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

Resolution no. 32/2008

SUBJECT:	Support for the Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) Designation
MOVED BY:	Chief Dennis Meeches, Long Plain First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Glen Pratt, Proxy, Gordon First Nation, SK
DECISION:	Carried by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. In 1998 the Federal Government responded to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in its report Gathering Strength Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan, by identifying capacity development in financial management and accountability as a critical pre-condition to self-government;

B. The AFN and the Certified General Accountants (CGA) of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 30, 1998 and established the AFN-CGA Working Group;

C. The AFN-CGA Working Group goals were to raise the accounting skills and standards of First Nations, and build essential foundations for implementation of self government by First Nations;

D. The AFN-CGA Working Group identified the creation of a national association of Aboriginal financial officers as essential to the capacity development of First Nations;

E. Resolution #70/98 adopted by the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the December 1998 Confederacy of Nations, supported the incorporation of a national association of Aboriginal financial officers and affiliated provincial chapters of the association;

F. In 1999 the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA Canada) was incorporated as a not-for-profit association to enhance Aboriginal financial policies and management skills. AFOA Canada's premise is that improving the management skills of those responsible for the stewardship of Aboriginal resources is key to successful self-government and creating a better life for Canada's Aboriginals;

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G. In 2000 AFOA Canada was recognized by the Federal Government as a registered educational institution;

H. AFOA Canada established the Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) designation – a professional designation unique to First Nations based on the CGA educational program;

I. AFOA Canada developed the following in support of the CAFM designation:

a. CAFM Competency standards;
b. CAFM Ethical standards;
c. Aboriginal Financial Management (AFM) Program – a series of fourteen courses leading to the National CAFM Professional Examination; and
. Maintenance of CAFM Certification policies

J. In 2006, CGA Canada announced that CAFMs would be granted a block transfer into Level 4 of the CGA Program of Professional Studies;

K. AFOA Chapters work together to achieve the mission and goals of AFOA Canada in the following territories: Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories; and

L. AFOA Canada has 1,300 members across Canada and of those, 392 have received their Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) professional designation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the important role that the AFOA Canada and AFOA chapters play in enhancing Aboriginal financial management throughout the country.
2. The Chiefs-in-Assembly recommend First Nations members obtain financial and management training through AFOA Canada and to attain the CAFM professional designation.
3. The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the professional designation of the CAFM as the preferred credential when First Nations are hiring personnel in financial and management positions.
4. The Chiefs-in-Assembly request Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to make funding available to First Nations to get adequate financial and management training to improve skills and build capacity within First Nations communities.

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