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

Resolution no. 39/2008

SUBJECT:	Support for BC First Nations Regarding Past Infringements
MOVED BY:	Chief Tim Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Doug Kelly, Proxy, Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. Indigenous Nations have always and continue to hold Indigenous Title to the lands and resources within their respective Territories;

B. Indigenous Title includes the right to make decisions concerning how land and resources are to be used, to exercise our responsibilities, and to protect our territories for the benefit of future generations and all life;

C. Indigenous Title exists in BC and has never been extinguished and therefore is a burden on any Crown title that may be held by the Province of British Columbia;

D. Since Confederation, the Province of British Columbia has exploited Indigenous Title lands without proper consent and without consultation and accommodation or recognition of Indigenous Nations' jurisdiction;

E. The Province of British Columbia continues to make new decisions, which are facilitated by, and benefit from, its past and ongoing infringements and the continued unauthorized exploitation of Indigenous Title lands;

F. True reconciliation requires meaningful engagement with respect to past and ongoing infringements of Indigenous Title and Rights;

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief

G. The Province of British Columbia continues to deny Indigenous Title, including through its environmental assessment processes, and refuses to consider how new developments benefit from, and are facilitated by, past and ongoing infringements, thereby ignoring the cumulative impacts of resource exploitation of Indigenous lands;

H. The Province of British Columbia and its Crown Corporations, including BC Hydro and the British Columbia Transmission Corporation, continue to propose major new projects on Indigenous Title lands while refusing to address past and ongoing infringements and exploitation of Indigenous Title lands; and

I. The Province of British Columbia, through the Integrated Land Management Bureau, is currently proposing a partnership model for land disposition allowing the direct sale of undeveloped land through a collaboration of Indigenous Nations, local municipalities and/or regional districts without addressing past and ongoing infringements and exploitation of Indigenous Title lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the efforts of BC First Nations as they call upon the province of British Columbia and its Crown corporations to meaningfully engage with BC First Nations regarding past and ongoing infringements of Indigenous Title and Rights.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief