TITLE:	Support for the June 2012 World Indigenous Housing Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia
SUBJECT:	Housing / Capacity Building
MOVED BY:	Andrew Leach, Proxy, T'it'qet First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Margaret Pfoh, Proxy, Tseil-waututh Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 21 (1) of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states: "Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security."

   Article 23 states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions."

B. The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) in British Columbia—the first, and only, Aboriginal off-reserve housing authority in Canada—is coordinating and hosting a World Indigenous Housing Conference in Vancouver, June 11-15, 2012, the first international event to bring indigenous housing leaders, policy makers, politicians, corporate leaders and researchers together from Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand to learn from best practices around the world and build a global network.

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C. Housing issues continue to reflect the inequities faced by First Nations citizens:

- Aboriginal homeless are over represented in all major Canadian cities; in some locations, more than 70% of homeless people are Aboriginal. Overall, Aboriginal people comprise less than 4% of the Canadian population, but more than 10% of the homeless population;
- Poor housing conditions due to backlogs and overcrowding, substandard conditions in existing units, unsafe units requiring replacement, and the need for mould remediation reflect poverty on too many reserves, with a projected need for 87,000 new units nationally;
- First Nations people are grossly under-represented in the home ownership market: the home ownership rate among First Nations in Canada is 28.5%, compared to 67% for the non-Aboriginal population. The barriers behind this difference are complex, historical and systemic;
- Research shows indigenous housing providers from Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand share common housing experiences and challenges, and have established infrastructure.

D. AHMA expects the knowledge exchange at the 2012 WIHC—*Sharing Our Stories; Sharing Our Successes*—will help enable indigenous communities around the world to achieve self-sufficiency and prosperity. A key legacy from the conference will be an International Indigenous Housing Portal, a web-based repository for all of the knowledge available on this topic, which will be launched at the 2012 WIHC to sustain international housing connections established at the event well beyond 2012.

E. Housing is a key policy area for the Assembly of First Nations; the role of the AFN Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat is to advocate for adequate resources for First Nations to build and maintain all areas of infrastructure and housing, which are important determinants of overall health.

F. AHMA has invited AFN National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo to open the 2012 World Indigenous Housing Conference, and housing expert Mike Holmes to speak about the AFN-Holmes Group Pilot Project, *Building Homes and Building Skills*, with the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation, to an audience of over 1,000 WIHC delegates.

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

1. Direct the AFN to support the 2012 World Indigenous Housing Conference (WIHC) as the first international forum for bringing indigenous housing providers from around the world.
2. Encourage indigenous housing leaders from across Canada to attend and participate in the World Indigenous Housing Conference, June 11-15, 2012.
3. Direct the AFN to work with WIHC organizers to develop a strong conference agenda that reflects the aspirations and goals of First Nations housing providers in Canada.
4. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government — through agencies such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development — to provide sponsorship support for the 2012 WIHC.

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