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

Resolution no. 20/2008

SUBJECT:	Emergency Resolution on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
MOVED BY:	Alvin Fiddler, Proxy, Kingfisher First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	John Beaucage, Proxy, Wikwemikong First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established pursuant to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, ratified by survivors in 2007, and formally beginning its work on June 1, 2008;

B. The TRC is intended to contribute to truth, healing and reconciliation, to be forward-looking and results-oriented in terms of rebuilding and renewing First Nation relationships and the relationship between First Nation and non-First Nation Canadians;

C. The TRC has the mandate to provide survivors of Indian Residential Schools (IRS), and anyone who has been affected by the IRS legacy, with an opportunity to share their individual experiences in a safe and culturally appropriate manner through statement-taking or truth-sharing;

D. The TRC has the mandate to create as complete an historical record as possible of the IRS, their purpose, operation, supervisions, effects and consequences;

E. In order to fulfill its mandate, the TRC must not only be independent it must be seen to be independent;

F. The Government of Canada was a defendant in the legal proceedings leading up to the IRS Agreement, vigorously denying its liability;

G. The IRS Settlement Agreement requires that the TRC direct and control the Executive Director and the Secretariat of the TRC; and

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H. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is seeking to control all aspects of the TRC Secretariat including the hiring of the Executive Director and the employees of the Secretariat and control of the expenditures under the TRC budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly demand that the Government of Canada respect the mandatory terms of the IRS Settlement Agreement which state that the Secretariat and the Executive Director of the TRC are subject to the direction and control of the Commissioners.

2. The Chiefs-in Assembly demand that the Commissioners alone be responsible for the recruitment, interviewing and hiring of all Secretariat staff and the Executive Director of the TRC.

3. The Chiefs-in-Assembly re-affirm their position that the TRC must be independent, and be seen to be independent, from the Government of Canada in all its work.

4. The Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the TRC to make the TRC accessible to as many survivors as possible throughout its five year mandate, paying close attention to the location of survivors and the locations of the schools and provide full support for all individuals affected by the Residential Schools system and its legacy at TRC events.

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