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

Resolution no. 02/2011

TITLE:	Call for a Royal Commission on Violence Against Indigenous Girls & Women
SUBJECT:	Community Safety / Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women
MOVED BY:	Chief Bob Chamberlain, Kwicksutaineauk Ah-kwa-mish First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Shane Gottfriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) states:

Article 21

2. "States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities."

Article 22

2. "States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination."

B. In Canada, Indigenous women are five times more likely than other women to die as a result of violence and this problem is a national and international crisis. Violence against Indigenous girls and women must be addressed and eliminated.

C. There are reports that more than 582 Indigenous women are known to be either missing or murdered currently in Canada, and many non-government organizations are conducting research and spreading awareness both nationally and internationally such as the Native Women's Association of Canada's

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Sisters in Spirit Initiative and the Amnesty International *Stolen Sisters* and *No More Stolen Sisters* reports.

D. Many of those who have gone missing or who have been found murdered are girls who may be in the care of the provincial ministries responsible for child and family services and foster care.

E. The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) gave a 2008 directive to Canada to "examine the reasons for the failure to investigate cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women and to take the necessary steps to remedy the deficiencies in the system [and] carry out an analysis of those cases in order to determine whether there is a racialized pattern to the disappearances and take measures to address the problem if that is the case."

F. In order to redress the systemic racism and to eliminate the violence perpetrated against Indigenous girls and women within Canada, there is a responsibility of all.

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

1. Call on the Federal government to convene a Royal Commission on Violence Against Indigenous Girls and Women to make concrete and specific recommendations to end violence against Indigenous girls and women at a national level.
2. Recommend that the Royal Commission on Violence Against Indigenous Girls and Women should include Indigenous and/or woman chief commissioner(s), along with an Indigenous youth council, infusing the inquiry with both Indigenous, woman and girl perspectives.
3. Direct the National Chief and Assembly of First Nations to use every opportunity to raise awareness about violence and sexual exploitation through the world wide web against Indigenous women and girls, and to work with like-minded organizations to further advocate for a Royal Commission.

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