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

Resolution no. 15/2008

SUBJECT:	First Nation Economic Development Strategy
MOVED BY:	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Kamloops Indian Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Noah Augustine, Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation, NB
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The federal government is developing a new *Aboriginal Economic Framework* to serve First Nation and Aboriginal economies with the anticipated completion of research and planning by December 2008 and have announced $70 Million over the next two years for the implementation of the framework;

B. First Nations must be involved in the development and design of this new framework, yet, the Federal Government is currently only providing extremely limited involvement of First Nations in the design and coordination of the framework;

C. The new framework must consider the needs of our economic growth requirements regardless of whether our economies are at a developmental, emerging, or dynamic phase, including ensuring that all First Nations can access support systems leading to participation and benefit in the wealth and prosperity of Canada;

D. Revisions to existing economic strategies and implementation of the new framework must be based on sufficient evidence and appropriate program reviews;

E. Federal officials appear to be considering a model that focuses on communities that are already successful and positioned sufficiently to access new opportunities; and

F. INAC has indicated it will freeze the Community Economic Opportunities Program and its Community Support Services Program while conducting its program audit, which will directly impact timing for important economic development priorities for many First Nations across Canada.

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

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The National Chief communicate to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and inform him of First Nations requirements and high expectations to have input into the new federal economic framework.
2. The National Chief inform the Minister that the Chiefs across Canada have mandated and supported the AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development on developing its First Nation Economic Blue Print and that a new strategy must accommodate this mandate, and the requirement for First Nation control over economic programs, services and incentives, regionally and locally.
3. A meeting of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development be planned immediately to discuss with federal counterparts, including the Minister's National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, the outline, description and process for engagement.
4. Financial support be identified immediately by the federal government for technical level and political discussions with federal counterparts.
5. Chiefs-in-Assembly demand a strategy that upholds a First Nations-specific approach and builds upon the Community Economic Development Program and project funding vehicles.
6. Chiefs-in-Assembly call on INAC to maintain that First Nations will have access to economic programs and demand that no freeze be implemented to such programs.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief