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

Resolution no. 04/2011

TITLE:	Making First Nations Health a Priority
SUBJECT:	Health
MOVED BY:	Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Pierre Pelletier, Red Rock Band, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. As Article 24 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) affirms:

   2. "Indigenous peoples have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right;"

   And Article 23 affirms: "Indigenous individuals have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development, including health and to administer such programmes through their own institutions."

B. In 2014 the *Health Accord* will be up for renewal and to date is failing all Canadians and in particular First Nations. There is a need for transformative change and First Nations should be a voice at the *Health Accord* discussion table.

C. To date, discussions surrounding integrated health delivery do not include jurisdictional issues surrounding *Jordan's Principle*, Home and Community Care and Assisted Living.

D. The Government of Canada has a legal and fiduciary obligation to First Nations and accordingly, the Chiefs-in-Assembly do not support or endorse Canada's pan-Aboriginal approach.

E. Disparities in health outcomes continue in First Nations communities.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

F. Cancer rates are rising at an alarming rate and access to cancer control measures including cancer prevention, screening, treatment options, palliative care, cancer research and policy are lacking for First Nations people both on and off reserve. This lack of access and gaps in cancer control result in late stage diagnosis and limited options for our people, especially those in remote and isolated communities who must leave their communities for screening and treatment.

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

1. Mandate the National Chief to make First Nations health a priority.
2. Mandate the National Chief to raise with the Federal Health Minister the need to urgently recognize First Nations' Inherent and Treaty Rights to Federal health services and the Crown's fiduciary duty to First Nations.
3. Mandate the National Chief to call on the Government of Canada to honour the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Action Plan.
4. Mandate the AFN to advocate for appropriate coverage of required prescriptions on the NIHB coverage list.
5. Mandate the AFN to advocate for and influence sustainable and meaningful system change in cancer control for First Nations people, utilizing current partnerships, such as the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Action Network, and developing new partnerships with appropriate cancer-related organizations in an effort to initiate system-wide change.
6. Direct the National Chief to seek greater government accountability and transparency of health transfer funding.
7. Direct the AFN to strongly advocate for First Nation representation in all national and regional level discussions addressing integration to include *Jordan's Principle*, Home and Community Care and Assisted Living.
8. Direct the AFN to continue to work with the Government of Canada to create a First Nations specific approach to address First Nations issues.
9. Mandate the AFN to advocate and ensure the Federal government and other bodies such as the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, the Council of the Federation and Provincial Health Ministers, include First Nations in revising and extending the *Health Accord* beyond 2014, and further include a parallel commitment for a First Nations Health Transfer.

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