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

Resolution no. 70/2010

TITLE:	First Nation-controlled Awareness, Training & Surveillance Program for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
SUBJECT:	Environment
MOVED BY:	Gordon Peters, Proxy, Delaware Nation, Ontario
SECONDED BY:	Chief Bernie Elkins, Alexandria Band, British Columbia
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is the deer, moose, elk and possibly caribou equivalent of Mad Cow Disease. It is an infectious disease that is always fatal and can remain viable for years in soil. There is no known antidote. The disease is epidemic in ungulate populations in 15 American states and two Canadian provinces – and expanding.

B. First Nations have a greater reliance on ungulates for food, tools and objects than the average Canadian and are more likely to see changes in wildlife populations. In addition, trade and transport across provincial, territorial and international borders is an everyday exercise of treaty and Aboriginal rights.

C. There are no known human health effects as yet, although there are recommendations to reduce any potential risk of exposure from handling or consumption.

D. Only one percent of wildlife samples sent to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) come from First Nations even though wildlife-human health interactions are the largest source of disease transfer.

E. No collaboration with First Nations and responsible government bodies exists to provide information, acquire samples or plan for exigencies, despite a 5 year old national CWD Strategy.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 16th day of December, 2010 in Gatineau, Quebec

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Direct the AFN to work with concerned First Nations, other governments (and non-governmental organizations – World Wildlife Fund supports our effort) to consult, develop, maintain and strengthen our own wildlife and human health programs, beginning with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) because it affects species of importance to First Nations across the country.

2. Direct the AFN, as part of this development, to ensure:
    a. The program be controlled by, and accountable to, demonstrate progress, and be responsive to new and emerging wildlife and human health epidemics as defined by concerned First Nations.
    b. Individual First Nations, their organizations and hunters not bear the costs.
    c. Costs be borne by the federal government, consistent with its funding to the respective provincial governments for wildlife and human health surveillance.
    d. Direction, laboratory results and subsequent action in the event of the presence of disease in herds be provided first to First Nations for decision-making, including any collaboration with others.
    e. Other federal government departments to be called upon, include but are not limited to: the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Health Canada, Environment Canada, Parks Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs.
    f. Action begin immediately since CWD is already present in Canada and expanding.
    g. Potential funding to initiate this process and eventual program include Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative, the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, and foundations.

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