coins to Commemorate the Treaties between the Crown and the First Nations of Canada	Chief Michael Yellowback, Manto Sipi Cree Nation, Manitoba	Chief Perry Bellegarde, Little Black Bear First Nation, Saskatchewan
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call upon the Royal Canadian Mint to collaborate with the Treaty First Nations to design and produce a commemorative series of Canadian circulation coins to commemorate the Treaties between the Crown and the First Nations of Canada beginning with a commemorative set of five-dollar Canadian circulation coins to commemorate the numbered Treaties 1 to 11.
2. Direct the National Chief to meet with the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities, the Minister of State (Transport), the Chair of the Royal Canadian Mint and the Master of the Mint to further action on the creation of a commemorative series of coins to commemorate the Treaties, beginning with a commemorative set of five-dollar Canadian circulation coins to commemorate the numbered Treaties 1 to 11.

UPDATE:

As part of its reports and deliverables provided to the Crown, the AFN has included the design and minting of Canadian Circulation Coins to Commemorate the Treaties between the Crown and First Nations of Canada, as a key recommendation moving forward. The AFN has also helped to facilitate discussions with Crown representatives, including as part of the Crown-First Nations Gathering and as part of the Royal Visit of his Royal Highness, Prince Charles, where this recommendation has been discussed.

52	First Nations Right to Travel Freely	Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation, ON	Grand Chief Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell, Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Reaffirm our sovereignty as Nations as reflected in our treaty relationships with the Crown and our responsibility to protect the resources of First Nation lands and the rights of our citizens.
2. Recognize the jurisdiction and sovereignty of each distinct Nation to develop, create, and circulate their identification cards which accurately reflect the needs of their respective Nations.

UPDATE:

The National Chief reiterated the position of Chiefs-in-Assembly to the Minister of Public Safety in a letter dated January 18, 2012. Furthermore, a letter was sent to the Prime Minister on March 13, 2012, requesting a meeting to discuss the Second International Indigenous Border Security Summit, as well as requesting the Prime Minister's support for a meeting between the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Minister of Public Safety to resolve long-standing border crossing issues.

The Second International Indigenous Border Security Summit will provide an opportunity for First Nations to exchange information on the development of their own identification cards. The AFN will also continue to facilitate information sharing and dialogue on First Nation border crossing issues, especially as they relate to the rights of First Nation citizens to travel and trade freely within their territories and as citizens of their First Nations.

53	First Nations e-Community Strategy	Chief Gilbert Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg First Nation, QC	Doug Kelly, Proxy, Soowahlie First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Affirm that Canada and industry must consult with and include First Nations in the development of national and regional approaches to connectivity.
2. Reaffirm their strong support for the continued development and advocacy of a First Nations e-community strategy by the AFN National ICT Working Group.
3. Direct the AFN to include the advice and expertise of ICT specialists, researchers, and legal advisors which strongly inform and complement the work of the AFN, and require that they report to the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development as the mandated body to provide guidance on the development of an e-community strategy for First Nations.
4. Direct the AFN to include important data policy and management considerations as part of the strategy development and continue to work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), and First Nations Statistical Institute (FNSI) while promoting and adhering to the principals of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP).
5. Direct the AFN to work with regional organizations to share work done on the development of 'tools of governance' – systems to manage First Nations lands and resources, services, people and finances so that 'an investment in one First Nation will be an investment in all First Nations'
6. Direct the AFN to urge Canada to ensure First Nation regional and local ICT infrastructure are sustainable through new and ongoing core funding.

UPDATE:

The AFN coordinated an ICT Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on February 21 - 22, 2012 in Vancouver. The AFN with input by the ICT TWG further developed a draft e-Community strategy.

The AFN has focused efforts on communicating the First Nations e-Community concept which included hand-out materials, a magazine article, and a webinar. Activity to support this resolution has also included examining

technical requirements per Indian Act Section 28 (2) permits required for connectivity infrastructure projects; identifying the data and information management gaps within the connectivity portfolio; environmental scan on ICT human resources capacity and requirements; and discussions with data experts on options to address gaps in First Nations ICT data.

54	Support for the Blood Tribe and the Protection of the Rights of Former Indian Residential School (IRS) Students	Chief Charles Weaselhead, Blood Tribe, AB	Chief Gayle Strikes with a Gun, Piikani Nation, AB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to request a three year extension to the deadline for applications to the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) to protect the interests of former IRS students in the IAP process and ensure that those to whom the settlement is intended to apply are treated fairly and equitably in the distribution of the award and to ensure the timely and effective distribution of the benefits of the award by the Administrator of the Settlement.
2. Direct the AFN to advocate for the court monitor and administrator of the IRSSA to, where necessary, investigate allegations where any IAP applicants are being treated unfairly and inequitably and the benefits are not distributed in a timely and effective manner to the IAP claimants.
3. Direct the AFN to request that, where necessary, the court monitor and administrator utilize protocols established in the IRSSA to file a Request for Directions to resolve disputes and direction from the courts for relief sought.
4. Direct the AFN to request that the National Administration Committee and Independent Assessment Oversight Committee continue to ensure fair and equitable treatment of IAP claimants by lawyers in the IAP process.
5. Support the Blood Tribe in efforts to ensure all IAP claimants are treated fairly and equitably, including adequate preparation for hearings and appropriate health supports.
6. Support the Blood Tribe to engage the proper authorities should there be any indication of criminal wrongdoing in the handling of IAP settlements.

UPDATE:

On November 11, 2011, Justice Brown ordered an investigation into Blott & Co. and associates due to reports they had breached the terms of the IRSSA in that settlement monies were being diverted to lenders through high fees and interest charged against anticipated settlement amounts. A final report from the court monitor was submitted with recommendations on February 24, 2012.

October 22, 2011, at the request of Chief Charles Weaselhead, a meeting was held to discuss concerns regarding former IRS students in the IAP. An affidavit was provided that formed the basis of a Request for Directions to the BC courts. An interim report was submitted on December 9, 2011 and a final report with recommendations was delivered on February 24, 2012.

As of January 17, 2012, Crawford Class Action has initiated contact with 4,100 Blott & Co. claimants and 730 interviews completed. 14,677 documents scanned, including loan arrangements, applications for third party

loans and payments made out of settlement funds.

The AFN has prepared a draft Outreach and Consultation proposal to ensure that Blott & Co. claimants and First Nation leaders receive accurate information regarding the court process and investigations.

AFN Executive appointed a three person Chiefs Committee to provide direction to AFN legal counsel on the Blott & Co. investigation and potential remedies and to ensure the claimants rights are protected in the process.

On June 5, 2012, Justice Brown released a decision regarding whether Blott & Co. will be permitted to continue to represent IAP claimants. Supplementary decisions will come at a future date.

In the decision, Justice Brown ordered the removal of David Blott, David Blott Professional Corporations, Blott & Co., and any associated entity from the current or future representation of claimants in the IAP or any other process embodied in the settlement, except for files currently in the system during the transition phase. Associated entities include Honor Walk Ltd., Funds Now Inc., Residential School Healing Society of Canada, David Hamm, Thom Dennome, Bridgepoint Financial Services Inc., and Settlement Lenders of Canada Inc. will not be involved in IAP files going forward. Contract lawyers working with Blott & Co. may continue working on IAP files on condition that they work under the supervision of another law firm.

The Judge appointed retired BC Supreme Court Judge Ian Pitfield to oversee the orderly distribution of Blott & Co. files to other law firms.

This will be actively monitored and AFN will continue to strongly advocate that the interests of survivors be protected.

55	Ongoing Impacts of Indian Residential Schools	Chief Dennis Cameron, Tootinawaziibeeng First Nation, MB	Chief Cameron Catcheway, Skownan First Nation, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to take charge in addressing these issues and demanding that the IRSSA process remain open pending a bi-lateral review of the process to investigate its effect on the survivors.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to remind the Crown that the apology has not been fully endorsed and that Canada should not unilaterally state that the issue was successfully concluded and their apology accepted.

UPDATE:

The AFN has continued to advocate for the protection of CEP and IAP claimants in implementation of the IRSSA. Parties to the IRSSA would not extend the deadline for the CEP due to the high uptake of CEP applications.

The AFN continues to support the addition of schools to the IRSSA. As of June 30, 2011, the following schools have been added: St. Paul's Hostel, Dawson City, Yukon; Anahim Lake Dormitory, Anahim, BC; Cote Improved Federal Day School, Kamsack, Saskatchewan; Battleford's Industrial School; Fort George Hostels, Quebec; Wawanosh Home, Ontario; Stirland Lake, Ontario; and Cristal Lake, Ontario.

Other applications currently working their way through the court appeal process include the Timber Bay School (Saskatchewan), Grouard Indian Residential School (Alberta) and Mistassini Indian Day School (Quebec). Hearings on applications to add Coqualeetza Indian Hospital (BC), Lac La Biche Indian Residential School (Alberta) and St. Augustine's Indian Residential School (Alberta) will be held together against Article 12 of the IRRSA for determining whether the institutions should be considered an Indian residential school. A schedule has been set for cross-examinations regarding the addition of the Teulon Residence (Manitoba) as an IRS under the IRSSA.

The AFN issued a press release on June 11, 2012 calling the government to give substance to the June 11, 2008 IRS apology by addressing key issues on education and child welfare.

56	Support for the Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Healing Networking Center and other Indian Residential Schools Healing Initiatives beyond 2012	Wendall Nicolas, Proxy, Madawaska First Nation, NB	Darrah Beaver, Proxy, Tobique First Nation, NB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the National Chief to meet with the federal Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and Health Canada on an urgent basis to undertake the following:
 - a. Establish a new "evidence-based" dialogue on the on-going impact of Indian Residential Schools;
 - b. Consider shared priorities and opportunities for sustaining first nation-based and driven clinical and traditional care approaches to healing for survivors, their descendants, and communities;
 - c. Seek an agreement to extend financial support for existing and expanded initiatives, such as the Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Healing Networking Center.

UPDATE:

The AFN, in partnership with Health Canada and other stakeholders, has begun work on the development of a comprehensive continuum framework of mental wellness services. The goal of this work is to identify and address the needs of First Nations with regards to mental health policies and programming and to enhance Health Canada's mental wellness services. Within this work, regional and federal dialogue sessions will take place to review issues such as funding, recognizing the diverse needs of communities, health human resources, Elder recognition as healers (within NIHB), and program support. The continuum work will look to address the gap that will surface as a result of the closure of the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program in the near future and focus on the sustainability of culturally safe approaches to health support. The framework is expected to be completed by Spring 2013.

The AFN continues to participate on the Resolution Health Support Advisory Committee (RHSAC). The committee acts as an advisory body to Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and advises on the planning and coordination and roles and responsibilities of Health Support Workers (HSW) and Cultural Support Providers (CSP) at national and community Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Events. With the planning and coordination of each event, the AFN continues to place emphasis on the importance of CSP at the events and their roles within the event.

57	Support for Akwesasne Leadership in Addressing State of Crisis Regarding Substance Abuse	Grand Chief Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell, Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, ON	Chief Bill Montour, Six Nations of Grand River, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Fully support the efforts of Akwesasne leadership and their declaration of a state of crisis for the Community of Akwesasne due to its rapidly growing rate of drug abuse and chemical dependency.
2. Urge Federal, Provincial and local governments to support Akwesasne by recognizing culturally-based, holistic healing approaches.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for funding to address the substance abuse problem.
4. Urge Federal and Provincial governments to identify funds to resource adequate community-based programming and services.
5. Recognize the urgency of the drug abuse issue in Akwesasne and support actions of Akwesasne leadership to address this issue head-on, with or without government assistance.
6. Support communities in the work they are doing while respecting diversified needs.
7. Direct the AFN to work in partnership with Health Canada to recognize our First Nations traditional practitioners, traditional healers, and ceremonial elders.
8. Support the development of a comprehensive national mental wellness system for First Nations that ensures a continuum of care across all services.

UPDATE:

The AFN will continue to urge the federal government to support all communities as they battle substance abuse and more specifically, prescription drug abuse.

The AFN has agreed to participate and co-chair a National Prescription Drug Abuse Coordinating Committee (PDACC) and co-chaired the first expanded meeting of the PDACC in Ottawa, Ontario, in March 2012. Originally, a committee internal to Health Canada, the committee was expanded to include the AFN, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation.

The AFN, in partnership with Health Canada and other stakeholders have begun work on the development of a comprehensive continuum framework of mental wellness services. The goal of this work is to identify and address the needs of First Nations with regards to mental health policies and programming and to enhance Health Canada's mental wellness services. Within this work, regional and federal dialogue sessions will take place to review issues such as funding, recognizing the diverse needs of communities, health human resources,

Elder recognition as healers (within NIHB), and program support. The framework is expected to be completed by Spring 2013.

58	Saving Lives by Training First Nation Defibrillator Operators and by Placing a Defibrillator in Every First Nation	Chief Michael Yellowback, Manto Sipi Cree Nation, Manitoba	Chief Perry Bellegarde, Little Black Bear First Nation, SK
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Declare that any refusal or delay by the Government of Canada to ensure that defibrillators are immediately placed in the health centres and nursing stations located in every First Nation community and to ensure that there are an adequate number of trained defibrillator operators in every First Nation community is a violation of the Treaty and Charter rights of First Nation citizens and is contrary to the rights to health of Indigenous peoples as set out in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
2. Mandate the Assembly of First Nations to assess whether an action, as a class action or otherwise, may potentially be brought on behalf of the survivors of those First Nation citizens who are deceased as a direct consequence of the any refusal or delay by the Government of Canada to ensure that defibrillators were placed in the health centres and nursing stations located in community of the deceased and to ensure that there was an adequate number of trained defibrillator operators available in the community of the deceased.
3. Direct the National Chief to call upon the Minister of Health to immediately take steps to ensure that defibrillators are placed in the health centres and nursing stations located in every First Nation community and to ensure that there are an adequate number of trained defibrillator operators in every First Nation community and to pay compensation to the survivor of persons who are deceased as a result of defibrillators and trained defibrillator operators.

UPDATE:

Inquiries have been sent to Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch to understand the availability of defibrillators and trained staff at each nursing station. The AFN is still awaiting a response. Response to this matter is being coordinated internally in the AFN between the Health and Social Secretariat and the AFN Emergency Management Coordinator.

59	Protection of the tax exemption rights of First Nations	Grand Chief Konrad Sioui, Huron-Wendat Nation, QC	Chief Claude Jeannotte, Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Declare that any restrictive interpretation of the tax exemption rights or any refusal on behalf of the Government of Canada and the provincial governments to implement and recognize, as soon as possible, the rights of the First Nations members to tax exemption on income from property is unfair and illegal, violates their ancestral and treaty-protected rights and has a deterrent and perverse effect on the economic development of the First Nations.
2. Mandate the National Chief to advocate that the Government of Canada and the provincial governments take action in line with the rulings recently made by the Supreme Court of Canada within the context of the *Estate of Rolland Bastien* and *Alexandre Dubé* and quickly adopt interpretation rules respecting the rights of First Nation citizens to tax exemption on their income from property, self-determination, autonomy, and economic development that is harmonious and respectful of the human-being.
3. Direct the AFN to develop a national strategy and act as a watchdog to ensure that this tax exemption is better supervised and protected. This includes resorting to the courts, so that First Nation citizens whose rights to tax exemption have not been respected, obtain, in a collective and individual manner, fair and equitable reparations.

UPDATE:

A legal briefing and update on the Supreme Court of Canada's positive rulings made on July, 22, 2011 in regard to the *Bastien and Dubé* cases, which dealt with taxation of on-reserve investment income, was provided to Chiefs at the 2011 Special Chiefs Assembly.

In addition, work on a draft national strategy on First Nation taxation was also discussed. Although there is no dedicated funding for the Taxation Working Group, every effort is made to monitor this portfolio. It has also been recommended, at a technical level, for a national event to be coordinated on taxation issues in 2013.

60	Support for Northlands Denesuline First Nation new nursing station by 2013	Chief Michael Yellowback, Manto Sipi First Nation, MB	Chief Joe Antsanen, Northlands First Nation, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Northlands Denesuline First Nation in their calls on First Nations and Inuit Health, Manitoba Region (FNIH-MR) to honour the commitment for a new nursing station in 2013.
2. Urge that FNIH-MR fully involve the Northlands Denesuline Nation Chief, Council and community in the planning and construction of the new facility.

UPDATE:

A meeting was held with the Northlands Denesuline First Nation and the AFN during the AFN National Health Forum in November 2011 to discuss the required support from the AFN. The AFN offered to facilitate meetings and provide a common meeting venue. A response to this opportunity has not yet been received.

61	Support for Promotion of Lacrosse to First Nation Communities in Canada	Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell, Mohawks of Akwesasne, ON	Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support greater awareness and promotion of the game of lacrosse to every First Nation community in Canada.
2. Direct the National Chief and the AFN Executive Committee to support the development of a National Indigenous committee to coordinate a strategy of introducing and promoting the game of lacrosse to as many First Nation communities as possible.
3. Support lacrosse being held as a demonstration sport at the 2015 Pan Am Games.

UPDATE:

The AFN has established a National Indigenous Committee to coordinate a strategy to introduce and promote the game of lacrosse to as many First Nation communities as possible. In addition, the AFN has written letters to the Canadian Lacrosse Association requesting their support to move this strategy forward.

The AFN has also been in discussions with the 2015 Pan Am Games coordination team to explore opportunities for lacrosse to be showcased.

62	Support for the National Indian Football Association	Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC	Chief Doug White, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Native Indian Football Association (NIFA) as they work to build on the 20 years of football (soccer) in First Nations in Canada and North America in the development of NIFA coaches at both the grassroots level to international level competitions. The Approach will be a holistic one offering relevant traditional philosophies that integrate universal elite sport development models.
2. Call on soccer organizations, sports support organizations and business corporations to assist NIFA with financial support to develop short and long term football (soccer) development programs for First Nation youth and their coaches across Canada.
3. Call on Aboriginal sports organizations to support and assist in the development of national level development pool teams (men and women) who will play in pilot international friendlies versus Indigenous Brazil FUNAI (the National Indian Foundation) in January ,2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and assist team preparations for the first ever Indigenous Football Cup in 2014 in Brazil.
4. Support the NIFA development of long term program strategies of sport and soccer infra-structure that will give opportunity for First Nation youth to build careers and play soccer at the level of their choice, lead to healthy lifestyles, wellness and become positive role models.

UPDATE:

The AFN has provided NIFA with a letter of support for their long-term program, soccer infrastructure, as well as coach and athlete development. This letter, requested by NIFA, helped assist with the call to other organizations and to support NIFA's efforts going forward.

63	Protection and Conservation of Lands and Waters	Steven Nitah, Proxy, Lutsel K-e Dene Band, NWT	Bill Erasmus, Proxy, Yellowknives Dene (Dettah), NWT
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate the National Chief and Assembly of First Nations to communicate to the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments the urgent need for the specific recognition of First Nations laws, customs and institutions for the protection and conservation of lands in legislation and policy, including provisions for the designation and establishment of new indigenous protected areas and true partnerships on a government-to-government basis for existing protected areas.
2. Continue to support the efforts of First Nations to protect lands, waters, wildlife and sacred sites within their homelands in accordance their own laws and customs.

UPDATE:

The AFN has been advocating for a First Nations-driven National Conservation Plan (NCP). The NCP is a Speech from the Throne commitment, and anticipates full and meaningful engagement with First Nations. The AFN participated in a high-level meeting, where the Environment Minister introduced the National Conservation Plan (NCP), and continues to work closely with government officials to ensure the Plan respect First Nations rights, cultures and traditional knowledge.

The National Chief further raised the importance of First Nations laws, customs, rights and knowledge at an appearance on the National Conservation Plan before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. The report of the Standing Committee will be considered by the government as it continues to develop the NCP.

64	Support for a Negotiated Joint Panel Review in Matawa Region	Stan Beardy, Proxy, Eabametoong First Nation, ON	Chief Norm Hardesty, Moose Cree First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to support the Matawa First Nations in advocating that the Government of Canada support a negotiated Joint Review Panel for the mineral development and accompanying infrastructure in their area.
2. Direct that the negotiated Joint Review Panel be guided by a Memorandum of Understanding between the individual First Nation, Canada and Ontario which could include the following, according to the direction of each First Nation:

- Process for appointment of the panel;
 - consideration of specific environmental effects,
 - infrastructure alternatives and the regional environment,
 - direct and cumulative effects of development on the cultural values, socio economic conditions, and
 - the needs of present and future Matawa First Nations members.
- Hearings within First Nations during the EA process and provisions for oral and written translation in our languages;
- Inclusion of Matawa knowledge and perspectives within the environmental assessment process;
- Adequate funding, timelines and related process consideration that reflect the needs of First Nations;
- Joint implementation provision for Canada, Ontario and First Nations.

UPDATE:

The AFN developed briefing materials for a meeting between the National Chief and the Matawa Chiefs. In addition, the importance of a process for ensuring a First Nations driven regional assessment process between Matawa Chiefs, Ontario and Canada was discussed in a meeting between the National Chief and Environment Minister Peter Kent.

65	Support for Renewal of Federal Fisheries Inland Habitat Programs	Chief Salomé Mackenzie, Nation Anishnabe de Lac Simon, QC	Isadore Day, Proxy, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the Government of Canada to continue their investment into First Nation inland fisheries habitat activities and community-run sustainable ecosystem programs through the Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program. or through the creation of a new program administered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans with a similar mandate;
2. Request that the Government Canada honours its international legal obligations in the Convention on Biological Diversity and its international commitment to the principles within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by ensuring support for programs that allow First Nations to practice stewardship and decision making over their inland and freshwater fisheries resources;
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to undertake negotiations with the Government of Canada to design new programs that supply capacity for innovative First Nation led projects, activities and organizations that promote sustainable inland fisheries habitat.

UPDATE:

The AFN has prepared briefings and draft template letters for participants in the AIHP to use in order to brief chiefs, technicians, and regional leadership accordingly. The National Chief raised concerns to the Minister of Fisheries and Ocean regarding the termination of the AIHP both verbally and in a letter. The AFN has voiced concern to numerous parliamentarians and senior bureaucrats. The AFN continues to seek opportunities to engage in discussions with the DFO to scope, design and implement a new funding program that supports First Nations undertaking work in inland aquatic areas.

66	Successful Aquaculture Governance	Chief Doug White, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC	Chris Lewis, Proxy, Okanagan Band, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to work with the First Nation Fisheries Council and the BC Aquaculture Working Group to share information and apply relevant best practices and lessons learned from the BC experience to national aquaculture initiatives.
2. Direct the National Chief to work with the BC First Nations Leadership Council, the BC First Nations Fisheries Council and the BC Aquaculture Working Group to communicate their endorsed and approved principles for successful aquaculture governance to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and to the Federal and Provincial governments, advocating for the engagement of First Nations at all stages in aquaculture management, regulation and decision-making.
3. Support the proposed development of a National Aquaculture Working Group to address issues pertaining to aquaculture at a National Scale and direct the National Chief to communicate to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans the need for adequate resources to ensure this working group is able to provide analysis, advice and benefit to all First Nations with interests in aquaculture.

UPDATE:

The AFN has directly engaged the First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia and other First Nation partners in developing plans and proposals to participate in the Aboriginal Aquaculture Engagement Initiative (AAEI) implemented by the DFO. Best practices put forward from the BC region will be considered and discussed in AFN-led AAEI working group sessions. A National Aquaculture Working Group inaugural meeting was held in February, 2012. The National Chief has expressed the need for proper financing on aquaculture initiatives by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. AAEI Working Group meetings and additional meetings of the National Aquaculture Working Group will be held in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

67	Investigating Options for the Implementation of the First Nations Natural Resource Institute: We are the Land; the Resources are Us	Chris Lewis, Proxy, Okanagan Indian Band, BC	Isadore Day, Proxy, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Affirm that the First Nations National Resources Institute will support inherent jurisdictional rights and responsibilities over natural resources.
2. Direct the AFN to develop and seek consensus on options related to the establishment of the First Nations Natural Resource Institute.
3. Direct the AFN to develop an implementation plan for the establishment of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute.
4. Direct the AFN to bring the implementation plan, including funding options, to Chiefs-in-Assembly for further consideration and decision-making.

5. Direct the AFN to deliver a due diligence platform as to what extent funding options are in keeping with and respecting a rights-based approach.

UPDATE:

The AFN has begun to research various options related to the scope, mandate and structure of a Natural Resources Institute as set out in Resolution #67-2011 and Resolution #27-2011. Options are being drafted for discussion purposes and will be disseminated to Chiefs at the 2012 AGA. The AFN will seek further direction from the Chiefs-in-Assembly while developing and implementing plans to create a Natural Resources Institute.

68	Support for Possible Intervention in Nuu-chah-nulth Fishing Rights Litigation (Ahousaht et al v. Canada)	Chief Doug White, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC	Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Reaffirm their strong support for Nuu-chah-nulth Nations and Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in their ongoing legal battle with Canada to firmly establish First Nation rights-based economic fisheries.
2. Direct that, if the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) grants Canada's application for leave to appeal in *Ahousaht et al v. Canada*, the AFN intervene on behalf of First Nations nationally in support of Nuu-chah-nulth Fishing Rights.

UPDATE:

The AFN has supported Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in its efforts to establish a rights-based economic fishery. The National Chief has verbally put forth matters related to *Ahousaht et al v. Canada* to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. AFN staff have assisted the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in securing meetings with parliamentarians and senior bureaucrats to discuss issues related to the case.

Assistance and support will continue to be provided by the AFN as the matter moves forward.

69	Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing	Steven Nitah, Proxy, Lutsel K-e Dene Band, NWT	Bill Erasmus, Proxy, Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah), NWT
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to call upon federal government to conduct, starting immediately, comprehensive and objective research, with guidance and oversight by First Nations, on the short and long-term impacts of hydraulic fracturing, including:
 - a. The impacts on water resources with respect to the amount of water that is required for fracturing operations;
 - b. The impacts to ground and surface water with respect to the chemicals used in fracturing operations, the

contaminated water that is produced in fracturing operations and how the contaminated water is treated and stored;

c. The impacts of fracturing operations on human health.

2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to require the federal government to consult with First Nations across Canada on hydraulic fracturing operations, including providing First Nations with comprehensive information on hydraulic fracturing so First Nations are in a position to provide free, prior and informed consent to these operations.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to seek resources from the federal government directly to First Nations and supportive organizations in Canada so they may educate their constituents on and consult with their constituents on hydraulic fracturing in order to be in a position to provide free, prior and informed consent to these operations.
4. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to request the federal government implement an immediate moratorium on hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas until First Nations have the proper information on these operations, including the aforementioned research, and have given free, prior and informed consent to hydraulic fracturing operations.

UPDATE:

The government announced that there are two reviews currently underway on fracking – the Canadian Council of Academies (CCA) is conducting a review of the environmental effects of fracking; and Environment Canada is conducting an internal study. The AFN wrote to Environment Minister Peter Kent and the National Chief met with him, informing the Minister of resolution 69/2011 and the call for a moratorium on fracking. The AFN also wrote to CCA President Elizabeth Dowdeswell, requesting First Nations involvement in the studies. Subsequent to a call between the National Chief and President Dowdeswell, names of First Nations experts have been submitted to the CCA to ensure First Nations are involved in the study.

70	Improving the Additions to Reserve Policy and Process	Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, ON	Chief Joe Knockwood, Fort Folly First Nation, NB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to review all policy, legislative and operational options with respect to improving the Additions to Reserve process with a view to bringing comprehensive recommendations for reform to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the next Assembly.

UPDATE:

AFN is actively engaged in discussions with Canada aimed at improving the ATR policy and process. This includes working on a complete renovation of the current ATR policy, as well as consideration of options for a legislative solution to address some elements of the current policy. A Joint Working Group has been formed with representation from several regions across Canada to inform these joint discussions. Recommendations with respect to the pursuit of options – including legislative reform options – will be brought to the AGA in July.

71	Comprehensive Claims Policy Reform Initiative	Chief Harry St. Denis, Wolf Lake First Nation, QC	Chief Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band, BC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate the Comprehensive Claims Policy Working Group to formulate the position to be presented to the First Nation – Canada Crown Gathering, insisting on a firm political commitment to fundamental change and a process for timely reform of the Comprehensive Claims Policy.
2. Direct that the position advanced by the Comprehensive Claims Working Group be based upon and reflect the following:
 - a. findings in previous reports, including RCAP, the Peeling-Stevenson Opinion, the Common Table Report;
 - b. input received through the regional sessions;
 - c. Pre-Confederation treaties which are an affirmation of Aboriginal title and recognize the nation to nation relationship between the Crown and First Nations;
 - d. the standards and Indigenous human rights in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as well as the *American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man*; and
 - e. that it is the federal government and not the provinces that has the primary fiduciary duty, on behalf of the Crown, to engage with and protect the Aboriginal title and rights of First Nations.
3. Mandate the Comprehensive Claims Policy Working Group to continue to develop and pursue the implementation of national, international and regional strategies to promote reform to the federal Comprehensive Claims Policy, and call upon Assembly of First Nations to support First Nations in their efforts to obtain meaningful and fundamental reform of the Comprehensive Claims Policy.
4. Call on the Comprehensive Claims Policy Working Group to report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the next Assembly.

UPDATE:

The AFN presented a statement at the Crown-First Nations Gathering entitled: "Aboriginal Title & Rights and Comprehensive Claims Policy Reform" developed in coordination with the Comprehensive Claims Policy Working Group. A meeting of the Working Group took place in April to discuss follow-up and to prepare for engagement with officials from Canada. The National Chief has written to the Prime Minister to confirm his commitment moving forward. Further developments are expected to be presented at the AGA this July in Toronto.

72	Treaty Land Entitlement Claims in Manitoba	Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, Proxy, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB	Chief David Crate, Fisher River Cree Nation, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Express their support for the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) as it continues with its efforts to settle the outstanding Treaty land obligations owing to its Member Entitlement First Nations.
2. Call upon Canada to uphold the Honour of the Crown and continue to support the TLEC beyond 2013 so the TLEC can continue to meet its mandate to assist and support its Member Entitlement First Nations in converting TLE land selections and acquisitions to Reserve status under the MFA.
3. Direct the National Chief and Executive to support TLEC in its efforts to secure a new funding commitment with Canada beyond 2013 to enable all land selections and land acquisitions to be converted to Reserve status.

UPDATE:

In coordination with the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC), the National Chief has written a letter of support to Minister Duncan identifying the issues of concern and seeking a resolution to this issue for Member Entitlement First Nations.

73	Expediting the process of obtaining a new reserve for Lake St. Martin First Nation due to Artificial Flooding	Myrle Ballard, Proxy, Lake St. Martin First Nation, MB	Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, Proxy, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Urge the Federal government and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to expedite the process of finding new land and converting it to reserve status so that the Lake St. Martin First Nation community members can move out of hotels and temporary housing and into their own community.
2. Support the aspirations of the Lake St. Martin First Nation in creating a sustainable green community that will benefit Lake St. Martin First Nation through different economic activities associated with the development of a new community base and partnerships.
3. Direct the National Chief and Assembly of First Nations to advocate to all governments for both immediate and sustained action on this matter as requested by the Lake St. Martin First Nation Chief and Council.

UPDATE:

In coordination with the Lake St. Martin First Nation, the National Chief has prepared a letter of support to Minister Duncan identifying the urgent need for action with respect to the need for an expedited process to establish a new reserve for this community.

74	Call for Investments to Respond to the National Water & Wastewater Engineering Assessment Report	Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON	Chief Joel Abram, Oneida Nation of the Thames, ON
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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.

UPDATE

The National Engineering Assessment of Water and Wastewater Systems in First Nations released July 2011 identified \$4.7 billion in servicing needs over a 10 year period. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development has not yet provided a comprehensive financial plan to respond to this assessment. At the regional teleconference calls arranged by the AANDC ADM, it was made clear to AANDC that First Nations have not had time to properly assess the impacts of the community reports and that resources will be needed to carry this out.

The assessment makes clear that the implementation of a complex source-to-tap water regulation regime, as proposed by Bill S-8: *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*, will be a costly undertaking that must have clear commitment to adequate resources and supports if it is to succeed.

The need for Canada to provide adequate resources has been raised by AFN in its written submission to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples in its review of Bill S-8.

75	Reform of First Nations Policing Program	Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, ON	Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON
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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.

UPDATE:

AFN has actively worked with Canada to impart the importance of the First Nations Policing Program and this was a key element at the National Justice Forum in February 2012. National Chief Atleo raised this concern directly with senior public safety officials.

Assessment of further challenges to federal programs under the CHRA is pending the outcome of the current child welfare challenge.

76	Jurisdiction and Consultation on Child Welfare Policies	Grand Chief Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell, Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, ON	Chief Cecil Janvier, Cold Lake First Nation, AB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Assert that any changes to child welfare policies must be done in full consultation with First Nations, to ensure that policies are responsive to the needs of families living on reserve and accommodate the unique circumstances in each First Nation, and must contain adequate resources to ensure that First Nations have capacity to enable full participation at the policy and implementation levels and to carry out the needed work.
2. Support the Gitanmaax Band and any other BC First Nation in a similar situation to continue to abide by locally-developed child welfare policies until those policies are replaced by policies developed in accordance with the principles set out in the Child at the Centre Action Plan.
3. Call upon the National Chief and Executive of AFN to meet with Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and provincial Ministers responsible for children and family, including the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development to advise that:
 - i. The process used to unilaterally change and implement the Social Development Policy fails to recognize our right to self government and self determination and is not in keeping with the Crown's special obligations to First Nations;
 - ii. First Nations have the right as well as the duty to their members, to continue to provide services to children and families living on reserve in a manner that meets the needs of families.

UPDATE:

The AFN wrote a letter in June 2011 to the Minister of AANDC and the BC Minister of Children and Family Development (CFD) to encourage discussions with the Secwepmc Nation regarding the restoration of jurisdiction in Child Welfare. The National Chief had a follow up meeting with the Minister of CFD in February 2012 to discuss the items outlined in resolutions #36/2011 and #76/2011 regarding the restoration of jurisdiction of child welfare to First Nations, specifically Secwepmc and Gitanmaax, and encouraging tripartite discussions.

77	Support for Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Demand for Moratorium on Oil and Gas drilling in the Maqtugweg (Gulf of St-Lawrence)	Quentin Condo, Proxy, Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, QC	Chief Leonard Polson, Long Point First Nation, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi in their demand to the Quebec government to maintain its current moratorium on oil and gas drilling and demand the Federal government to institute a moratorium for the entire Gulf of Saint-Lawrence.
2. If the moratorium fails, support the St-Lawrence Coalition in its efforts to:
 - a. establish an integrated management of the Gulf;
 - b. assess the environmental, social and economical risks and impacts of oil and gas resources development;
 - c. demand that the strictest rules and the most advanced technology be used for oil and gas resources development;
 - d. choose, as a collective group, to drill or not in the Gulf.

UPDATE:

The AFN has contacted the coalition to maintain the moratorium on the drilling in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. The AFN continues to monitor the status of the moratorium. If the moratorium fails, the AFN will send correspondence to the governments of Quebec and Canada, demanding those actions suggested by the St-Lawrence Coalition reflected in this resolution.

78	Second International Indigenous Border Security Summit	Wendall Nicholas, Proxy, Madawaska Maliseet First Nation, NB	Grand Chief Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell, Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the National Chief to seek resources to convene the 2nd International Indigenous Border Summit in Akwesasne during the first week of June 2012, and host said meeting when resources are secured.

UPDATE:

A letter was sent to the Minister of Public Safety in January 2012. The National Chief requested a meeting with the Minister of Public Safety to discuss the second International Indigenous Border Security Summit. The AFN convened a teleconference of the AFN Border Chiefs Committee on February 2, 2012 to consolidate support for the Border Summit and begin the planning process. The National Chief sent a letter to the Prime Minister on March 13, 2012, requesting a meeting to discuss the second International Indigenous Border Security Summit with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Public Safety, as well as requesting the Prime Minister's support for a meeting between the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Minister of Public Safety.

Responses from the Minister of Public Safety as well as the Prime Minister, dated May 12, 2012 and May 9, 2012, respectively, indicate interest on the part of the federal government to participate in the Second International Indigenous Border Security Summit. However, the AFN has not received a commitment to make resources available for the Summit and will continue to advocate for funding and coordinate planning efforts with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne so that the Summit can take place, expected by the spring of 2013.

79	Chiefs Access to Benefits	Doug Kelly, Proxy, Soowhalie First Nation, BC	Chief Dean Sayers, Ojibways of Batchewana First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate the AFN to review and develop options for all leadership and council members which would provide access for Chiefs, Past Leadership and members of council across Canada to important life insurance and defined contribution pension benefits.
2. Direct that any plan developed by the AFN be voluntary.
3. Further direct that this plan be supplementary to existing benefits that Chiefs may have access to such as private plans and those provided by the government such as Non-Insured Health Benefits.
4. Direct that this plan include other benefits which may be of interest to Chiefs such as passes to AFN meetings.

UPDATE:

The AFN continues to work with our benefits provider on developing a package for implementation. It is anticipated that the "All Chiefs Plan" will be announced during the 2012 Annual General Assembly.

80	Resource Revenue / Benefit Sharing with First Nations	Chief Bart Hardy, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek, ON	Chief Peter Collins, Fort William First Nation, ON
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to undertake a study that will research other jurisdictions and discuss the past, present and future resource revenues and benefits that have or will generate royalties, partnerships, taxation, fees, licenses, permits, sales, rentals, and agreements; and that restitution including retroactive annuities should be sought from these activities.
2. Direct the National Chief to urge both the Canadian and Provincial governments that a tripartite process is required, so that the gap between governments and First Nations' expectations regarding Resource Revenue / Benefit Sharing can be eliminated, allowing future economic sustainability and contribution that will further support the First Nation communities in Canada.
3. Direct the National Chief to meet with the Government of Canada to explore a more comprehensive dialogue regarding Resource Revenue / Benefit Sharing with First Nations with a firm commitment of capacity development resources regionally.
4. Support activity that advances the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, benefits and empowers principles of First Nation self-determination, and helps bring accurate information to the public.

UPDATE:

AFN has requested funding for the new fiscal year to include work to support an environmental scan on existing research and outline a study to on Resource Revenue / Benefit sharing. In addition, AFN has proposed to update the 2005 AFN discussion paper on resource revenue sharing.

During the Crown-First Nation Gathering in January 2012, First Nation leaders participating in the economic session emphasized the importance to address resource revenues, access, and benefits; and the importance to maintain these issues at the forefront of the agenda. The AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development has recommended dealing with land issues, resource revenue sharing, recognition of rights and title, as part of the work to be conducted as part of the Joint Task Force on the First Nation Economies. Also, this matter will be raised with premiers as part of the Council of the Federation discussions in July 2012.

81	Support for the National Indian and Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization	Chief Leonard Polson, Long Point First Nation, QC	Chief Allison Metallic, Listuguj Migmaq First Nation, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Affirm that the National Indian and Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization (NIICHRO) is an important national partner that supports Community Health Representatives (CHR) work at the local level by:
 - a. Directing the AFN to call upon the Minister of Health to secure funding for NIICHRO on an urgent and ongoing basis
 - b. Supporting a national celebration of 50 years of CHR service to be coordinated and implemented by NIICHRO

UPDATE:

A letter was sent to the Executive Director of NIICHRO in February 2012 to meet to discuss the concerns raised by NIICHRO and to review opportunities in bridging the gaps.

82	Support For Action	Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation, MB	Brent Wilson, Proxy, Rolling River First Nation, MB
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Support direct action initiatives of First Nation communities to encourage consultation, negotiation, accommodation and reconciliation with respect to their constitutionally protected rights, human rights and other international protected rights and interests.
2. Call upon Canada, the provinces and the international community to respect the fundamental human rights of Indigenous peoples to ownership of all natural resource wealth in Canada as recognized and supported by

international and domestic law.

3. Call upon the international community to impress upon Canada to fairly and honourably resolve all outstanding First Nation claims and improve the social and human rights conditions of First Nations peoples.

UPDATE:

The AFN has continued to advocate for First Nations interests in the international arena. The AFN submitted a shadow report that corrected certain facts Canada's record of implementing the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination during Canada report of the UN Human Rights Committee. The AFN had also signed on to other interventions relating to Canada's failure to implement self-government agreements and land claims.

The AFN has made a number of submissions and recommendations to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous peoples, as well as the Organization of American States. Internationally, the AFN has been promoting the inclusion of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in all international discussions and treaty making negotiations. The AFN and other indigenous peoples organizations recently were successful in capturing language supporting UNRRIP in the recent UN Conference on sustainable Development (RIO +20).

AFN will continue to advocate domestically for the implementation of first Nation Treaty and Aboriginal Rights, as well as the fair settlement of outstanding land claims.

83	Housing as a National Priority	Chief Bill Montour, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON	Chief Madeleine Paul, Eagle Village First Nation-Kipawa, QC
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the National Chief and Executive Committee to ensure that the issue of housing rises to the forefront as a National First Nations priority;
2. Direct the National Chief to include housing on the agenda at the First Nations - Crown Gathering in January 2012 in the priority status it deserves;
3. Direct the AFN to allocate the appropriate level of funding to the AFN Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat to support and fully engage the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI), and the Technical Committee on Housing in this important work.

UPDATE:

Advocacy for funding to support First Nation housing needs has been at the forefront of AFN advocacy.

A draft National Housing Strategy will be discussed at the 2012 AGA. The draft strategy outlines a framework to support housing management and delivery to transition and control of all aspects of housing from the federal government to First Nation control. Further work will be guided by the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing & Infrastructure and its Technical Working Group.