TITLE:	Support for reconciliation and the continuation of healing programs under the Aboriginal Healing Foundation
SUBJECT:	Indian Residential Schools; Reconciliation
MOVED BY:	Chief Greg Peters, Delaware Nation (Moravian of the Thames), ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Aaron Sock, Elsipogtog First Nation, NB
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 8 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that "States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities; and (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration".

B. Since contact, colonial governments have maintained a course to undermine our Nationhood, use all available methods to assimilate and extinguish our National identities, and disenfranchise us from our homelands.

C. In collusion with the churches, Canada used the method of residential schooling to change the identity of Indigenous peoples.

D. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recognized that there needs to be a network of healing lodges to support healing and wellness of Aboriginal peoples and to fill the acute need of treatment for residential school survivors overwhelmed by social, emotional and spiritual distress.

E. Prime Minister Harper, on June 11, 2008, offered an apology on behalf of Canada asking for forgiveness for their policy of assimilation, recognizing the wrong and the great harm caused by Residential Schools.

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F. In the 2010 Budget, the federal government announced that the funding to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) would not be renewed and that Health Canada would be responsible for the health needs of survivors and their families.

G. The health supports provided through Health Canada are often external to the community and entail a limited number of support sessions which are approved to deal with individual survivor therapeutic needs.

H. The network of 12 Healing Centres and the five pilot sites funded by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation provides an essential service and is a valuable element in designing a system of care to support healing, wellness and reconciliation among survivors and their families; closing these programs will put survivors and their families in an unacceptable circumstance of risk.

I. Necessary healing services currently funded through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation are scheduled to be terminated on December 31, 2013.

J. The process of healing is not a process with an arbitrary start and end date.

K. The impacts of the residential school system have also created complex and serious problems arising from the independent adjudication process and other processes through which survivors are emotionally triggered, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) events and testimony occurring over the next two years.

L. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in its Interim Report, recommends that the Government of Canada meet immediately with the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to develop a plan to restore funding for healing initiatives to the AHF within the next fiscal year.

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

1. Call upon the National Chief and the Executive to address this matter directly with the Prime Minister as a substantive measure of reconciliation.

2. Direct the AFN to demand that funding to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation be continued until the needs related to the rebuilding of our families and communities have been met.

3. Direct the National Chief to provide political action in aiding the Healing Centre Task Force to develop and implement a strategy to secure additional funding through the Churches to achieve sustainable funding for essential healing services for our communities.

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