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

Resolution no. 13/2008

SUBJECT:	AFN~INAC Joint Working Group on Assisted Living
MOVED BY:	Norman Bernard, Proxy, Wagmatcook First Nation, NS
SECONDED BY:	Chief Jessie John Simon, Elsipogtog First Nation, NB
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. Chronic illness, mental health issues, and disabilities that are occurring at a much younger age are all factors that contribute to the need for Assisted Living services in First Nation communities;

B. Based 2006 estimates, there are approximately 9,000 First Nation individuals receiving Assisted Living services;

C. Due to an increase in the aging population in First Nation communities, with current authorities and funding levels, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will not be able to adequately service this population nor provide adequate services to children with special care needs in First Nation communities;

D. Assisted living is one element of a larger vision for providing continuing care to First Nation individuals and families;

E. The long term Assisted Living goals are:
   a. To increase funding to ensure equitable access to services that are at an equivalent range, scope and level as services provided by the provinces/territories, and that reflect the needs of the community and address existing gaps in service delivery;
   b. To establish, clarify and clearly communicate linkages between jurisdictions, authorities and program eligibility;
   c. To work towards First Nations control (jurisdiction and authority) that is recognized by governments and agencies;
   d. To provide First Nations with the authority to develop their own standards and the capacity to meet or exceed provincial standards;

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief

F. INAC will be undertaking intensive work on the Assisted Living program, building upon the program evaluation findings and recommendations, to renew, update and potentially expand the program's mandate and authorities, in coordination with the Continuing Care Initiative and the Home and Community Care program;

G. INAC has expressed support for completing this work in cooperation with the AFN and First Nations technicians; and

H. The AFN currently does not have a group of regional representatives and technicians specifically for the Assisted Living program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the AFN Health and Social Secretariat to become engaged in renewing and updating the Assisted Living program, while continuing its work on the Continuing Care initiative as well as the Home and Community Care program.
2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the creation of the Assisted Living working group, to be funded by INAC, to work in cooperation with the AFN and INAC on renewing and updating the Assisted Living program.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief