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

Resolution no. 19/2008

SUBJECT:	Emergency Resolution on Apology on behalf of the Catholic Church
MOVED BY:	Chief Judith Sayers, Hupacasath First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Lisa Shaver, Penelkut First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. On June 11, 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a statement of apology to former students of Indian residential schools including recognition of the profoundly negative consequences and the lasting and damaging impact on Aboriginal culture, heritage and language;

B. The Presbyterian, Anglican, United and Roman Catholic Churches operated Indian Residential schools throughout Canada from the early 1800s until the 1990s;

C. The Presbyterian, Anglican and United Churches have formally apologized to First Nations peoples beginning in 1986 for their roles in the residential school system;

D. Beginning in 1998, the Assembly of First Nations has also sought an official apology from the Roman Catholic Church for its role in the residential school system;

E. The Vatican issued a Papal Apology to the Jewish people in 1998 for its silence during the Holocaust; and

F. It is anticipated that Pope Benedict XVI will also apologize to victims of sexual abuse by Catholic priests during his visit to Australia (July 15-20, 2008) and has stated ``It is essential for the church to reconcile, to prevent, to help and also to see guilt in this problem."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 17th day of July, 2008 in Quebec City, QC.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

1. Chiefs in Assembly direct the National Chief and the Executive to continue to engage in discussions with the Vatican to pursue a full apology on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church, to all First Nations for their role in the Indian residential schools system.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 17th day of July, 2008 in Quebec City, QC.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief