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

Resolution no. 81/2008

SUBJECT:	FIRST NATIONS HOUSING EVALUATION
MOVED BY:	Chief Cameron Alexis, Alexis First Nation, AB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Lance Haymond, Eagle Village First Nation, QC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The AFN Resolution No. 14/2007 called for a comprehensive approach that includes all aspects of housing, including the care and control of; social housing, band-owned housing,and individual home ownership. The Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the AFN to advocate for a balanced Housing Framework that maintains ability for First Nations communities to move forward with local, territorial and regional housing strategies. These strategies provide a framework for advancing the policy and advocacy activities of the AFN;

B. The AFN Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat has participated in early discussions with the Government of Canada on a manner of engaging First Nations on a local, territorial and regional level to assist in the evaluation of the policies, programs, activities and initiatives of the Government of Canada regarding First Nations Housing;

C. The AFN Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat, the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure and its Technical Working Group have participated in a 2 day workshop to review a proposed evaluation process that has Four Primary Tracks of Investigation;

D. The evaluation will provide an opportunity to review and improve the existing system, to provide a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved, and to inform and support the renewal and/or renovation of policy and program authorities;

E. The evaluation process requires the direct involvement of First Nations on a local, territorial and regional level to coordinate a variety of surveys, questionnaires, investigations, case studies and interviews to accomplish desired outcomes;

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PHIL FONTAINE, NATIONAL CHIEF

F. The AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the development of protocols that establish a government to government relationship between Canada and First Nations regarding data collection, data sharing, information management and research, through appropriate legislation and policy direction, that is respectful of the First Nations principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Participation; and

G. First Nations, both individually and collectively, have stated through AGA Resolution No. 32-2004 that there is not support for the implementation of external data collection processes within First Nation territories if the First Nations established principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) regarding data and information are not respected

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The First Nations housing evaluation process, inclusive of planning, contracting, data collection and reporting, must respect the authority and jurisdiction of First Nations and work with First Nations and their duly authorized representatives and organizations to accomplish this effort by regional, territorial and local First Nation means.

2. There be direct involvement of First Nations in the management and delivery of the evaluation process in First Nation communities, and that any external consultants engaged in these activities be agreed to by First Nations and their duly authorized representatives and organizations.

3. The scope of the evaluation process include a critical look at the manner the policies, programs and activities of INAC and CMHC were devised including coinsideration of to what extent First Nations were consulted and able to exercise direct influence in the developmental process and what were the regional variations of interpretation of policy intent and decision making.

4. The evaluation process only be viewed as the starting point of meaningful participation in all future activities in the renovation of the 1996 Policy in preparation for the next Treasury Board Submission and its accompanying Memorandum to Cabinet.

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