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

Resolution no. 49/2009

TITLE:	First Nation Biomonitoring Initiative
SUBJECT:	Environmental Health Research
MOVED BY:	Chief Gary Potts, Temagami First Nation, Ontario
SECONDED BY:	Chief Marianna Couchie, Nipissing First Nation, Ontario
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. First Nation peoples in Canada are exposed to toxic contaminants in their every day lives no matter where they live, work, or play.

B. There is growing concern among First Nation and non-First Nation communities about the link between the environment, health and the negative impacts of pollution and human activity on the earth and the health of First Nation peoples.

C. The AFN Environmental Stewardship Unit is currently undertaking a study that is assessing levels of contaminants, metals and particulate matter in traditional foods, plants and drinking water.

D. The AFN Environmental Stewardship Unit is seeking to enhance its work on contaminants by incorporating a human biomonitoring component.

E. Biomonitoring is a technique that can provide a direct measure of the exposure of human individuals and populations to toxic substances. Body burden levels (the amount of toxic chemicals each person holds in their bodies from exposure to contaminants) is documented.

F. The AFN Environmental Stewardship Unit is seeking support to conduct a First Nations biomonitoring education and interest assessment. This work will focus on community input and public education for

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First Nations about biomonitoring, toxic chemical exposure, and the potential health implications this may have in First Nation communities.

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

1. Mandate the AFN Environmental Stewardship Unit to develop public information documents about biomonitoring and undertake an interest assessment of biomonitoring in First Nation communities.

2. Direct the AFN Environmental Stewardship Unit to report back to the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on the interest assessment.

3. Where there is initial First Nations support for biomonitoring, the AFN Environmental Stewardship Unit shall also provide to the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly a detailed project plan that respects First Nations protocols and provides for First Nations Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) of any data that may be collected in such a project.

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