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

Resolution no. 08/2012

TITLE:	Federal Government of Canada Failing to provide Mental Health Services
SUBJECT:	Mental Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Nelson Genaille, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake First Nation, SK
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 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

   Section 18: Indigenous people have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

   Section 24.2: 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. First Nation communities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan have been left to create their own community-based Mental Health programs under the current formula provided by First Nation and Inuit Health. Programs such as Brighter Futures and Building Healthy Communities have been the driving force to maintain some community-based Mental Health programs.

C. All Mental Health funds continue to be sent to the province and in many First Nation communities, these provincially employed individuals refuse to enter Aboriginal communities to provide Mental Health services.

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D. Each First Nation must be provided the proper funding and pro-active political support to ensure that Mental Health funding be transferred from the provincial governments and back to the First Nation communities across Canada, so that all First Nations be provided with proper funding to deliver appropriate culturally and traditionally sensitive community-based Mental Health programs.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to continue a proactive process to engage the federal government in resolving the lack of Mental Health Services for all First Nations across Canada.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to begin discussions with all First Nations to address community-based issues about Mental Health and addressing Mental Health issues in First Nation communities.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate that Canada provide adequate and sustainable Mental Health funding to First Nations.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF