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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**  
December 11, 12 & 13, 2007, Ottawa, ON

**Resolution no. 37 /2007**

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**SUBJECT:** Support and Endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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**MOVED BY:** Edward John, Proxy, Nak'azdli Indian Band, BC

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Leah George-Wilson, Tseil Waututh Nation, BC

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**DECISION:** Adopted by consensus.

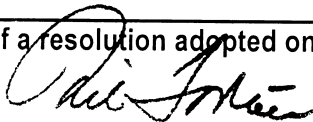
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**WHEREAS:**

- A. First Nations leadership and the Nations that they represent have fully supported the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples since its inception with past resolutions;
- B. On September 13, 2007 the United Nations General Assembly approved and ratified by a historic vote of 144 in favor, 4 opposed and 11 abstentions, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ('Declaration');
- C. The Declaration recognizes that Indigenous peoples have a right of self-determination under international law, which includes rights to autonomy in relation to internal affairs, and rights to freely determine their political status and pursue economic, social and cultural development;
- D. The Declaration also affirms Indigenous rights to own, use, develop and control lands and resources, and requires states to give legal recognition and protection to these rights, through, *inter alia*, obtaining their free, prior and informed consent before adopting legislative or administrative measures affecting Indigenous peoples and before approving any project affecting their lands and resources;
- E. The Government of Canada expressed its opposition to the Declaration and intention to vote against the adoption of the Declaration, although all other federal political parties and the majority of Canadians confirmed support for the Declaration;

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Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 11th day of December, 2007 in Ottawa, ON



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Phil Fontaine, National Chief

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- F. Canada was one of only four member States of the UN General Assembly, and the only member State of the Human Rights Council, to vote against the adoption of the Declaration;
- G. Canada has continued its opposition to the Declaration and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, by waging an aggressive media campaign against the Declaration.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:**

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby ratify the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as passed by the United Nations General Assembly on September 13, 2007;
2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly commit to the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within their own agreements, arrangements, laws and Nations;
3. The Chiefs-in-Assembly welcome the support of the Liberal Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party of Canada and the Bloc Quebecois for the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
4. The Chiefs-in-Assembly demand that the Government of Canada commit to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in full cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief