TITLE:	Chiefs Task Force on First Nations Child and Family Services
SUBJECT:	Strategic planning on issues relating to First Nations Children in care
MOVED BY:	Chief Lyle Sayers, Garden River First Nation, ON Lake Huron Treaty Region
SECONDED BY:	Chief Wayne Christian, Kukpi7, Splatsin First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. Our Constitutionally protected inherent right and responsibility to govern our own families and make provision for their safety and well being, a principle further protected by Articles 3, 4 and 14 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, has been subject to the Crown's removal policy of assimilation and disconnection of the child from their Aboriginal community and family of origin.

B. To counteract such assimilation policies, the Chiefs in Assembly will require cross region strategic governance planning through the development of a non-political specialized task force of Chiefs to champion the needs of this generation's lost children.

C. All children of First Nations ancestry in care in Canada remain highly vulnerable to the varying data collection models and continue to be victimized by provincial and federal bureaucracies still deeply ingrained with apprehension, removal and disconnection approaches.

D. These provincial and federal bureaucracies are only beginning to come to terms with the legacy of suffering which was the subject of the June 2008 federal apology.

E. Provincial and federal bureaucracies have yet to fully recognize at the policy, institutional and legislative levels that the Chiefs in Assembly are the Governance voice for all children of First Nations in care.

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F. The Chiefs in Assembly have an unexercised power to create a national First Nations child and family wellness law under section 35 of the Constitution to protect children of First Nations ancestry in the care of child and family service agencies.

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

1. Re-affirm that First Nations leadership does not require any guiding federal or provincial policy to move forward on the basis of our Constitutional and internationally protected inherent rights and responsibilities over all First Nations, regardless of residency or "Indian Act status".
2. Support the re-establishment for the work of the Chiefs Task Force on First Nations Child and Family Services (established from the 2004 AGA Resolution No. 23), with the aim of providing advice on strategic planning on issues relating to all First Nations children in the care of Child and Family Services, regardless of status or residency.
3. Support the Chiefs Task Force on First Nations Child and Family Services to explore the feasibility of developing a First Nations governance organization for all First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies which would be responsible for discussing all relevant issues relating to First Nations child welfare including but not limited to the development of a counting mechanism of First Nations children in care. As well as advocate for policy development and legal review to address associated cross-regional issues.

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