TITLE:	Implementation of Annex B of the Canadian Pandemic Plan
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Marcel Balfour, Norway House Cree Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Candice Paul, Maliseet Nation, St. Mary's, NB
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. The recent outbreak of H1N1 in First Nation communities has demonstrated the challenges with timely diagnosis, the availability of appropriate supplies and accurate information and effective communication between provinces, communities and the Federal Government.

B. The H1N1 outbreak in Manitoba illustrated how quickly the number of cases can overwhelm the health care system.

C. There have been repeated assurances that the Federal Government's $1 billion investment into Canada's pandemic plan have resulted in robust preparedness activities across the country, yet there remain large gaps between the level of preparedness in First Nation communities and in the level of preparedness for Federal/Provincial/Territorial responses to the needs of First Nations during a pandemic.

D. It is an indisputable fact that pre-existing health and social conditions of many First Nation communities place them at a higher risk for virus transmission and severe cases potentially resulting in death.

E. The World Health Organization has been very clear in linking severe flu cases and cases resulting in death with pre-existing chronic diseases, such as diabetes, coupled with overcrowded housing, poor drinking water and sub-standard health care, places First Nation communities at the highest level of risk in Canada.

F. The Provinces and Territories recently endorsed Annex B of the Canadian Pandemic Plan which outlines the roles and responsibilities of First Nation, Provincial and Territorial Governments, yet there are no resources for First Nations to implement this Annex nor is there specific inclusion of First Nation communities north of 60.

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G. First Nations may again find themselves in a position of an outbreak that could overwhelm the health care system because of a lack of access to an H1N1 vaccine. This is because while World Health Organization has identified a step-wise approach to prioritizing who receives H1N1 vaccinations, the Public Health Agency of Canada and other government health officials have not identified remote, northern and isolated First Nations as a priority.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to urge the Federal Government to provide the resources needed to fully implement Annex B of the Canadian Pandemic Plan.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to urge the Federal Government that Annex B be inclusive of all First Nation communities, not just those south of 60.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to urge the Federal Government to direct more investment towards improving the underlying chronic health and social conditions of First Nations by eliminating poverty in First Nation communities.
4. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to seek to have the Public Health Agency of Canada and Federal/Provincial/Territorial health officials identify as a priority First Nations especially remote, northern and isolated First Nations.

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