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

Resolution no. 31/2011

TITLE:	Support for Continued Employment and Training Opportunities For First Nations in the Rail Industry
SUBJECT:	Labour Force and Economic Development
MOVED BY:	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw Apilt First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief John Smith, Tlowitsis First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The rail industry in Canada faces a labour shortage of 12,000 workers over the next five years while First Nations are the fastest growing segment of the Canadian population.

B. The Railway Association of Canada (RAC), as well as its largest members, Canadian National, and Canadian Pacific have all made commitments to work towards training and employing First Nations; namely though the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and RAC Railway Employment and Training Project, a one-year program funded though the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund, which ended March 31, 2011.

C. The project was noted by both the Ministry of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Transport Canada as a very worthwhile initiative in terms of successfully training First Nation track maintenance workers and signalers, as well as funding over 30 students for college-certified conductor courses.

D. Over 100 First Nation communities are located within close proximity to the major rail lines, while a new rail line is proposed to be built into the Ring of Fire mining area in northern Ontario.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Recommend that the AFN and Railway Association of Canada Railway Employment and Training Project be continued to encourage additional training and employment opportunities among First Nations youth.
2. Call upon the Federal government and industry to continue to engage with First Nation Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) holders in terms of both training opportunities and education funding.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF