ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 15, 16, & 17, 2008, Quebec City, QC

Resolution no. 17/2008

SUBJECT:	Opposition to Uranium Exploration
MOVED BY:	Chief Isadore Day, Serpent River First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried (1 opposed, 1 abstention).

WHEREAS:

A. Serpent River First Nation has co-existed within the lands and watershed of the Serpent River since time immemorial and is signatory to the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850;

B. Serpent River First Nation maintains a strong cultural and environmental connection to the lands and resources of the Serpent River based on its inherent rights and responsibilities;

C. From the 1950s to the 1990s, Serpent River First Nation experienced severely detrimental and unmitigated environmental, health, social, cultural and economic impacts from uranium mining;

D. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission currently holds jurisdiction over uranium mining waste tailings within the traditional territory which will remain an environmental impediment to Serpent River First Nation and the watershed in perpetuity;

E. Serpent River First Nation is adamant based upon previous experience that such developments will negatively impact upon their aboriginal and treaty rights thereby posing an unjustifiable infringement to the detriment of the socio-economic aspirations of the Serpent River First Nations community;

F. In recent months the pace of exploration activities undertaken by junior mining companies has substantively accelerated and companies have indicated that they want development, however provision has not been made for adequate involvement of Serpent River First Nation, and examination of it's rights and responsibilities in this process; and

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief

G. Recent court decisions including *Haida*, *Taku River* and *Mikisew Cree* have strengthened the obligation, legal duty and responsibility of the Crown to consult on natural resources issues, but the Crown has not provided adequate opportunity for essential engagement and accommodation of Serpent River First Nation regarding uranium mining exploration and development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the Serpent River First Nation's continued opposition of this development in the absence of adequate Crown consultation and accommodation of Serpent River First Nation's rights and title.
2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly confirm the view that free, prior and informed consent is required prior to any development activity on First Nation territories.
3. The Assembly of First Nations shall provide technical support as appropriate.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief