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

Resolution no. 25/2011

TITLE:	Creation of an Indigenous Virtual Institute on Energy and Mining
SUBJECT:	Energy / International Relations
MOVED BY:	Craig Makinaw, Proxy, Ermineskin First Nation, AB
SECONDED BY:	Chief Blaine Commandant, Wahta Mohawk First Nation, ON
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Article 20 (1) of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities."

B. The traditional territories of our Indigenous Nations spans across what is now known as North America, and our Nations continue to exist and thrive on both sides of the current Canada – United States border.

C. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) have renewed their commitment to work collaboratively to advocate for the rights and interests of their nations, particularly with regards to impacts on their traditional territories.

D. Over 800 Indigenous leaders and citizens, representatives from government and industry from across North America and around the world, gathered in Niagara Falls, Ontario for the first-ever International Indigenous Summit on Energy and Mining on June 27 – 29, 2011.

E. The Summit was jointly hosted by AFN and the NCAI and focused on dialogue and discussions on key topics in resource development such as international partnerships and trade opportunities, sustainable and responsible resource development, free, prior and informed consent, green energy, education and labour force development and the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

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F. The opportunity to fuel prosperity among respective nations, enhance economic decision-making systems, and establish new relationships with the private sector, sector specialists, Federal, Provincial, Territorial, and state jurisdictions and other stakeholders requires a coordinated effort.

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

1. Fully support the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to work together to assist and support Indigenous participation in aspects of energy and mineral development in ways that work for our nations, the environment, and our economies.
2. Mandate the AFN to work with the NCAI to establish a North American Indigenous Task Force on Energy comprised of representative organizations and to identify a work plan for the Task Force.
3. Direct the AFN to work with the NCAI to create an information hub on the energy and mining sector, via a virtual center of excellence or institute, to assist and support Indigenous Nations, according to their own plans and priorities, to build expertise and capacity in the area of energy and mining development and provide information to assist Indigenous nations to access existing market opportunities such as debt financing, energy and carbon markets, and be respectful of free, prior and informed consent principles.
4. Assert that any endeavour undertaken by the North American Indigenous Task Force on Energy and/or Indigenous Virtual Institute (as a centre of excellence) on Energy and Mining shall not absolve any state or government from their obligations to First Nations via Treaty, Inherent, or Aboriginal Rights, nor will it aim to establish policy, nor be a policy resource related to federal or provincial governments on resource exploration, extraction or development.
5. Direct the AFN to report back to Chiefs-in-Assembly to get further direction on the Indigenous Virtual Institute (centre of excellence) on Energy and Mining.

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