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

Resolution no. 24/2011

TITLE:	Establishing a New Fiscal Relationship between First Nations and Canada
SUBJECT:	Sustainable Fiscal Transfers for First Nations
MOVED BY:	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 4 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) states: "Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions."

   Article 21 (1) of the UNDRIP states: "Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, *inter alia*, the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security."

B. First Nation governments that govern well do better economically, socially and politically than those that do not and good governance increases a First Nation government's chances of effectively meeting the needs of its people.

C. The restoration of good governance for all of our Nations will not be realized unless our Nations' governance is adequately financed.

D. The cost of financing First Nation governments is a shared responsibility between all levels of government in Canada.

E. Many of our Nations are generating our own sources of government revenues as well as generating other non-governmental revenues through business enterprise that is used to provide for good governance and to provide programs and services to our peoples and others within our jurisdiction.

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F. The Government of Canada is seeking to off-set Federal transfers to First Nations based on revenues generated by our Nations without taking into account the actual cost of our governments, the law-making and other legal responsibilities of our Nations and the ongoing legal responsibilities of the Government of Canada.

G. The evolving Federal approach to our Nations' own source revenue (OSR) threatens to impede the advancement of our governance initiatives and undermine efforts to reform governance, including accountability and transparency to our citizens and reflects an impoverished view of First Nations' governance as merely being a "service provider" for Canada and not governments with law-making power and other responsibilities.

H. There has previously been a national Assembly of First Nations (AFN) table on Fiscal Relations to address matters of concern regarding the fiscal relationship between our Nations and the Crown and a desire to establish a BC committee on Fiscal Relations.

I. The AFN has produced a number of documents that identify the inequity in Federal transfers to First Nations compared to other orders of government, including *Federal Government Funding to First Nations: The Facts, The Myths, and The Way Forward* (2004) and the 2010 Pre–Budget Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee: *Transforming the Relationship - Sustainable Fiscal Transfers for First Nations* (August 13, 2010).

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

1. Direct the AFN to update and continue its analysis on comparability of funding transfers for services provided by First Nation governments and those delivered by other orders of government.
2. Direct the National Chief and AFN to work to address the inequitable and unsustainable budget transfers for First Nations with Canada.
3. Direct the AFN to work with First Nations communities to identify funding transfer needs and priorities for such funding transfers.
4. Direct the AFN to examine and analyze mechanisms for own source revenues, provide First Nations with information on options and advocate for the removal of barriers to the pursuit and implementation of these options.
5. Direct the AFN to provide progress reports regarding this resolution to future assemblies and to make this information available on the AFN website.

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