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

Resolution no. 60/2008

SUBJECT:	RENEWAL OF FIRST NATIONS HEALTH PROGRAMS
MOVED BY:	Chief Ruth Massie, Ta'an Kwach'an Council, YT
SECONDED BY:	Chief Hazel Fox-Recollet, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, ON
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) are beginning work to request renewal of community-based health programs which have a current mandate to 2010, including:
   a. National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS);
   b. Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI);
   c. Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF);
   d. Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI);
   e. National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NNADP); and
   f. Maternal/Child Health.

B. First Nations communities have benefited from these programs, and communities are beginning to see the positive impacts of these programs, but they have only been operational for one to four years;

C. More time is required to reach the full benefit and positive impact of these programs on health;

D. The renewal process is an opportunity to review each program, address weaknesses, and increase effectiveness; and

E. The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program is undergoing a substantial review to better address addictions (including crystal meth, cocaine, etc.) in First Nations, and the NNADAP Experts Panel will make recommendations on how to improve the program in 2009.

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PHIL FONTAINE, NATIONAL CHIEF

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Assembly of First Nations to:
    a. ensure First Nations feedback on program effectiveness is shared with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to increase effectiveness of the programs.
    b. advocate for the renewal of community-based health programs.

2. Chiefs-in-Assembly support the renewal of community-based health programs at an increased level of funding per year.

3. Chiefs-in-Assembly support the renewal of the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, including the substantial revision of the program to accurately address the needs of First Nations communities.

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