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

Resolution no. 81/2012

TITLE:	Following Indigenous Protocols and Ceremonies with Respect to Water
SUBJECT:	Water
MOVED BY:	Chief Lynn Acoose, Sakimay First Nations, SK
SECONDED BY:	Regena Crowchild, proxy, Tsuu T'ina First Nation, AB
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has been endorsed by Canada and in Article 25 states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard."

B. On the 5th of December, 2012, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a resolution approving the draft National First Nations Water Strategy as a basis for dialogue.

C. For this resolution to be effective and to honour our spiritual ancestors and the spirits of the water, we need to have clear direction on the next steps.

D. Water is the responsibility of Indigenous women.

E. Discussions and planning on water needs to be done in accordance with our Indigenous laws.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to follow appropriate Indigenous protocol and ensure that ceremonies are conducted to honour the water spirits and these ceremonies need to be done as early as the spring assembly of AFN to ensure that our work is done in a proper and respectful way.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF