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

Resolution no. 66/2012

TITLE:	Action for Securing Our Future through Injury Prevention
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Peter Collins, Fort William First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Injuries are the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among First Nation populations between the ages of 1 and 44, with the disability rate amongst First Nations being 31%, which is twice the national Canadian average.

B. Both unintentional and intentional Injuries are a serious national First Nation issue and represent one of the most significant threats to the future health and wellbeing of our First Nations. Leading expertise indicates injury risk factors include lower socio-economic status, mental health and substance abuse.

C. According to recent evidence in the First Nations Regional Health Survey in 2008/10:
   - Nearly one-in-five adults (18.6%) reported having been injured in the 12 months prior to the survey.
   - "Fall or trip" was the most common cause of injuries, reported by more than a third (35.2%) of First Nations adults who reported having been injured.
   - Assaults, including domestic or family violence, were the cause of roughly one-in-ten injuries (10.9%).
   - Of the individuals whose injuries were from an assault (domestic violence or other), the percentage involving substance use was over two-thirds.

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- The proportion of First Nations adults who reported having attempted suicide at some point in their lifetime (13.1%) was greater than the proportion of adults in the general Canadian population who reported only having thoughts of suicide during their lifetime (9.1%).

D. Injuries are predictable and preventable. First Nations national and regional initiatives in injury prevention initiatives involving research and surveillance, training and education, and planning and coordination to facilitate comprehensive strategic initiatives which are evidence based, culturally appropriate and community specific make a difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities.

E. Resolution 57-2009 passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly in December 2009 supported the development and implementation of a national comprehensive injury prevention strategy to address injuries by reducing risks and promoting protective factors through resources to support community, territorial, regional and national initiatives.

F. Resources supporting national coordination and planning by the Assembly of First Nations in conjunction with the First Nations Regional Injury Prevention (FNRIP) working group was completely eliminated through budget cuts in the spring of 2012.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations and National Chief to coordinate and facilitate national advocacy efforts for injury prevention.
2. Support a call to all levels of governments and associated departments in Health and Social Services, Education and Employment, Justice and Public Safety and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, to immediately provide resources to support the development and implementation of a comprehensive national strategy and initiative to establish community programs and reduce the burden of injuries in our communities to secure our future for generations to come.

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