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

Resolution no. 06/2008

SUBJECT:	Adequacy and Funding of Mental Wellness and Addictions Programs
MOVED BY:	Doug Kelly, Proxy, Shwx'ow'hamel First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Daniel Pien, Conseil de la Nation du Lac Simon FN, QC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations communities continue to face higher rates of mental illness, including youth suicide;

B. Existing programs, such as the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYPS), National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, Indian Residential School Health Supports, are not resourced to meet the real needs in communities;

C. The Mental Wellness Advisory Committee (MWAC), which advises FNIHB on mental health issues, has drafted their Strategic Action Plan to coordinate existing programs, and increase supports to develop mental health human resources;

D. Some regions have a First Nations mental health/addictions position to provide coordinated support to communities on all programs, but this is not available consistently;

E. The Indian Residential Schools Health Supports Program is funded by FNIHB, and is intended to provide direct supports to residential school survivors and their families; and

F. There is currently not enough support in communities to fund community-based healing and, following the June 11 Apology from the Prime Minister, there may be an increase in demand for support from survivors, their families and communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

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

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly urge FNIHB to:

   a. immediately expand the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy to include family aftercare, expand to additional communities, as well as the renew the program past 2010;

   b. fast-track the proposal review and funding of Indian Residential Schools Health Support community-based healing projects to flow at least half of the proposals by the end of July, and the remaining by the end of August of 2008, and not delay healing efforts in communities;

   c. be respectful of First Nations traditional healing methods and practices. First Nations refuse to give any role, authority or responsibility to FNIHB to define criteria on traditional healing, or refuse funding on any point related to traditional medicines, healing or methods; and

   d. to immediately fund full-time positions as required at the regional level, to increase communication flow, coordination to communities, and regional advocacy for mental health and addictions.

2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the AFN to communicate support-in-principle for the MWAC draft Strategic Action Plan, as long as:

   a. There is a written commitment from MWAC to enter into discussions with AFN to incorporate suggested changes to the Plan as recommended by regions;

   b. The regions that are completing First Nations focus groups are funded to do so as soon as possible; and

   c. Written commitment is provided that First Nations PTOs will be given the lead to develop the regional implementation plans for this national framework, with support from the AFN, FNIHB and in partnership with other levels of government.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief