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

Resolution no. 39/2011

TITLE:	Repatriation Of First Nation Ancestral Remains
SUBJECT:	Repatriation
MOVED BY:	Chief Dean Sayers, Ojibways of Batchewana First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC
DECISION:	Passed by the AFN Executive Committee

WHEREAS:

A. First Nation leaders and the present generation assume the responsibility of trustees of our ancestors and we have the authority to speak on their behalf.

B. The intentional and inadvertent excavation and removal of our ancestors' remains and funerary objects has disturbed the spiritual well-being of our ancestors; their spiritual journey is interrupted when ancestral graves are disturbed and their remains and funerary objects removed

C. Our ancestors are entitled to a decent place of rest.

D. This injustice has not only caused injury to the spiritual well-being of our ancestors but to our spiritual well-being also as their living descendants.

E. For decades the remains of our ancestors and their funerary objects have been stored in museums, universities and other institutions, as well as private collections, and used for scientific and educational purposes.

F. Other collections of artifacts, arts and cultural objects are held by museums and other institutions against the wishes of First Nation communities and many of these have been obtained under processes that do not conform with customary laws.

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. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for the creation of federal legislation, similar to the U.S. Native American Graves and Repatriation Act, that will enable the repatriation of our ancestors' remains and their funerary objects to their respective First Nation communities, will protect all First Nation gravesites, and repatriate sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony held by museums and other institutions to our First Nations for their use and function.

2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to communicate the Crown's responsibility to cooperate with and support First Nation efforts to repatriate First Nation ancestral remains, funerary objects and other cultural artifacts.

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

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF