TITLE:	First Nations Youth Suicide Prevention Requires Youth and Traditional Healers and Elders Leadership
SUBJECT:	Health and Social Development
MOVED BY:	Chief David McDougall, St. Theresa Point First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Proxy Tabasonakwut Kinew, Ojibways of Onigamiing, ON
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations youth suicide accounts for 38% of all deaths between the ages of 10-19, and, the suicide rate of First Nations youth in Canada is 6 to 7 times the rate of mainstream youth, which in turn, is the highest rate of any group in mainstream society.

B. First Nations youth, Elders, leadership and communities have raised the call for action on increased rate of First Nations suicides, especially by young people.

C. The federal government responded with the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Program (NAYSPS) as an upstream investment, currently up for renewal by March 2010.

D. The NAYSPS and some provincial strategies criteria call for youth involvement and recognition of Traditional Healing, yet these important components have not been fully respected and implemented.

E. Both federal and provincial funding and other resources need to increase to meet this continuing crisis.

F. Elders and Traditional Healers want to and are ready to work with our youth in a sustainable way.

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

1. Support the renewal of the National First Nations Suicide Prevention Program with the essential condition that leadership by Youth and Traditional Healers and Elders must be implemented with dedicated funding to First Nations youth suicide prevention programs.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

2. Support the establishment of a Manitoba First Nations Suicide Prevention and Healing Centre to assist in suicide prevention, intervention and postvention education and counselling for individuals, families and care helpers.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF