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

Resolution no. 54/2008

SUBJECT:	COORDINATED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT GOVERNANCE
MOVED BY:	Wendell Nicholas, Proxy, Tobique First Nation, NB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Lydia Hwitsum, Cowichan Tribe, BC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Information is a resource that should be managed like any other resource;

B. First Nations Governments have a need for relevant, accurate, timely, and easily available information for planning, decision making and accountability;

C. In most First Nations communities there is a lack of tools and capacity to manage this resource;

D. First Nations Governments need information to be 'integrated' so that a clear and full picture of community issues can be presented (i.e. poor educational outcomes are likely related to poor or mouldy houses, poor drinking water, lack of economic opportunities, etc. and should not be looked at in isolation);

E. Information about First Nations held by federal or provincial governments is often incomplete, inaccurate and stove-piped, resulting in bad decisions and policies based on an inaccurate picture of First Nations situations (i.e. health, education, social conditions);

F. Information management is implicit in all federal and provincial programs and services but is rarely made explicit and is not supported financially by any one government department or ministry;

G. Supporting First Nations Governments in securing tools and developing capacity in information technology (including broadband connectivity), information management, data collection (including data base support and development), and dissemination and program outcome measurement indicators is an investment that will benefit all governments: First Nations, federal and provincial;

H. A collaborative, coordinated approach to information management would reduce cost and avoid duplication;

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I. Mandated First Nations organizations should be supported and resourced to develop an integrated information management strategy and to support First Nations in their regions in developing the policies, tools and capacity to manage their information for their own benefit; and

J. Collaboration among First Nations organizations (i.e. health, education) will produce better results.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize the need for immediate and sustained action in developing effective Governance Information Management principles, practices, standards and procedures, tools and capacities to support the creation or procurement of specific Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions for use by First Nations.

2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support mandated First Nations organizations in developing a collaborative approach to information management solutions to support First Nations Governments.

3. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support mandated First Nations organizations in seeking on-going, secure, financial support from government to implement and sustain a coordinated information management strategy to support First Nations Governments.

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