TITLE:	Support for the CANDO Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Designation
SUBJECT:	Economic Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Kamloops Indian Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Darcy Bear, Whitecap Dakota First Nation, SK
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. The most effective Economic Development Officers (EDOs) are thoroughly trained, highly skilled individuals. Their commitment is to facilitate community economic development and capacity to provide professional support and technical advice to build strong, vibrant, self-sustaining communities and organizations.

B. In 1990, EDOs from across Canada founded and mandated the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) to provide a national body to focus on the training, education and networking opportunities necessary to serve their communities and/or organizations as professionals.

C. CANDO is an Aboriginal-controlled, community-based and membership driven organization; its vision is to build capacity which strengthens First Nation and other Aboriginal economies by providing programs and services to Economic Development Officers.

D. In 1993, CANDO conducted a national survey of practicing Economic Development Officers to gain a clear picture of their education and training needs. The final report concluded that EDOs judged that additional relevant training was needed to provide them with the skills and knowledge required to effectively meet the demands of their jobs, and the full potential of their communities. CANDO acted on the results by bringing professors in the field together with EDOs to develop the parameters of the Certification process. The respondents provided CANDO with four guiding principles for education and training - it was to be relevant, accessible, affordable and certified. The DACUM (Developing Curriculum) process was used to identify core competencies.

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E. CANDO's National Certification process is the first national Certification Process to be designed, developed and administered by an Aboriginal organization. The Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Process is an education process specifically designed to meet the needs of Economic Development Officers working across Canada. It provides a uniform knowledge base and skill set for all individuals currently fulfilling or wishing to work in the field of Aboriginal economic development. The Certification process offers two levels of Certification: Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer (TAED) and Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer (PAED).

F. CANDO's Certification Process is recognized by a majority of post-secondary institutions, Corporate Canada, and Aboriginal leadership; it provides candidates with a broad understanding of economic development, community development, and the unique legal and cultural aspects that differentiate Aboriginal economic development from that in urban centers or municipalities. This learning can be applied to a whole range of employment or self employment opportunities. Attainment of the CANDO designation indicates achievement of a performance standard recognized and acknowledged throughout Canada.

G. CANDO has a nation-wide network of post-secondary institutions delivering courses that are part of the Certification Process. Its current accredited institutions include the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, BC; Algoma University College, ON; Nunavut Arctic College, NU; University of New Brunswick, NB; Aurora College, NWT; Cape Breton University, NS, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, SK and Assiniboine Community College, MB. Over 150 EDOs across Canada received their Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Designation to date.

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

1. Support the important role that CANDO plays in enhancing Aboriginal economic development throughout the country.
2. Recommend that First Nation members obtain training through CANDO's accredited institutions and attain the Aboriginal Economic Developer Designation.
3. Support the professional designation of CANDO as the preferred credential when First Nations are hiring Economic Development Officers.
4. Recommend that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada make funding available to First Nations to get adequate training in the field of economic development to improve skills and build capacity within First Nations communities.

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