AFN Special Chiefs Assembly
December 9-11, 2008 Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 76/2008

SUBJECT:	SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
MOVED BY:	Chief Marianna Couchie, Nipissing First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Gary Potts, Temagami First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations have always maintained their right to manage their traditional activities within their traditional territories;

B. Many First Nations have taken on a leadership role in fisheries, forestry and other areas of natural resources management within their traditional territories;

C. This has resulted in some First Nations overseeing and managing harvesting activities and other areas of management using their own source revenues;

D. The governments of the provinces and Canada have not supported the management activities of First Nations despite repeated requests for funding support;

E. This has resulted in some First Nations managing natural resources in their communities and traditional territories with no external funding support while non-Aboriginal users enjoy the benefits of the First Nation management activities;

F. First Nations are demonstrating a model of self-governance over traditional territories in the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights to fish while the governments of the provinces and Canada fail to exercise their responsibilities to manage the harvest activities of non-Aboriginal people; and

G. This represents a failure on the part of the Crown to meet its fiduciary and treaty obligations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 11th day of December, 2008 in Ottawa, ON

PHIL FONTAINE, NATIONAL CHIEF

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to implement an appropriate annual transfer payment to those First Nations that have built, or are seeking to build, infrastructure and capacity to implement formal sustainable management regimes, laws and regulations for natural resources in their communities and traditional territories to the benefit of all Canadians.

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