TITLE:	Support for First Nations involvement in War of 1812 Bi-Centennial Commemoration
SUBJECT:	Veterans
MOVED BY:	Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. In 2012, the Bi-centennial Commemoration of the War of 1812 will take place.

B. In May 2009, Parks Canada announced that "The Government of Canada recognizes the War of 1812 as a crucial nation-building milestone in Canadian history and is investing millions of dollars in the revitalization of national historic sites and tourism." Although, the 1812 War involved formal alliances with Indigenous Nations, Canada has not sent information about these revitalization projects and funding to First Nations.

C. When the 1812 War was declared, both the British and Indigenous Nations were ready to support one another. On one hand, Great Britain was at war with France and unable to supply the soldiers in North America. On the other hand, Indigenous Nations continued to face destruction from the trespass of Americans into Indigenous lands. Colonists violated the 1763 Royal Proclamation which was established to protect Indians, to recognize the Indian territory, treaty-making procedures and to limit colonial settlement.

D. In order to secure the support of Indigenous Nations and service of their warriors, the British made alliances that agreed to an independent Indigenous country or republics and support for their development. According to 1812 War records, the number of soldiers killed involved 6,000 British and Canadian soldiers; 8,000 United States soldiers; and over 15,000 Indigenous warriors. The Indigenous Warriors and leaders gave their lives for freedom to live as sovereign Nations, the right of self-determination, the right to live and develop as distinct peoples. There exist several Alliance Agreement.

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E. When the British approached the Ojibwe Nations at the centre of the Great Lakes, the Ojibwe determined in Council Meetings to help the English Red Coat. According to an 1819 Indian Affairs letter, Chief Wabechchake was killed in 1813 in the battle at Fort George. Wabechchake was the father of Nebenaigoching, who signed the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty and retained the unceded reservation for the Batchewana First Nation of Ojibways.

F. Chief Nebenaigoching and Shingwaukonse of Garden River (who received a Royal Medal for his conduct during the Battle of Detroit in August 1812) made several petitions to the Crown's Representatives. In 1833, Shingwaukonse presented a wampum belt to Sir John Colborne who confirmed earlier promises of a village and management of the timber and fisheries. Later, in an 1846 letter, Chief Shingwaukonse and Chief Nebenaigoching requested help against illegal mining taking place in their territory. In this letter, Shingwaukonse reaffirmed that he led 700 Ojibwe into the 1812 War.

G. The Mohawk Nations were longstanding allies of the British, and in the War of 1812 fought at the flanks of the British at decisive battles at Le Belle Famille, Queenston Heights, Beaver Dams, and Chrysler Farm. The Mohawks were recognized for this by Sir Issac Brock and on British Regimental Flags.

H. The 1812 War Bi-Centennial presents a national milestone opportunity for the Government of Canada to revitalize relations with Indigenous Nations. In the past and today, Canada failed to honour and recognize the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations and to implement the 1812 Alliance Promises. Moreover, the contributions, sacrifices of the Indigenous Nations and warriors in the battles of the 1812 War have been ignored. These failures have resulted in the oppression and underdevelopment of First Nations, missing Canadian history and omissions in Canadian education.

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

1. Stand tall in their remembrance of the sacrifices made by the warriors and Indigenous Nations in the War of 1812, and recognize that it is a great human tragedy for Canada that it did not uphold the Alliance Promises with Indigenous Nations.

2. Assert that great strides must be taken by Canada to work with First Nations to deal honourably with War of 1812 commemoration activities including that:

   - Canada and Indigenous Nations that had an involvement in the 1812 War need to have discussions regarding the 1812 War Bi-Centennial and the promises made to Alliance Indigenous Nations.
   - The Alliance Indigenous Nations and those involved in the 1812 War should meet to discuss common issues and to prepare for meetings with Canada.
   - Monuments to honour Indigenous Warriors and Leaders need support from Canada.
   - Canada needs to promote public education to overcome the missing history of the significant contributions made by the Indigenous Nations in the 1812 War and the overwhelming sacrifices made by the Indigenous Warriors.

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