SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 4, 5 & 6, 2012, GATINEAU, QC

Resolution no. 63/2012

TITLE:	Support for the Appointment of the Seven BC First Nations Gaming Commissioners to the BC First Nations Gaming Commission
SUBJECT:	BC First Nation Gaming Commission Initiative
MOVED BY:	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skwawahlook First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Glenda Campbell, Tzeachten First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. BC First Nations Chiefs were not consulted nor were party to the 1985 federal-provincial agreement that transferred the authority to operate gaming facilities to the provinces and retain the associated revenues.

B. All BC First Nations require more consistent and predictable funding in order to support ongoing programs, improve band capacity and infrastructure, develop effective long-range planning and pursue development opportunities for the economic, social and cultural needs of their communities in a crucial effort to combat systemic poverty.

C. First Nation communities in all other provinces enjoy the annual benefits of multi-million dollar gaming revenues, while BC First Nations receive nothing from the over $1.5 billion in existing BC gaming annual revenues.

D. BC First Nations have been discussing the issue of shared revenues and jurisdiction over gaming in British Columbia since 1993, and more diligently for the last four years since the creation of the BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Steering Committee, in efforts to engage the Province in negotiations but to no result. A clear position or response to this issue has not yet articulated from the new BC Liberal Premier, Christy Clark, thus perpetuating the injustice of denying First Nations a share of these revenues.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of December, 2012 in Gatineau, Quebec

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

E. Previous resolutions of the First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and BC AFN have all acknowledged and reaffirmed our common position that the BC Gaming Act does not apply nor have jurisdiction over gaming activities on First Nations lands in BC. All have supported the establishment of the First Nations Gaming Commission to develop, regulate and distribute the benefits of direct First Nations gaming opportunities in BC.

F. The BC First Nation Gaming Commission, based on the approved terms of reference framework for the Commission (November, 2012), requires the appointment of seven (7) senior and knowledgeable provincial leaders with expertise in the gaming initiative as the new First N Gaming Commissioners to manage and build this new entity with its above mandate. Once all appointments are in place the Commissioners will establish a First Nations Gaming Advisory Council exclusively made up of external gaming professionals with expertise in gaming policy and experience in gaming regulation in other provinces.

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

1. Support ratification of the appointment of seven individuals to the BC First Nations Gaming Commission based on the following criteria, as per the Terms of Reference Framework (November 2012):

   Three (3) Commissioners will be appointed, one from each of the respective Provincial First Nations Organizations executives:

   i. One (1) from the BC First Nations Summit

   ii. One (1) from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs

   iii. One (1) from the BC Assembly of First Nations

   The remaining four (4) Commissioners would be selected from the list of former Chairs of the BC First Nations Gaming Committee based on their long-standing efforts and commitment to this initiative. This is the list of former Chairs to be appointed to the Commission:

   iv. Grand Chief Joe Hall, or alternate

   v. Dr. Judith Sayers, or alternate

   vi. Chief Shane Gottfriedson, or alternate

   vii. (Only after March 31, 2013) Chief Sophie Pierre, or alternate

2. Support the establishment of a First Nations Gaming Advisory Council made up of gaming experts from across Canada to assist and advise the BC First Nations Gaming Commission.

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