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

Resolution no. 47/2009

TITLE:	Aboriginal Health Transition Fund
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Derek Nepinak, Pine Creek First Nation, Manitoba
SECONDED BY:	Chief Glenn Hudson, Peguis First Nation, Manitoba
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF), originally a five-year initiative (2005/06 to 2009/10) but which received a one-year extension to end of 2010/11 fiscal year, seeks to improve the integration of Federal, Provincial and Territorial funded health systems, adapt existing health programs and services to better serve the needs of Aboriginal peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), improve access to health services, and increase the participation of Aboriginal peoples in the design, delivery, and evaluation of health programs and services.

B. The AHTF provides transitional funding to Provincial and Territorial governments and First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations and communities in three envelopes:

   i. Integration - to support First Nations and Inuit communities to improve the coordination and integration between provincial and territorial health systems and health systems within First Nations and Inuit communities;
   ii. Adaptation - to support provincial and territorial governments to adapt their existing health programs to the unique needs of all Aboriginal peoples including First Nations, Inuit and Métis; and
   iii. Pan - Canadian - to support cross-jurisdictional integration and adaptation initiatives in three streams: First Nations, Inuit and Métis; capacity funding to national Aboriginal organizations; workshops; evaluation activities; and overall administration of the AHTF.

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C. The AHTF Adaptation Envelope supports provincial and territorial governments in adapting their existing health programs to the unique needs of all Aboriginal peoples, including those living on reserves, in urban areas and in Métis settlements and communities.

D. Adaptation refers to the redesign, reorientation or modification of existing provincial/territorial health services and programs to improving both their availability and appropriateness in meeting the health needs of all Aboriginal peoples.

E. In the context of the AHTF, adaptation focuses on responding to the diverse health needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, including those living off-reserve and in urban areas; supporting Aboriginal perspectives within provincial/ territorial health programs and services, including those delivered through primary care, public health and acute and long-term care settings; and adjusting governance structures to ensure the active participation of Aboriginal peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of health services.

F. The AHTF, through the Pan Canadian Envelope, provides funding to proposals which aim to address integration and adaptation issues such as gaps in service and which will benefit Aboriginal people cross-regionally.

G. It is a fact that there are gaps in service across the country directly related to the Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) program shortfalls.

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

1. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government (Health Canada) to support, through the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund, to research the gaps in the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program and existing provincial territorial health programs that will identify the barriers to improved adaptation and integration of services for First Nations with a view to improving the services and access to services for all First Nations.

2. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government (Health Canada) to earmark some of the funding for 2010/11 set aside for national activities for this research which will provide much needed information to facilitate work on removing barriers and on improving the access to services (health benefits) for First Nations across the country.

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