ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 12, 13 & 14, 2011, MONCTON, NB

Resolution no. 19/2011

TITLE:	Support for the First Nations Information Governance Centre to Conduct a Survey on Education and Employment On-Reserve and in Northern First Nations Communities
SUBJECT:	Education / Information Gathering and Management
MOVED BY:	Chief Carolyn Buffalo, Montana Cree Nation, AB
SECONDED BY:	Grand Chief Mike Mitchell, Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus – 1 abstention

WHEREAS:

A. The Federal government has previously implemented certain national surveys that did not include First Nation people living on-reserve and northern First Nation communities, resulting in an information gap for many key socio-economic indicators to improving the lives of First Nations, such as education and employment.

B. The First Nation population is young and growing rapidly with almost half under 25 years of age. For First Nations, children and youth represent an important segment of the population with great potential to contribute to the overall economic and social prosperity of their community. It is envisioned that a national survey with a focus on education and employment would provide valuable data for implementing policy changes that will assist in improving socio-economic outcomes for all First Nations.

C. The Federal government is planning to implement an Aboriginal survey on education and employment that will be conducted by Statistics Canada in 2012 for the Aboriginal population living off-reserve and in Inuit communities (called the Aboriginal Peoples Survey).

D. Comparable data is required for the First Nation population on-reserve and northern First Nation communities.

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E. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2009 passed resolution #48/2009 in support of the establishment of a First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) as a stand alone entity.

F. The FNIGC incorporated in April 2010 and is governed by a First Nations board appointed through regional processes which is structured as a national hub, with satellite regional offices, and is the permanent home of the Regional Health Survey (RHS).

G. The FNIGC has a mandate to oversee First Nations research, surveys, training, information management, health surveillance, serve as a data repository and be the premier source of relevant, quality information and data on First Nations which will serve to support policy development and informed decision-making at all levels.

H. The FNIGC will promote, protect and advance the First Nations Principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP), the Inherent Right to self-determination and jurisdiction in research and information management.

I. The RHS process has helped build First Nations capacity development at the community, regional and national level and is the only national research initiative under complete control of First Nations, and through national and regional resolution processes.

J. The FNIGC is an established and credible organization in its survey delivery capacity as attested through a review of the RHS by Harvard University which stated *"….that compared to other national surveys of Indigenous people from around the world, RHS was unique in First Nations ownership of the research process and engagement of First Nations people at all stages of the process."*

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

1. Call on the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) in collaboration with the Chiefs Committee on Education, the National Indian Education Council, and other national partners (to be identified) to implement a survey on education and employment for on-reserve and northern First Nation communities, that is compliant with OCAP principles and incorporates a holistic framework.
2. Direct the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education, the National Indian Education Council to work in collaboration with other First Nations education experts and the Federal government to develop the survey built upon the established Regional Health Survey structure and procedures in place, and that financial resources will be made available to ensure First Nations participation.
3. Define, through their regional resolution processes, the First Nation regional organizations that will work with the FNIGC in developing and implementing this survey.
4. Call on the FNIGC to develop a communication strategy in collaboration with First Nations regional organizations to engage First Nations at the local and regional levels, ensuring national and regional statistics collected are representative of First Nations people living on-reserve and in northern First Nations communities.

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