TITLE:	Support for Empty Glass for Water Campaign
SUBJECT:	Water
MOVED BY:	Chief, Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief, Dean Sayers, Batchewana, ON
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. Water is essential to life, and is enshrined in two human rights treaties that recognize the inherent right to water (see: http://www.righttowater.info/code/no15_3.asp);

B. Canada has an abundance of fresh water and most Canadians take the safety of their tap water for granted, yet many First Nation communities must haul their water, boil their water, drink bottled water, and accept water rations;

C. Some 109 First Nation communities in Canada are without safe drinking water; some for longer than a decade, and First Nations do not trust what comes out of their taps;

D. Our waters are being poisoned by industry, contaminated with uranium, contain harmful chemicals and bacteria such as E. Coli;

E. Our children get sores and boils on their bodies from water due to an inadequate sanitation infrastructure resulting in illness and disease in later life (see: http://www.polarisinstitute.org/boiling_point).

F. Water is an integral part of our cultures and ceremonies, and it is our responsibility to assert our rights to it in order to better protect and preserve it;

G. The Chiefs of Ontario have declared that decision-making processes related to the use and care of waters is a right maintained by First Nations and was not handed over with the making of treaties (see: http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/Assets/COO%20long%20form%20declaration.pdf).

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10th day of September, 2009 in Gatineau, Quebec

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Assert that access to clean, safe water is a human right.
2. Encourage the governments of Canada and the provinces to immediately provide resources to high risk communities to implement their plans to provide safe, potable water for their communities.
3. Support the national campaign to enlist all Canadians to show their support for clean, safe water for First Nations by sending an empty glass for water to Prime Minister Harper until all First Nations people can go to a tap in their home and drink water without fear.
4. Support the "Empty Glass for Water Campaign" as a campaign that draws attention to the urgent need to address issues relating to access to safe, potable water in First Nation communties.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF