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

Resolution no. 14/2011

TITLE:	Additions to Reserve and Economic Development
SUBJECT:	Additions to Reserve Policy / Specific Claims
MOVED BY:	Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Joe Knockwood, Fort Folly First Nation, NB
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus – 1 abstention

WHEREAS:

A. The federal government's policy on Additions to Reserve (ATR) contains many barriers to the addition or creation of reserves which frustrate the resolution of claims and impedes First Nation economic and social development.

B. The Government of Canada has acknowledged the need to change the ATR policy to make it more effective and less restrictive.

C. The Political Agreement of November 2007 between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Government of Canada makes specific provision for a review of policies and practices related to ATR.

D. Pursuant to AFN Resolution 09/2010, AFN has advanced discussions with Canada through a joint work plan subject to its work with the Chiefs Committee on Claims that identifies key issues requiring resolution related to the ATR policy.

E. AFN held five regional dialogue sessions to gather input from regional experts relating to ATRs on the ground during the January-March 2011 period.

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

1. Affirm that enabling First Nation economic development is a key element of exercising our rights, jurisdictions and assuming our responsibilities as First Nation governments.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 13th day of July, 2011 in Moncton, New Brunswick

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

2. Agree that the current ATR policy lacks clarity and presents significant impediments to First Nation economic development, such as, but not limited to:
    a. Completely unacceptable timeframes and delays that inhibit and significantly diminish economic potential and benefit from claim settlements;
    b. Land purchase prices and transaction costs that can exceed the appraised land value (based on a multiplier of one acre);
    c. The impacts of Provincial and Municipal governments that do not have a veto over a First Nation's ATR but that often frustrate the timely conversion of land; and
    d. Land selections policies / practices for commercial development purposes that are unduly restrictive and/or ineffective.
3. Agree that the ATR policy be amended to ensure that First Nation rights, economic interests and self-sufficiency are promoted rather than restricted and that the process be streamlined to a target of two years.
4. Call on the AFN to report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly as progress is made.

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