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

Resolution no. 72/2008

SUBJECT:	SUPPORT FOR REINVESTMENT OF CHILD SPECIAL ALLOWANCES (ALBERTA)
MOVED BY:	Larron Northwest , Proxy, Samson Cree First Nation, AB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Joe Whitehead Jr., Woodland Cree First Nation, AB
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The Chiefs of the Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8 (Alberta) [hereinafter "Assembly of Treaty Chiefs"] met in a duly convened Fall Sitting held at the Radisson Hotel, in the City of Edmonton, Treaty No. 6 Territory on November 4th, 5th & 6th, 2008;

B. The traditional and ancestral rights of the Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8 First Nations (Alberta) assert that "*children are gifts from the Creator*";

C. The First Nations/Tribes of the Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, and Treaty No. 8 First Nations (Alberta), in a fiscal arrangement with the Government of Canada, agree to address outstanding issues of the First Nations Child, Youth and Family legislation to build healthy Nations/Tribes and preserve First Nations families;

D. A Memorandum of Understanding was put forth on May 9, 2007 expressing the Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8 position on the New Family Enhancement funds announced on April 27, 2007;

E. The new fiscal enhancement dollars would assist and secure a better life for First Nations Children;

F. A letter from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada [hereinafter "INAC"], dated March 28, 2008, informed us of the Alberta Region's decision concerning the allocation of the National Child Benefit Reinvestment [hereinafter "NCBR"] budget which is a targeted, proposal driven program through Funding Arrangements;

G. This fiscal year INAC has indicated it will hold back 10 percent of the maintenance budget to develop joint strategies to reduce social assistance dependency;

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H. The Assembly of Treaty Chiefs understood that the New Family Enhancement funds would address the areas of concern that First Nations Child and Family Services were encountering in their programming and services to First Nations Children;

I. INAC informed the First Nation Delegated Child and Family Agencies in Alberta that the Canada Child Tax Benefit [hereinafter "CCTB"] would be deducted from child maintenance expenditures. The Treasury Board had identified the benefit as a surplus;

J. The CCTB is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under age 18. The CCTB may include the Children's Special Allowances [hereinafter "CSA"] program that provides payments to federal and provincial agencies and institutions (e.g., children's aid societies) that care for children. This is not a payment that is administered in any way by INAC to any other citizen or organization in Canada; and

K. To the best of our knowledge the CSA payments will not be held back from provincial agencies with First Nations children in their care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to stop deducting the Canada Child Tax Benefit from child maintenance expernditures of Alberta First Nation Delegated Child and Family Services Agencies,as this causes undue financial stress upon First Nations families.

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