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

Resolution no. 56/2010

TITLE:	Support for the B.C. First Peoples' Cultural Foundation and Increased Federal Funding for Language Revitalization
SUBJECT:	Languages
MOVED BY:	Dan Smith, Proxy, We Wai Kum First Nation (Campbell River Indian Band), British Columbia
SECONDED BY:	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Soowahlie First Nation, British Columbia
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. According to the *2010 Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages in B.C.* released by the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council, fluent First Peoples' language speakers make up a small and shrinking minority of the B.C. First Peoples population.

B. Most fluent speakers are over the age of 65; the number of speakers is diminishing yearly; and all of the 32 First Peoples' languages in British Columbia are severely endangered or nearly extinct.

C. The First Peoples' Cultural Foundation is a British Columbia-registered charitable non-profit organization whose primary mission is to increase public awareness of and to raise resources to support B.C. First Peoples' languages, heritage and culture.

D. Adequate financial resources to fund the efforts of the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation are vital to support the Council and other B.C. language, heritage and cultural organizations. However, since 2009, the organization has not received core infrastructure funding or resources to enable it to employ staff, establish an office, and initiate ongoing fundraising and public awareness campaigns.

E. Although efforts have been undertaken, the Board has not been able to secure funds to support organizational infrastructure.

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F. The Board believes that unless infrastructure funds are made available within the next six months to enable it to carry out its mission, it will be forced to permanently close the doors of the Foundation.

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

1. Affirm political support for the mission and role of the B.C. First Peoples' Cultural Foundation.

2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for government and private sector financial resources to enable the Foundation to fulfil its mission and role.

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