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

Resolution no. 75/2008

SUBJECT:	SUPPORT FOR TREATY ONE CHIEFS APPEAL TO WASHINGTON TO PRESSURE CANADA TO PAY FOR BENEFITS RECEIVED FROM TREATY ONE LAND AND RESOURCES
MOVED BY:	Chief Terrance Nelson, Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Glenn Hudson, Peguis First Nation, MB
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Canada mines over 60 different metals and minerals with little or no benefit to the original owners, the indigenous peoples;

B. According to U.S. Energy Information Administration, Canada is the largest supplier of oil to the United States, where in September 2008, Canada exported 2.364 million barrels per day compared to Saudi Arabia's 1.431 barrels of oil a day;

C. Canada has approved and licensed two more major pipelines, the Enbridge Alberta Clipper and the TransCanada Keystone Project which will by 2012 send an additional 1.9 million barrels a day to the American market;

D. The immigrants of our lands, the farmers, Municipalities, Provinces, the Federal Government, and every level of the oil industry are paid and receiving benefits from the sale of oil resources to the Americans;

E. First Nations from all four western provinces have raised concerns with Canada about the lack of proper

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benefits to the indigenous people from the pipelines;

F. Numerous Supreme Court of Canada decisions found that the Crown has a duty to consult and accommodate First Nations where a project could infringe on First Nations rights and title;

G. The Federal Government has failed to abide by the Supreme Court of Canada decisions on the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations;

H. This failure has prompted direct action on the part of First Nations. Several Saskatchewan First Nations have formed blockades to stop construction of the pipelines;

I. Seven First Nations of Treaty One in Manitoba are in court on the issue;

J. Treaty One Chiefs have announced a decision to appeal directly to President-Elect Obama in Washington on January 8th 2009 in a bid to put international pressure on Canada to abide by domestic and international law, fundamental human rights and pay the rightful owners of the land and resources;

K. The Chiefs of Treaty One seek the support of the Assembly of First Nations for the Washington Delegation on January 8th 2009 and invite Chiefs and First Nations to participate in the Washington delegation on January 8, 2009;

L. First Nations stand in solidarity with the position that despite Canada voting against the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Rights, we as indigenous people know that we are the rightful owners of the lands and resources

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the Treaty One Chiefs in their appeal to President-Elect Obama, to take place on January 8th 2009, to put pressure on Canada to abide by Canada's domestic laws (including constitutional laws respecting Treaties and the duty to consult and accommodate), and international human rights law and to pay the rightful owners of the land and resources.

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