SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 8, 9 & 10, 2009, OTTAWA, ON

Resolution no. 31/2009

TITLE:	Additional Funding and Extension of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation Mandate to 2013
SUBJECT:	Residential Schools
MOVED BY:	Darcy Beardy, Proxy, Muskrat Dam First Nation, Ontario
SECONDED BY:	Edmund Bellegarde, Proxy, Little Black Bear First Nation, Saskatchewan
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) was established on March 31, 1998 by a grant of $350 million dollars from the federal government of Canada as part of its Aboriginal Action Plan, *Gathering Strength – Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*.

B. The AHF was given a mandate to encourage and support, through research and funding contributions, community-based Aboriginal-directed healing initiatives which address the legacy of physical and sexual abuse suffered in Canada's Indian Residential School system, including intergenerational impacts.

C. In 2007, the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement provided the Aboriginal Healing Foundation with $125 million, enough to extend AHF projects for three years, from March 31, 2007 to March 31, 2010.

D. On March 31, 2010, one hundred and thirty-three community Resident School healing projects will lose the funding support of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

E. Many AHF-funded projects will, in the absence of this support, be forced to cut back on services provided, or cease providing services altogether.

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F. The Aboriginal Healing Foundation has been a valuable resource for First Nations communities across Canada, providing First Nations communities with critical support in their development of a national healing network supporting Survivors and their families.

G. In the absence of AHF-funded projects, survivors will have less recourse to counseling and health-related services as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission begins its public work.

H. As part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement an additional $125 million dollars may be directed to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to extend its mandate to March 2013 and continue to support the funding of existing AHF-funded projects.

I. The Chiefs In Assembly have clearly asserted their support for the continuation of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation by resolution, including resolution 22/2004 encouraging the Government of Canada to extend the mandate of the AHF in order to fulfill its objectives, and resolution 10/2002 calling on the Government Of Canada to ensure a longer-term healing strategy and to grant an indefinite extension of the AHF's mandate.

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

1. Assert that the funding and timeline of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and its projects should be harmonized with the timeline of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to provide Survivors and their families and communities with support at least to the end of process.

2. Call upon the Government of the Canada to provide an additional $125 million to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, which will extend community supports another three years, to March 31, 2013.

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