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

Resolution no. 67/2012

TITLE:	Nutrition North Canada Program and the Direct Impact on Remote First Nation Communities
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Alvin Fiddler, Proxy, Wapekeka First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Rex Knapaysweet, Fort Albany First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 24 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states, "Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right."

B. The Government of Canada unilaterally reviewed and cancelled the Food Mail Program which was replaced by the Nutrition North Canada Program.

C. The Government of Canada assessed the use of the program by northern retailers to determine community eligibility for subsidy under Nutrition North Canada and as a result, many remote communities who were eligible for subsidies under the Food Mail Program are no longer eligible to receive subsidies.

D. The Government of Canada also unilaterally decided to remove subsidies for hunting and fishing supplies during the transition from the Food Mail Program to the Nutrition North Canada Program.

E. The Nutrition North Canada Program only provides subsidies on traditional meats if they are purchased from stores and processing plants registered with the program.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

F. The cost of healthy foods in remote First Nations across Canada far exceeds what is reasonable to support a healthy diet and lifestyle; and the high cost of food has a direct impact on health, social and economic outcomes.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to request the federal government to classify all remote communities as eligible for full subsidy rates and provisions under Nutrition North Canada Program, including the Nutrition North Education Program and to reinstate the subsidy for hunting and fishing supplies and non-market based traditional meats.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF