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

Resolution no. 02/2008

SUBJECT:	Message of the Living Spirit of the Convening of Indigenous Peoples for the Healing of Mother Earth
MOVED BY:	Chief Rapheal Picard, Conseil des Innu de Pessamit, QC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Ron Ignace, Skeetchestn Indian Band, BC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. First Nation peoples are caretakers of Mother Earth and have a spiritual and familial relationship to the sacred elements of water, air, earth and fire, and understand their holistic and inseparable relationship with each other;

B. First Nations communities are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change / global warming and require strategies to adapt to predicted climate changes and associated impacts on human health;

C. As a unique opportunity to address climate change impacts, AFN was involved in the planning of the Convening of Indigenous Peoples for the Healing of Mother Earth held in Mexico in March 2008;

D. The Convening served to facilitate discussions among Indigenous peoples across North America on environmental concerns of Indigenous communities, develop possible solutions and share best practices, while incorporating traditional aspects of our relationship with the environment;

E. The outcome of the Convening was the development of a declaration entitled "*Message of the Living Spirit of the Convening of Indigenous Peoples for the Healing of Mother Earth*";

F. The Declaration sets out, in a strong message, instructions to Indigenous peoples, government, industry, and world leaders to care for the environment, speaking with one spirit, one mind, one heart and as one family, utilizing the original teachings given to human beings by the Creator, we will restore balance and harmony to Mother Earth and communities;

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief

G. Health Canada funded forty-five (45) First Nations and eighteen (18) Inuit representatives from each region across Canada to participate at the Convening and who were actively involved in the development of the declaration; and

H. The Declaration was adopted by the Indigenous Peoples participating from all three Countries – Canada, Mexico and the United States.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the Assembly of First Nations to undertake activities that will support the implementation of the Declaration, "*Message of the Living Spirit of the Convening of Indigenous Peoples for the Healing of Mother Earth".*

2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate AFN to collaborate with FNIHB to secure adequate funding to host regional First Nation meetings across Canada to present the declaration and ensure community support. These meetings will serve to gain community feedback and enable modifications to the Declaration. They will also serve to enhance awareness on environmental issues such as climate change and promote community action on addressing these issues.

3. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate AFN to begin planning and secure funding to host a second Convening of Indigenous Peoples for the Healing of Mother Earth in Canada in 2009.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief