TITLE:	Diabetes as a Stand-Alone Health Issue
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Donald Maracle, Tyendinaga First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Lisa Shaver, Penelakut First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. Diabetes has become a disabling and deadly disease with First Nations suffering at a rate three to five times that of the general Canadian population.

B. In February 2009, the national First Nations Diabetes Working Group members received a presentation on the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) renewal initiative from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) on the Upstream Renewal, which outlined FNIHB's vision for renewal including grouping Diabetes, Cancer and Cardiovascular Diseases together under one Chronic Disease program.

C. The national First Nations Diabetes Working Group is gravely concerned with emerging trends in FNIHB and First Nations Inuit Health (FNIH) within the regions towards harmonization and integration, and firmly stated that diabetes must be a sustainable funded stand-alone program if real substantial progress is to be made in halting the diabetes epidemic among First Nations people.

D. The national First Nations Diabetes Working Group key recommendations included "Increasing awareness of diabetes, risk factors, complications, and strategies to reduce the risk of diabetes and its complications among First Nations, including promoting the practice of healthy eating and active living behaviors among First Nations".

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E. In 2006-2007, the national First Nations Diabetes Working Group worked in support of the International Diabetes Federation's (IDF) United Nations Resolution (United for Diabetes) campaign to highlight the alarming rise of diabetes worldwide.

F. The AFN and Indigenous peoples worldwide are working with the IDF to raise awareness of this global burden and to focus world attention on the need to halt this deadly disease, and to support the United Nations Resolution on Diabetes.

G. At the 2nd International Diabetes in Indigenous Peoples Forum (IDIPF) in November 2008, based on comments made by IDF President Dr. Martin Silink, the AFN made two key recommendations which included feeding into the IDF's Indigenous Task Force on Diabetes, and preparing an Indigenous diabetes statement for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples (UNPFII) in May 2009.

H. The AFN worked with the 5th National Conference on Diabetes and Aboriginal Peoples, hosted by the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association (NADA) in March 2009, to advance the 2006 United Nations Diabetes resolution and Indigenous Diabetes statement to assist in focusing international awareness on diabetes at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in May 2009.

I. In collaboration with NADA and several non-governmental organizations an intervention was presented at the UNPFII in May 2009, which recommended the re-instatement of the IDF's Indigenous Diabetes Task Force to address the emerging epidemic of diabetes in Indigenous populations worldwide including the renewal of the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative after 2010.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to continue to push for a fully funded stand-alone diabetes program following renewal of the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI).
2. Direct the AFN to raise the political voice of diabetes at the domestic and international levels in an effort to arrest the diabetes epidemic among First Nation peoples and Indigenous peoples worldwide.
3. Direct the AFN to support the recommendations of the United Nations resolution on diabetes, including the re-instatement of the International Diabetes Federation's Indigenous Task Force on Diabetes.

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