TITLE:	INAC's Renewal of the Indian Government Support Programs (IGSP)
SUBJECT:	Indian Government Support Programs (IGSP)
MOVED BY:	Chief Jean-Charles Piétacho, Ekuanitshit, QC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Joe Hall, Tzeachten, BC
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations have the inherent right of self-determination, recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, in international law, and in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

B. First Nation governments and institutions require a secure and adequate resource base in order to fully discharge their responsibilities to their citizens.

C. The Government of Canada chooses to provide funds for core functions of First Nation governments through Indian Government Support Programs (IGSP). IGSP include: Band Support Funding, Band Employee Benefits, Tribal Council Funding, Band Advisory Services, Professional and Institutional Development.

D. IGSP are chronically under-funded, and in no way reflect the true costs of governing. Levels of funding have been unilaterally determined where some primary components of the program, such as tribal council funding, have seen no increases since its establishment in 1984, and other components have been saddled with capped 2% increases. This is not keeping pace with inflation and other real cost-drivers, such as demographic growth, technology costs, and accountability measures.

E. Throughout 2003 and 2004, INAC held extensive discussions regarding changes to IGSP, in particular Tribal Council Funding, which were entirely ignored in favour of a unilateral, status quo renewal.

F. Funding authorities for IGSP are set to expire on March 31, 2010. INAC is currently "re-designing" these programs.

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G. INAC must engage in a meaningful and effective consultation process that will lead to an improved and mutually acceptable outcome that upholds the Honour of the Crown and respects the Nation-to-Nation relationship.

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

1. Fully support the work of First Nations and Tribal Councils in their efforts to renew and modernize Indian Government Support Programs (IGSP).
2. Call on Canada to engage in a full and comprehensive consultation process to ensure that the IGSP are renewed on April 1, 2010.
3. Call on Canada to commit to funding IGSP in a manner reflective of the true and modern costs of government, and to immediately remove the 2% cap on core First Nation funding.
4. Direct the National Chief to provide the necessary political advocacy with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to ensure that a repeat of INAC's unilateral renewal during 2005 does not happen.

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