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

Resolution no. 52/2009

TITLE:	Support for School Maintenance Training Program
SUBJECT:	Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Kenneth Chalmers, Birdtail Sioux First Nation, Manitoba
SECONDED BY:	Chief David Meeches, Long Plain First Nation, Manitoba
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. For a community and its people, schools are an important asset and building-block.

B. It is increasingly important that a preventative approach be undertaken to ensure longevity of schools and their related facilities in First Nation communities located across Canada.

C. It is recognized that an important component in ensuring a strong preventative approach is through development of capacity and capability among the relevant staffs in each of the said schools.

D. Since 2007, the School Maintenance Training Program (SMTP) has been operational in Manitoba as a pilot project to meet the above stated objectives.

E. The School Maintenance Training Program is currently funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and administered across Manitoba by the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (DOTC).

F. Given budgetary constraints and lack of will, it is highly unlikely that new replacement school facilities will be constructed on demand. It is therefore imperative that efforts, to the fullest extent possible, be undertaken to ensure longevity and life-span of a given school and its related facilities.

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G. Therefore, SMTP works to provide training to current First Nation community schools maintenance personnel to ensure existing school facilities remain “healthy” in the most cost effective manner possible.

H. The said training focusing on theoretical and “hands-on” experience seeks to ensure relevant staff within the schools are proactively able to undertake maintenance practices to properly maintain the school facilities as a long-term capital asset.

I. Our findings to date suggest that the need for training is best served when it is on-going and has a long-term commitment. This requires a national-perspective in that it be considered for offering across Canada.

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

1. Affirm that SMTP is a valuable program aimed at developing capacity and capability among school maintenance and relevant staff in all First Nation communities and at limiting costs arising from lack of attention to requirements of maintenance of said facilities.

2. Direct the AFN to affirm the need for trained people with respect to the maintenance of schools and related facilities in every First Nation community across Canada.

3. Direct the AFN to urge the Government of Canada to continue its support and expand the mandate for the training program developed by SMTP to be offered across Canada (if need be by other relevant entities) to enhance cost savings related to the maintenance of schools and related facilities and the development of capacity and capability of staff.

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