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

Resolution no. 43/2009

TITLE:	Aboriginal Affairs Working Group
SUBJECT:	Intergovernmental Relations
MOVED BY:	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation, Ontario
SECONDED BY:	Councilor Wendall Nicholas, Proxy, Tobique First Nation, New Bruinswick
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. This past August, the National Chief was once again invited to participate in a meeting with the leaders from five National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) and all of the Provincial/Territorial (PT) Premiers – known as the Council of the Federation (CoF).

B. The agenda for the CoF meeting included a focus on:
   - Aboriginal Engagement with the Federal Government
   - H1N1 Flu Virus
   - Education and Skills Training
   - Economic Development

C. The AFN tabled a series of proposals to the CoF in a paper that was delivered and largely accepted by the Premiers, which included establishing an Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) to carryout work between meetings of the CoF and calling for a First Ministers Meeting (FMM) on Aboriginal Issues in 2010.

D. The inaugural meeting of the AAWG included Federal engagement and took place in Toronto on October 29 based on the agenda that had been discussed at the CoF.

E. PT governments, along with the Federal government endorsed an ongoing process of collaboration with the NAOs, including the advancement of another AAWG meeting in April 2010.

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F. Extensive collaboration is expected to take place between NAOs, PTs and the Federal government on the two focal issues of Education and Economic Development, along with preparations for a tertiary focus on Health & Well-being at the next meeting of the AAWG.

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

1. Accept the outcomes from the inaugural meeting of the AAWG that took place on October 29, 2009, as a basis for further discussions with provincial and territorial governments and the Federal government leading to the next meeting of the AAWG expected to take place in April 2010.

2. Endorse a more robust level of engagement with Indigenous governments and strategic relations with other National Aboriginal Organizations where their mandates help to support the advancement of First Nation interests, such as women, youth and urban, in the context of the AAWG.

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