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

Resolution no. 27/2011

TITLE:	First Nations Natural Resources Institute
SUBJECT:	Natural Resources and Economic Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Perry Bellegarde, Little Black Bear First Nation, SK
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. For thousands of years, First Nations have been and will continue to be the traditional stewards of the forested lands which sustain the cultures, environment, and economies of hundreds of First Nation communities across Canada.

B. The act of Treaty making between Indigenous Nations and the Crown involved the exchange of solemn promises, including promises that First Nations would be able to exercise their rights, jurisdiction and governance over the lands and rivers as they had since time immemorial

C. First Nations traditional forested lands, and the natural resources contained therein, are now recognized as an area of global importance.

D. First Nations have been under-represented in all resource sectors — e.g. in forest policy and legislation, in forest sector development and negotiations on forest use and protection, and particularly in the Boreal forest ecozone.

E. Currently, First Nations are excluded from the forest products industry, forest tenure reform, and the emerging global carbon economy.

F. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources they own and traditionally own, and Canada has endorsed these and other principles.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14th day of July, 2011 in Moncton, New Brunswick

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

G. Canada has signed on to the *Convention of Biological Diversity* which calls on all States to recognize and support the traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous peoples that support the sustainable use of biological resources such as forests.

H. At the 10th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in May 2011, the findings of the International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Forests were presented and stressed that indigenous peoples have owned, skillfully managed and conserved forests for thousands of years, and protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples is crucial to ensuring the long-term stewardship of the world's forests.

I. First Nations must take a leadership role in Canada's natural resource sectors in order to support their rights, title and ownership over their traditional lands, as well as to encourage meaningful decision-making, shared management of resources, and the equitable sharing of economic opportunities and benefits associated with their forested lands and the natural resources therein.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to collaborate with First Nations, First Nation sector organizations, government agencies, industry partners, academic institutions, and private sector organizations to examine and develop options for the creation of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute, reporting through AFN processes, to advance sustainable growth and development in various natural resource sectors through research, policy, education, capacity development, advocacy and support.

2. Direct the AFN to bring these options and recommendations on the creation of a First Nations Natural Resources Institute to Chiefs-in-Assembly for further consideration and decision-making.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14th day of July, 2011 in Moncton, New Brunswick

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF