TITLE:	Cross Border Child Welfare
SUBJECT:	Child Welfare
MOVED BY:	Chief Joel Abram, Oneida Nation of the Thames, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Shane Gottriedson, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC
DECISION:	Passed by the AFN Executive Committee

WHEREAS:

A. Article 7.2 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states" Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.".

B. First Nations children apprehended by Child Protective Services in the United States do not receive the protections of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, as they are not members of a US federally recognized Indian tribe.

C. The US – Canada border is not of our making, and interferes with our rights as the Original Peoples of Turtle Island.

D. First Nations must maintain the responsibility for protection of their members, especially children wherever they may be.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Give the AFN and the National Chief the mandate to address this issue of cross border child welfare immediately through several actions including but not limited to cooperation and interaction with the National Congress of American Indians, lobbying the US government, US state governments, and if appropriate, the Inter-american commission on human rights, and any pertinent legal actions.

2. Establish a technical working group or intergovernmental committee to assist in addressing this issue through the development of an action plan.

3. Foster reciprocity agreements between First Nation child protection agencies and state child protection agencies to enable the continue delivery of culturally appropriate programs for children under the care.

4. Report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly on progress made at subsequent General Assemblies.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF