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

Resolution no. 12/2008

SUBJECT:	INAC Income Assistance Program
MOVED BY:	Chief Glen Buffalo, Day Star First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Guy Lonechild, Proxy, White Bear First Nation, SK
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The INAC Income Assistance Program is to provide, in addition to basic social assistance, the following active measures to help eradicate poverty and successfully address First Nations' needs:
   - Adequate funding, operating and training resources for the income assistance program;
   - Access to training and employment opportunities;
   - Resources for shelter and "special needs" allowances, as defined by income assistance policies; and
   - Accessible child care and early childhood development programs for parents wishing to complete their studies or enter the job market;

B. The delivery of income assistance and the identification of income assistance rates rely on provincial / territorial legislation and current income assistance rates are inadequate, particularly in remote / northern First Nations communities;

C. Shelter allowances and other financial supports, such as special diets for pregnant women, are included within provincial / territorial income assistance policies. However, First Nations community members in different regions are either receiving full, partial, or no support for these needs due to funding restrictions and regional interpretations of what is included and "allowable"; and

D. INAC has been instructed to review the income assistance program in its entirety, including active measures prior to its renewal and expansion of authorities in 2009.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 16th day of July, 2008 in Quebec City, QC.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada (including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Human Resources and Social Development Canada), and provincial / territorial governments to engage in a joint table with the AFN to work towards reducing poverty among First Nations through resolving inequity, increasing opportunities, and increasing funding to the income assistance program.
2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the First Nations Income Assistance Working Group and its work in developing and implementing the Social Development Policy Framework Income Assistance Action Plan.
3. The Chiefs-in-Assembly renew their support for the AFN's work in the area of income assistance and in their efforts to improve conditions in First Nations communities related to the cycle of dependence on social assistance.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief