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

Resolution no. 44/2012

TITLE:	Support for Lake Manitoba First Nation and other First Nations in Achieving Post-Secondary Education
SUBJECT:	Post-Secondary Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Barry Swan, Lake Manitoba First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Ron Evans, Norway House Cree Nation, MB
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: *States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.*

B. Education is a cornerstone to the elimination of prejudice and racial discrimination, and to strengthening the social, cultural and economic foundation of communities.

C. Approximately 61% of First Nation young adults (20-24) have not completed high school, compared with 13% of non-Aboriginal people in Canada.

D. Only 8% of First Nations people have a university degree, compared to 23% of non-Aboriginal people in Canada. According to AFN research, in 2006 at least 65,000 more First Nations university graduates were required to have equity with the Canadian population.

E. The Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) has been very successful in enabling First Nations students to access post-secondary education.

F. The PSSSP has been subject to a 2% cap on annual expenditure increases since 1996-97.

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G. The cap on PSSSP means that the amount of available funding does not keep up with demand from students, nor does the amount of funding available keep up with the rising costs of living and the rising costs of tuition and learning materials.

H. Lake Manitoba First Nation is providing PSSSP funding to students who are successfully attending post secondary institutions.

I. The funding available under PSSSP is currently committed to existing post-secondary students to ensure their success, and as a result, does not leave funding available for 2012-13 secondary school graduates.

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

1. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to immediately remove the 2% cap on the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP).
2. Direct the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to support the Lake Manitoba First Nation, and all other First Nations across Canada, by providing the funding necessary for their additional post-secondary students graduating from secondary school in 2012-13.

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