TITLE:	Support for National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association
SUBJECT:	Lands
MOVED BY:	Chief Paul Tomer, Kingsclear First Nation, NB
SECONDED BY:	Proxy, Councilor, Joan Phillip, Penticton Indian Band, BC
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. In 2000 the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association, known as NALMA, was incorporated as a not-for-profit association to build capacity and raise the professional standards in aboriginal lands management.

NALMA Chapters work together to achieve NALMA's mission and is represented by the following Regional Lands Associations:

- Atlantic Region Aboriginal Lands Association (ARALA) – membership of 6 First Nations
- First Nations Lands Managers Association for Québec and Labrador (FNLMAQ&L) – membership of 9 First Nations
- Ontario Aboriginal Lands Association (OALA)- membership of 23 First Nations
- Manitoba Uske (MU) – membership of 11 First Nations
- Saskatchewan Aboriginal Lands Technicians (SALT) – membership of 9 First Nations
- Treaty and Aboriginal Land Stewards Association of Alberta (TALSAA) – membership of 9 First Nations
- Planning and Land Administrators of Nunavut (PLAN) – membership of 24 communities
- And such further and other Regional Lands Associations duly accepted for membership in the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association by Board Resolution
- 89 First Nation and Inuit communities in total

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B. Land Managers are faced with increasing challenges to meet the demands to manage their lands efficiently and effectively.

The New Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Develop report states that; 585 First Nations live on 2,914 individual reserves, representing a total land area of 3.2 million hectares. This land mass has grown by 23% since 1990 and is projected to continue growing. In addition, settled comprehensive agreements in the North have given the Inuit control over 25 % of Canada's land mass.

C. Since inception and with the financial support of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, NALMA has provided its members with opportunities in professional development, networking and technical expertise that support the existing and future needs for Lands Managers/Administrators to efficiently and effectively manage their lands.

NALMA has developed the following in support of land management capacity:

- Develop and deliver a Level Two – Technical training consisting of six (6) Lands Management training modules in both French and English.
- Established a Professional Lands Management Certification Program (PLMCP) and since 2006 NALMA has certified 39 First Nation Lands Managers.
- Established in partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and University of Saskatchewan a professional designation unique to Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP).
- Worked in partnership with Loyalist College to certify 11 Instructors.
- As part of the networking mandate, since 2001 NALMA has held six (6) National Aboriginal Lands Managers Gatherings.
- Working in partnership in developing land related tools and resources namely; Additions to Reserve Toolkit, and Housing and Lands Managers Coordination Guidebook.
- Referrals statistics for providing technical land management support on all aspects of land related issues range from 100 to 150 per year.

D. NALMA's premise is that providing advanced skills and knowledge to those responsible for lands, environment and resource management is key to building confidence to progress to a greater autonomy in lands management and self-government; ability to maximize economic development opportunities, and marks excellence that assures quality in service.

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

1. Support the important role that the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association plays in building capacity and raising professional standards in Aboriginal Lands Management.

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2. Request Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to endorse and financially support the NALMA Professional Lands Management Certification Program (PLMCP) as follows:

    a. Level One – Post Secondary
    b. Level Two – Technical Training
    c. Instructors Qualifications
    d. Thirty-Seven (37) hours work experience in First Nations Lands Management
    e. Equivalency Assessment – for Level Two- Technical Training
    f. Maintenance of Professional Lands Management Certification

3. Request Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to financially support NALMA operations.

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