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

Resolution no. 78/2010

TITLE:	Nutrition North Canada Program
SUBJECT:	Health, Nutrition, Food Security
MOVED BY:	Chief Earl Klyne, Seine River First Nation, Ontario
SECONDED BY:	Chief Arlen Dumas, Mathias Colomb First Nation (Pukatawagan), Manitoba
DECISION:	Resolution was referred to AFN executive by Chiefs-in-Assembly on December 16, 2010. Passed by the AFN Executive at a duly convened meeting on January 20, 2011

WHEREAS:

A. The Nutrition North Canada (NNC) program will replace the Food Mail program in April 2011. The intention of the NNC program is to make healthy food more accessible and affordable to Northerners living in isolated communities through the food subsidy distributed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

B. The NNC program will be available to Northerners, including First Nations and Inuit people living in 77 eligible communities in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

C. Health Canada (HC) will take a more prominent role in the NNC program by providing nutrition education initiatives to retailers and community consumers to support healthy eating. These activities are intended to be culturally appropriate and community-based to deliver vital information on the use, marketing and preparation of nutritious foods.

D. The NNC program will have an Oversight Committee (INAC, HC, and Transport Canada) and a volunteer External Advisory Board established to improve program governance and give Northerners a direct voice in the program. Membership is not representative by region.

E. The development of the NNC program appears to rely solely on the Food Mail Review Report by Graham Dargo and no further consultation on the development of the new program was carried out with First Nations communities who may be affected.

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F. Many concerns were raised at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development by various stakeholders, including First Nation and Inuit representatives. Concerns included: lack of consultation on the new program, lack of First Nation involvement in the development of the new program which continues to undergo review through meetings/hearings with more potential concerns forthcoming, lack of communication with First Nations (regarding change of program and delisting of communities on the eligibility list), the fast pace of the program rollout, ensuring proportional representation of First Nations on the External Advisory Board, terms for which traditional foods will be subsidized, and little to no competition for transportation of foods to remote northern communities.

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

1. Mandate the AFN to work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Health Canada (HC) to ensure First Nations are proportionally represented on the External Advisory Board during the development, implementation and evaluation of the Nutrition North Canada (NNC) program.
2. Mandate the AFN to ensure that both eligible and ineligible First Nation communities affected by the NNC program are fully aware and informed of the new subsidy program.
3. Mandate the AFN to work with INAC and HC to increase the AFN's role in the support and encouragement of enhanced community awareness and clarity on how to access the food subsidy program.
4. Mandate the AFN to conduct an impact analysis on those First Nation communities who will draw upon the NNC program, those who are remote but are not eligible and those communities removed from the eligibility list.
5. Mandate the AFN to work with INAC and HC to ensure that Old Crow, Yukon, a fly-in only First Nation community, maintains the personal shipping transportation subsidy from Whitehorse to Old Crow, thus giving Old Crow community members the ability to purchase healthy foods from wherever they choose.

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