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

Resolution no. 57/2008

SUBJECT:	DEVELOP PARTNERSHIP WITH CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST CANCER
MOVED BY:	Chief Marcel Balfour, Norway House Cree Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Steven Miller, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, ON
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The rates of cancer in First Nations continue to rise at an alarming rate, especially lung, colon and kidney cancer;

B. The federal government has given Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) – a new "arms length", mainstream organization – the mandate to raise awareness of and prevention of cancer;

C. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has requested First Nations' representation on the CPAC Board of Directors, and an AFN seat on the advisory committee of CPAC, but CPAC has not accepted a First Nations representative on the Board;

D. There is no voice on CPAC advocating specifically for First Nations needs concerning cancer; and

E. Despite numerous attempts from the Health and Social Secretariat of the AFN, communication from CPAC has not been effective, and it appears that CPAC is lacking in the level of knowledge and protocols involving First Nations regarding health and culture.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Chiefs-in-Assembly formally request that Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) immediately address the evidence that First Nations have rates of cancer which require unique and urgent attention by working in partnership with AFN to:

    i) reject the "Pan-Aboriginal" approach to dealing with First Nations, Inuit and Metis, and ensure First Nations representation on the Board of Directors;

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ii) maintain the AFN-appointed seat on the Advisory Committee to ensure First Nations needs are addressed;
iii) actively support a culturally competent approach in partnership with First Nations to prevent and reduce cancer;
iv) accommodate a presentation from First Nations at their next board meeting to build understanding about First Nations health needs and cultural safety; and
v) set aside an appropriate amount of funding for First Nations in relation to population and need.

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