ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 17, 18 & 19, 2012, TORONTO, ON

Resolution no. 07/2012

TITLE:	Support for Atlantic Region First Nations' Struggle Against Cuts to Social Welfare
SUBJECT:	Social Welfare
MOVED BY:	Chief George Ginnish, Eel Ground First Nation, NB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Joanna Bernard, Madawaska First Nation, NB
DECISION:	Carried by consensus as part of an Omnibus Motion, Moved by Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation BC & Seconded by Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

A. The Government of Canada has announced devastating cuts to social welfare rates for First Nations people in New Brunswick.

B. These cuts will see reductions of hundreds of dollars a month to families who already in some of the most devastating poverty in Canada.

C. The Government of Canada chose to proceed with these cuts without any consultation or engagement with First Nations people and their elected governments.

D. The Government of Canada has acknowledged that their internal research has shown that these cuts will lead to increased family breakdown and more cases of children in care.

E. The Federal Court of Canada has already issued an injunction against these cuts because of the real risk of harm to vulnerable families and inadequate consultation.

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

1. Direct the AFN to challenge the Government of Canada's proposed cuts to social welfare rates for Atlantic Canadian First Nations and in other regions where social welfare cuts are negatively impacting First Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 19th day of July, 2012 in Toronto, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

2. Further call upon the AFN to urge the Government of Canada to engage in meaningful, good-faith consultation with First Nations governments in the Atlantic Region to design programs aimed at alleviating poverty based upon the real and unique needs of First Nations people and communities.

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