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

Resolution no. 41/2011

TITLE:	Lake Winnipeg Commercial Fisheries
SUBJECT:	Fisheries
MOVED BY:	Chief George Kemp, Berens River First Nation, MB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Glen Hudson, Peguis First Nation, MB
DECISION:	Passed by the AFN Executive Committee

WHEREAS:

A. The Lake Winnipeg fisheries in Manitoba are the largest inland commercial pickerel (walleye) fisheries in the world; comprised of 857 commercial fishers.

B. First Nation fishers and their communities surrounding Lake Winnipeg make up 85% of the fishermen on Lake Winnipeg.

C. The federal government has recently indicated that major changes to the marketing and sale of Lake Winnipeg fish via the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC - based in Winnipeg, Manitoba) are about to be implemented.

D. The First Nation commercial fishers of Lake Winnipeg are deeply concerned with the future of their industry and livelihood.

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

1. Request that the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) assist the First Nation commercial fishers of Lake Winnipeg to develop and implement a plan to save their industry from any harmful impacts of the closing of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 19th day of September, 2011 in Aylmer, Quebec

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

2. Direct the AFN to move immediately to convene a meeting in Ottawa or Winnipeg of key ministers in the federal government to begin discussions on developing and implementing a strategy that protects and enhances the livelihood of First Nation commercial fishers on Lake Winnipeg.

3. Direct the AFN to immediately establish a working group of Chiefs from the impacted Lake Winnipeg fisheries communities to ensure that proper consultation and meaningful dialogue takes place between First Nation communities, First Nation fishers and the Province of Manitoba and Federal government.

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