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

Resolution no. 03/2011

TITLE:	Support for Indigenous Women in Community Leadership Program
SUBJECT:	Community Engagement and Development
MOVED BY:	Chief Candice Paul, St. Mary's First Nation, NB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 21 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) states:

1. "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."
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."

B. The UNDRIP further asserts in Article 23 that: "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."

C. *Indigenous Women in Community Leadership* is a new program offered by the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in strengthening and building their communities. The five-year, $4 million initiative is supported by the Imperial Oil Foundation and ExxonMobil Foundation.

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D. A new generation of First Nation women leaders will learn *Asset-Based Community Development* skills and tools in the *Indigenous Women in Community Leadership* program to recognize and build upon their strengths in order to play an active role in advancing community development.

E. *Asset-Based Community Development* focuses on assets and capacities rather than needs and deficiencies, and energy is directed toward opportunities at the community level. At its core are the various assets (human, social, financial, natural and physical) that already exist in the community, especially the formal and informal associations that mobilize assets and strengthen the social relationships that are important for bridging local initiatives and external opportunities.

F. *Indigenous Women in Community Leadership* First Nation participants will seek out a three-month *Asset-Based Community Development* community placement to put what they learned into practice.

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

1. Support the *Indigenous Women in Community Leadership* (IWCL) program and the implementation of Asset-Based Community Development skills and tools.
2. Encourage First Nation Governments to provide placement opportunities for IWCL participants.

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