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

Resolution no. 51/2008

SUBJECT:	PROTECTION OF THE TREATY AND INDIGENOUS RIGHT TO WATER
MOVED BY:	Chief Gerald Ermineskin, Ermineskin Cree Nation, AB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Carolyn Buffalo, Montana First Nation, AB
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The Maskwacîs Cree have submitted to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' study on water, a position based on the Treaty Right to Water; and

B. Our Traditional Elders through Oral Testimony confirm there was never a surrender of ownership or stewardship of water; therefore First Nations retain the responsibility for the traditional belief that water is sacred and a life giver (nipi).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Chiefs-in-Assembly do hereby confirm and support the position that water is a Treaty and Indigenous Right of First Nations.

2. The National Chief and Assembly of First Nations Executive are directed to advocate and take all measures deemed necessary to ensure that no government imposes payment or either direct and/or indirect taxation for the access to, or use of, water without the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 9th day of December, 2008 in Ottawa, ON

PHIL FONTAINE, NATIONAL CHIEF