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

RESOLUTION NO. 24/2009

TITLE:	Support for First Nations Impacted by CN / CP Rail
SUBJECT:	Land Claims
MOVED BY:	Chief Keith Matthew, Simpcw First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Rick Deneault, Skeetchestn Indian Band, BC
DECISION:	Passed provisionally by AFN Executive Committee on September 10, 2009

WHEREAS:

A. As First Nation peoples we have legal rights to our reserve lands and have never ceded, released nor surrendered our aboriginal titles to our lands.

B. Both Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP) railways have asserted that they have legally acquired lands and associated rights of way through reserve lands across Canada.

C. Many First Nations were not properly consulted in the granting of these rights of way.

D. Many negative impacts have arisen as a result of the rights of way including environmental degredation, accidents and impacts on plants and wildlife.

E. Other uses for existing rights of way have been imposed without due consultation that were never considered in the intial granting of these rights of way, such as the laying of fibre optic cables.

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

1. Support any work that can take place to bring First Nation leaders and technicians together to research these issues and to develop a common national position to deal with railway rights of way.

2. Support First Nations in contacting of indigenous representative organizations, provincial and federal governments, and others to discuss appropriate ways to resolve outstanding grievances relating to the historic imposition of railway rights of way.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

3. Call upon the federal government to provide funding to initiate this activity and to establish a three year work plan to this effect.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF