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## Assembly of First Nations

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## Assemblée des Premières Nations

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**SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**  
**DECEMBER 3 – 5, 2019, OTTAWA, ON**

**Resolution no. 82/2019**

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Support for Continuing Development of Indigenous Services Canada Revised Operations and Maintenance Policy and Full Funding of First Nations Operations and Maintenance Needs</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Infrastructure
<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation, ON
<b>DECISION</b>	Carried by Consensus

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**WHEREAS:**

- A.** *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:*
- i. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous Peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
  - ii. Article 23: Indigenous Peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous Peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions. This section provides the background information for the resolution.
- B.** The federal government only funds a portion of the estimated costs for the operations and maintenance (O&M) of on-reserve community infrastructure such as buildings, roads and bridges, etc.
- C.** The current funding formulas and cost indices as identified in Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) O&M Policy are outdated, inadequate and do not provide sufficient funding for First Nations to protect and prolong the life of their community assets.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019 in Ottawa, ON**

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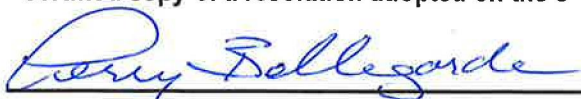
**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**

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- D. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 80/2017, *Support for Review of Canada's Operations and Maintenance Policy*, supported the co-development of new Operations and Maintenance Policy Framework (O&M Policy Framework) with full involvement of First Nations and/or their organizations, the AFN and the Chiefs' Committee on Housing and Infrastructure.
- E. The AFN supports First Nations full involvement in the development of a new O&M Policy working in collaboration of ISC's Community Infrastructure Branch (CIB).
- F. An O&M Experts Meeting was held in Ottawa in March 2018, which recommended First Nations move to an Asset Management Plan (AMP) strategy for determining O&M funding requirements and that Asset Management Pilots be carried out in each region to determine the gap between current funding and fully funded O&M funding.
- G. The AFN has developed a draft Asset Management Policy which was presented at ten regional O&M engagement sessions during May and June of 2019. These engagement sessions were attended by Leadership, public works and capital management staff, tribal council and regional organizations staff, and water and wastewater operators. These engagement sessions further informed the development of the draft Asset Management Policy.
- H. The AFN also funded Asset Management Pilots in each region to determine the gap between current funding and fully funded O&M funding. The pilots have demonstrated that O&M funding formulas ISC uses to determine funding levels are inaccurate and inadequate and that there is a significant backlog of O&M projects awaiting funding.
- I. Further collaboration with ISC's CIB and engagement with First Nations will need to occur to arrive at a mutually acceptable final new O&M Policy.
- J. The results of the Asset Management Pilots will serve to inform Canada that substantial increases in O&M funding will be required to support full operations and maintenance funding today and for the future.
- K. The First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) has been formally transferred from Health Canada to ISC.
- L. FNIHB funds or delivers community-based health promotion and disease prevention programs, primary, home and community care services, health-related emergency management, and programs to control communicable diseases, address environmental health issues and provide non-insured health benefits to supplement those provided by provinces, territories and private insurers.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the Federal Government to support and provide resources to fund the continuing development of a new Operations & Maintenance Policy in collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada and with the full involvement of First Nations and First Nation organizations.
2. Direct the AFN to ensure that all aspects of Operations & Maintenance funding reform specifically include the services provided by First Nations Inuit Health Branch.
3. Direct the AFN to urge the Federal Government to begin to fully fund First Nations to develop fully costed Asset Management Plans using industry standards to include awareness, capacity building and implementation of Asset Management Plans.
4. Direct the AFN to urge the Federal Government to provide resources to First Nations to support their fully costed Asset Management plans now and into the future.

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**PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF**