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

Resolution no. 05/2012

TITLE:	Unacceptable Funding Cuts to First Nation Organizations
SUBJECT:	Health, First Nation capacity support
MOVED BY:	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Albert Gerow, Burns Lake First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried; one objection

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People clearly states in Article 23 that "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions."

B. The member Chiefs of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB) recognize that the First Nations population in Atlantic Canada is growing and are in desperate need of increased health resources including funding to develop and deliver health programming.

C. The federal government through Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, has cut funding in every region to First Nation organizations who are actively involved in developing and determining health programmes affecting our First Nation communities.

D. The federal government was not transparent in their process of deciding and communicating the funding cuts to the organizations.

E. The federal government fails to understand the importance of these organizations to the collaborative processes that have been developed in their respective regions.

F. The federal government did not consult with First Nations before making cuts to health funding

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G. The federal government has repeatedly stated that the funding cuts were designed to protect communities ignorant to the fact that tribal organizations and provincial and territorial organizations (PTOs) work on behalf of communities to ensure programs and services are designed and delivered to suit the needs of the communities.

H. Further cuts are anticipated from other federal departments.

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

1. Support the Chiefs of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB) in demanding that funding cuts to theirs and any other First Nation organizations be stopped immediately and that First Nations health funding be exempt from any further funding cuts. This includes funding to Tribal Councils and provincial and territorial organizations (PTOs) that provide invaluable services to their member communities.
2. Direct the AFN to advocate on behalf of First Nation Tribal Organizations and PTOs who provide valuable services to the communities they represent.
3. Direct the AFN to investigate why the funding cuts were not communicated in a transparent manner by the federal government.
4. Direct the AFN to work with Tribal Organizations and PTOs on educating the federal government about the importance of the work done by these organizations and understanding the impact these cuts will have on our First Nations communities.
5. Direct the AFN to challenge how the federal government can justify violating their own Indian Health Policy 1979 and their recent commitment to work with First Nations at the January 2012 Crown Gathering.

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