Assembly of First Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 23, 24 & 25, 2019, FREDERICTON, NB

Resolution no. 24/2019

TITLE:	Engage Extensively with First Nations on the Report of the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations
SUBJECT:	Fiscal Relations
MOVED BY:	Chief Stanley Grier, Piikani Nation, AB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Brendan Mitchell, Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation, NL
DECISION:	Carried; 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:

   i. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

B. There is a recognition of the diversity of First Nations and our relationships with the Crown, as acknowledged in Treaty and the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

C. Under Section 91(24) of the Constitution of Canada, 1867, the federal government maintains sole jurisdiction for the relationship with First Nations and must uphold its fiduciary obligations.

D. Under Section 35 of the Constitution of Canada, the inherent and Treaty rights of First Nations is recognized and affirmed by the Government of Canada.

E. Through Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 66/2017, *AFN-Canada Joint Report on Fiscal Relations*, Chiefs-in-Assembly directed Canada to create a Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations (JACFR) that would provide advice on a direction for the fiscal relationship between First Nations and Canada.

F. In response to that resolution, the JACFR was created, based on equal recommendations from the AFN National Chief and the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

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G. Building on thirty years of accumulated work on the fiscal relationship and ongoing discussions with First Nations leaders and technical experts, the JACFR presented its report – *Honouring our Ancestors by Trailblazing a Path to the Future* – to the National Chief and Minister on June 10, 2019.

H. The JACFR report sets out a bold vision for a new fiscal relationship between First Nations and Canada to provide First Nations with the fiscal capacity to implement fully and effectively their inherent and Treaty rights, title and jurisdiction for the benefit of all their citizens, while reserving the right of any First Nation to opt in or out of the process.

I. The JACFR report contains twenty-four (24) recommendations that will require extensive engagement with First Nations in order to review and obtain feedback for next steps.

J. The federal election on October 21, 2019 will play an important role in determining the preparedness of Canada to pursue a new fiscal relationship with First Nations.

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

1. Affirm, acknowledge, and support the diversity of each First Nation.

2. The Spirit and Intent of the relationship between First Nations and Canada requires a fiscal arrangement that honors all agreements.

3. Call on the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations (JACFR), the Assembly of First Nations, and Indigenous Services Canada to engage extensively with First Nations across the country on the report and its recommendations.

4. Call on the JACFR to report back to Chiefs-in-Assembly with the findings from those engagements at the Annual General Assembly in July 2020.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 25th day of July 2019 in Fredericton, New Brunswick

Perry Bellegarde

PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF