ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 21, 22, & 23, 2009, CALGARY, AB

Resolution no. 07/2009

TITLE:	New Federal Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy
SUBJECT:	Economic Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Kamloops Indian Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief John Thunder, Buffalo Point First Nation, MB
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. The federal government continues to work on developing a new Aboriginal Economic Framework to serve First Nation and Aboriginal economies, for which the federal government has requested and already received federal internal approvals.

B. Chiefs-in-Assembly have expressed their unqualified opposition to pan-Aboriginal federal strategic frameworks and pan-Aboriginal dialogue processes, including those for economic development policies.

C. The federal government, led by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), is planning a second phase of dialogue engagement events to begin in the fall of 2009.

D. The first federal effort to gather input and engage dialogue in 2008 was not widely supported by First Nations.

E. The federal government announced a $70 Million budget for fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 for the implementation of the framework, and has since announced $50 Million to be disbursed in the three fiscal years to follow.

F. Chiefs-in-Assembly have repeatedly stated that First Nations must be involved in the development, design, coordination, and implementation of this new framework.

G. The Community Economic Development Program (CEDP) is the only First Nation, locally delivered and controlled economic program, and the federal government has begun to redirect CEDP resources away from current community agreements toward regionally aggregated structures.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

H. The new framework must consider the needs of our economic growth requirements regardless of whether our economies are at a developmental, emerging, or a dynamic stage, along with local and regional First Nation managed programs, services and incentives to support First Nation-led responses to First Nation economic priorities.

I. Components of the new framework are reportedly focused on investment-ready First Nations without a clear indication of how development is facilitated amongst First Nations that are not investment ready.

J. The AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED) must have a central role in providing input for the development of a new framework.

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

1. Direct the AFN National Chief, Regional Chief portfolio holders and/or the CCED to demand that INAC coordinate First Nations specific dialogue and engagement events in the second phase of discussions and that the discussions be respectful of First Nation regional processes.
2. Call upon the Minister of Indian Affairs to examine options for a CEDP-complementary system and halt the intention to remove CEDP local funding in favour of regionally aggregated re-structuring or application-based models.
3. Call upon the Minister of Indian Affairs to reconsider framework processes that potentially increase the economic gaps between have and have not First Nation communities, as well as with the rest of Canada.
4. Call upon the Minister of Indian Affairs to engage the CCED, and provide funding in order that the CCED can properly participate in framework discussions and provide timely advice to the federal government on its intiatives.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF