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

Resolution no. 78/2008

SUBJECT:	SECURE STATUS CARD INITIATIVE
MOVED BY:	Chief Bill Williams, Squamish First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United States introduced the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) to increase border security in response to terrorist attacks in the U.S. on September 11, 2001;

B. In May 2007, Indigenous, Canadian and U.S. Representatives met at the International Indigenous Cross Border Security Summit (Akwesasne) to discuss border crossing rights related to culture and identity;

C. The current Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Status Card has been recognized as an approved identification document, until June 1, 2009, for land/sea travel between Canada and the U.S.;

D. A new INAC Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) card, to be introduced in 2009, has been designed to meet Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) travel document requirements;

E. The United States Department of Homeland Security has given "conditional" acceptance to INAC's SCIS card; and

F. The implementation date for WHTI travel documents is June 1, 2009.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AFN to advocate to the United States for the approval of the new Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) card as an acceptable Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) travel document, as an interim measure, until such time as First Nations develop their own Nation card.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 11th day of December, 2008 in Ottawa, ON

PHIL FONTAINE, NATIONAL CHIEF

2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AFN to advocate to Canada for the provision of appropriate resources to support First Nations efforts to communicate, monitor and conduct research on the new SCIS card initiative, as well as the development of new Nation cards, and related border management issues.

3. That the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AFN to work with regional organizations and First Nations to ensure resources are available for initiatives that support the development of Indigenous ID cards as an acceptable travel document.

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