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

Resolution no. 51/2009

TITLE:	Support For Dakota Ojibway Police Service and Self-Administered First Nation Police Services
SUBJECT:	Justice/ Policing
MOVED BY:	Wendall Nicholas, Proxy, Tobique First Nation, New Bruinswick
SECONDED BY:	Grand Chief Mike Mitchell, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Ontario
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Policing services help assure order and security for citizens and their community.

B. Presently, First Nation people across Canada are over-represented in relation to incarceration.

C. Relative to First Nation communities, there is a major lag between request for services and response from the police.

D. Related to Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council, communities within DOTC member First Nations are facing increased gang and illegal drug activity which negatively impacts health, safety and security of community members.

E. The degree to which a police service is successful in effectively delivering the required services and attaining its objectives in large measure is affected by the extent to which it resonates with and is accepted by the people and community.

F. For a police service therefore a sense of being rooted in the community and understanding of norms and outlooks of the community are of crucial importance.

G. First Nation Police Services are therefore best equipped to address the needs and expectations of First Nation people residing in Manitoba and across Canada.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10th day of December, 2009 in Ottawa, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

H. Dakota Ojibway Policing Service has since 1977 been a long-standing service-provider in Manitoba with acceptance and support from member First Nations within and outside the mandated area of Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council.

I. First Nation Police Services, such as the Dakota Ojibway Police Service, are best suited to provide the presence, crime prevention initiatives, and enforcement to deal with policing issues.

J. At the 2008 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, the Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted a resolution to support continuation of the Manitoba-based Dakota Ojibway Police Service. Additionally, the said resolution strongly supported the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council in expanding its police services both internally and externally within the province of Manitoba.

K. In 2008, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police adopted a resolution urging the federal government through its policies support community vision, to commit to the provision of First Nations policing which can only be effective and sustainable if it is adequately funded.

L. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has sent letters outlining CACP resolutions and arising issues to the Minister of Public Safety and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

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

1. Re-affirm their support for the expansion across Canada of First Nation Police Services that will effectively and efficiently serve the needs and expectations of First Nations.

2. Declare support for Dakota Ojibway Police Services so that it is able to provide the necessary services in an efficient and effective manner to those residing in First Nation communities falling under purview of Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council and, others located elsewhere across Manitoba.

3. Direct the National Chief to take similar actions as those undertaken by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. This entails writing of letters and convening meetings with the Ministers of Public Safety and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General to seek expansion of First Nation Policing Services across Canada and, to resolve outstanding issues affecting adequate funding and thereby sustainability of the Dakota Ojibway Police Service.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10th day of December, 2009 in Ottawa, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF