TITLE:	First Nations Right to Determine Citizenship
SUBJECT:	Governance, citizenship
MOVED BY:	Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, Proxy, Buffalo Point First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief William Montour, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes First Nations' right to self-determination; and the right to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development (Article 3) and have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions (Article 33).

B. First Nations have inherent and unextinguished jurisdiction to make laws to define who belongs to our respective Nations.

C. First Nations have inherent and unextinguished jurisdiction to make laws to define who belongs to our respective Nations. Exercising control over the act of defining identity is an important element in implementing First Nations' inherent right to self-determination.

D. Our identities are closely tied to our ancestral lands and languages and are informed by cultural and spiritual traditions, oral histories, traditional laws and complex social structures and governing systems.

E. First Nations still follow and respect their traditional laws and teachings – such as the Potlatch System and Two Row Wampum Belt – which continue to apply to their lands and resources, their citizens and to those passing through their territories.

F. First Nations must maintain our right to define citizenship under our own natural laws, policies and procedures or the future of our Nations' populations is uncertain.

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G. First Nations must also support and legitimize one another's authority by recognizing and respecting each other's inherent authority and the mechanisms used by each First Nation to determine citizenship, and by engaging with one another on a Nation-to-Nation basis.

H. As mandated by Chiefs-in-Assembly, the Assembly of First Nations facilitated an inclusive National Dialogue on First Nation citizenship, seeking views on matters of identity and nationhood and examining options on moving forward on First Nation jurisdiction over citizenship.

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

1. Affirm and re-assert First Nations' sovereign and inherent right to exercise jurisdiction to self-determine who are citizens are, through our own laws, reflective of our right to self-determination and exercise of our inherent right to self-government as expressed through our traditional governing structures and Treaties.
2. Acknowledge among ourselves that there is considerable diversity among First Nations in Canada and that we each have our own systems for recognizing and gaining citizenship within our respective Nations.
3. Continue to assert that First Nations' consent is required to any amendments to the *Indian Act* which impact on First Nations' jurisdiction over citizenship.
4. Assert and insist that Canada recognize all citizens as defined by First Nations and that First Nations negotiate with Canada to ensure fiscal transfers for the provision of services to our citizens.
5. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to work with Treaty, regional and provincial organizations and individual First Nations, and encourage them to share the results and recommendations of their exploratory discussions on Indian registration, membership and First Nation citizenship, and support the furtherance of these recommendations.
6. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to continue research on considerations and mechanisms to fully implement First Nation jurisdiction over citizenship, and that a comprehensive update and strategy be provided at the 2012 Special Chiefs Assembly.

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