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

Resolution no. 45/2012

TITLE:	Implementation of a National First Nations Water Strategy
SUBJECT:	Water
MOVED BY:	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Madeliene Paul, Eagle Village First Nation, QC
DECISION:	Carried; 1 opposed

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has been endorsed by Canada and in Article 25 states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard."

B. Article 32 states:
   1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
   2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
   3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

C. Resolution 20-2012 directs the AFN to further development of a National First Nations Water Strategy to report to the Chiefs in Assembly at the December 2012 Special Chiefs Assembly on a National First Nations Water Strategy for ratification and direction on implementation.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

D. A draft National First Nations Water Strategy has been developed for discussion and direction comprising of actions, communications and research to further critical work in the following areas:
    a. First Nations Inherent Right to Water,
    b. Watershed Management and Protection,
    c. Water Management.

E. The draft strategy is a work in progress and will require significant input from all First Nations, inclusive of women, Elders and youth, and technical working groups to develop a comprehensive National First Nations Water Strategy.

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

1. Accept the draft National First Nations Water Strategy as a basis for dialogue.
2. Direct the AFN to continue to actively facilitate discussion and seek input from First Nations, regional technical working groups and other organizations to further refine the development of a comprehensive National First Nations Water Strategy, to be overseen by the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure.

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