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

Resolution no. 75/2012

TITLE:	Support for Sagkeeng First Nation to conclude a fair agreement with Manitoba Hydro
SUBJECT:	Resource Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Donavan Fontaine, Sagkeeng First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Simon Fobister, Grassy Narrows, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The Sagkeeng First Nation is an Anishinabe Nation that is signatory to Treaty 1 and respects Treaty 3 Protocol and whose citizens have, for centuries, relied upon the Winnipeg River system for their sustenance, transportation and other activities that are integral to the Nation.

B. The Winnipeg River and its ecosystem was forever and adversely altered as a result of the construction and operation of six (6) hydro dams and generating stations, beginning in 1909 with the construction of the Pointe du Bois spillway and generating station. Today, Manitoba Hydro owns, controls and operates all of the hydro projects on the Winnipeg River.

C. The Sagkeeng First Nation was the initial and primary First Nation in Manitoba to suffer the adverse and irreversible effects of hydro development over 100 years ago, including loss of fish habitat, erosion of significant amounts of reserve land and relocation of housing, loss of transportation for recreational and traditional harvesting activities, loss of wildlife habitat and exposure and loss of burial and graveyard sites, and other matters of significance to the Sagkeeng Nation.

D. The Sagkeeng First Nation is currently negotiating with Manitoba Hydro to address the manner in which it should be compensated for the impacts on its rights and interests; however, the matter of resource revenue sharing is an issue that the Province of Manitoba has yet to address.

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E. Manitoba Hydro is a provincial crown corporation that, along with the province of Manitoba, has received billions of dollars in profit using Sagkeeng's resources at the expense of Sagkeeng's rights and interests, yet Manitoba Hydro refuses to deal fairly with Sagkeeng in these negotiations.

F. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Articles 26, 28 and 32 unequivocally support Sagkeeng's rights to its natural resources and for compensation for the adverse impacts on its rights, land and waters.

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

1. Call upon Manitoba Hydro to recognize the historic and future impacts of hydro development upon the Sagkeeng First Nation and to deal with them on a fair, principled and equitable basis, rather than arbitrarily.

2. Support the Sagkeeng First Nation in its efforts to arrive at a fair and just agreement with Manitoba Hydro.

3. Demand that the Province of Manitoba immediately consider options to explore revenue sharing models, in collaboration with First Nations, to ensure that all First Nations in Manitoba receive their rightful share of benefits derived from the development of their natural resources.

4. Reinforce the critical importance for all provinces and development companies to achieve reconciliation with First Nations arising from past resource development projects.

5. Support the involvement of First Nations in sharing revenues derived from the on-going and future development of natural resources in First Nation traditional territories.

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