SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 14, 15 & 16, 2010, GATINEAU, QC

Resolution no. 61/2010

TITLE:	Action on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
SUBJECT:	Justice / Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
MOVED BY:	Chief Coreen Child, Kwakiutl First Nation, British Columbia
SECONDED BY:	Mike Metawabin, proxy, Flying Post First Nation, Ontario
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The federal government has endorsed the UNDRIP and article 22.2 states the "State shall take measures in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination", and that the federal government must fulfill their obligations by ensuring that the issue of murdered and missing Aboriginal women is not pushed aside and remains one of their top concerns.

B. Article 23, in particular, states that Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing, and other economic and social programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

C. The disproportionate number of missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada continues to be a crisis.

D. Chiefs-in-Assembly have repeated called for coordinated strategies to address violence against First Nations women, including support for greater public awareness and prevention.

E. Chiefs-in-Assembly ratified and adopted Resolution No. 46/04 for *"Support for Sisters in Spirit Campaign (Native Women's Association of Canada).*

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 15th day of December, 2010 in Gatineau, Quebec

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

F. In 2005, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) *Sisters in Spirit (SIS)* was launched to conduct research and raise public awareness and to address the large number of cases of murdered and missing Aboriginal women in Canada.

G. NWAC has gathered information that there are more than 582 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada.

H. The large number of cases in Ontario illustrates that the issue is not just a "western problem," but rather a national concern.

I. On October 29th, 2010 the government of Canada provided details on the allocation of $10M over two years announced in Budget 2010 "to improve community safety and to ensure that the justice system and law enforcement agencies can better respond to cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women." The majority of this funding will not go to Aboriginal-specific initiatives; cannot be accessed directly by First Nations; and prohibits NWAC from continuing direct advocacy and research as part of the Sisters in Spirit initiative.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call upon Canada to jointly establish an independent, public commission of inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.
2. Further call upon all levels of government, especially First Nation governments, to engage Indigenous and women's groups on the development of national, regional and local action plans that would both support families of victims and address the root causes of violence against Indigenous women.
3. Demand that the Government of Canada support community-based initiatives and national programs that seek to promote public awareness and carry out advocacy and research about violence against Indigenous women, such as the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) Sisters-in-Spirit initiative.
4. Demand that the Government of Canada ensure proper facilities and services are available within communities for those people who are victims or have lost their loved ones through acts of violence.
5. Direct the National Chief to strongly advocate and lobby for the protection and safety of First Nation women and children across Canada as per the UNDRIP.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF