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

Resolution no. 78/2012

TITLE:	Support for the Innu Meshkenu Project
SUBJECT:	Promotion of healthy lifestyles and school completion
MOVED BY:	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Madeleine Paul, Eagle Village First Nation – Kipawa, QC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states in Article 21: "Indigenous peoples have the right, without any discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, *inter alia*, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities." Article 23 states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions."

B. The promotion of healthy lifestyles and school completion is a vital factor in the emancipation of Indigenous peoples.

C. The Innu Meshkenu Project is the personal initiative of Dr. Stanley Vollant, the first Indigenous surgeon in Quebec. Dr. Vollant is walking over 3,500 kilometres to all Innu communities, to meet with youth to encourage education and cultural identity and connect with Elders to learn about traditional medicines.

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D. In its first two years of existence, the Innu Meshkenu Project proved to have a significant impact on physical and mental health and social well-being in the communities visited.

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

1. Support the Innu Meshkenu Project and pledge to cooperate with Innu Meshkenu Project organizers when the Innu Meshkenu Walk passes through their respective communities, or during any other event related to the Innu Meshkenu project.
2. Commit to writing letters to support and to assist Innu Meshkenu Project organizers in their efforts to obtain funding and political support.

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