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

Resolution no. 34/2009

TITLE:	Support for Aboriginal Business Development Program through INAC and Aboriginal Financial Institutions
SUBJECT:	First Nation Economies / Business Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Kamloops Indian Band, British Columbia
SECONDED BY:	Chief Joseph Hall, Tzeachten First Nation, British Columbia
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations entrepreneurs and businesses rely on equity contributions through the support provided by the Aboriginal Business Development Program (ABDP), as delivered through Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) and their External Delivery Office (XDO) partners.

B. Aboriginal Financial Institutions are the key players in providing developmental loans for First Nation business start ups and expansions.

C. First Nation businesses are being negatively affected by the current economic downturn.

D. The level of support provided to entrepreneurs through the ABDP has decreased over the past fiscal year and the limited budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal period has been expended.

E. Federal pilot initiatives announced in December 2008, which preceded the Federal Framework on Aboriginal Economic Development announced June 2009, created a $20 million loan loss reserve fund and a major resource and energy development fund.

F. The loan loss reserve fund has been primarily directed to large financial institutions and will have a negligible impact on economic development on reserves across Canada.

G. The major project funding has favored non-Aboriginal Institutions.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of December, 2009 in Ottawa, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Support the continued role of the Aboriginal Business Development Program (ABDP), via Aboriginal Business Canada within Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and advocate that the program receive enhanced funding to stimulate First Nations economies.

2. Recommend that INAC shift delivery of the program to community-based organizations.

3. Insist that funding for the ABDP not be diluted through budget transfers to other federal pilot initiatives such as the Loan Loss Reserve and Major Resource and Energy Development project funding to Non-Aboriginal Institutions.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF