UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 22ND- NOVEMBER 23RD, 2011
VANCOUVER, B.C

Resolution no. 2011-56

RE: Support and Funding for the First Nations Forestry Council

WHEREAS the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) has been providing forestry-related services in support of First Nations in British Columbia for over five years;

WHEREAS the FNFC has a mandate to support First Nations in managing the mountain pine beetle epidemic (through the *BC First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan*), promote forestry-related opportunities for First Nations, advocate on forestry matters on behalf of BC First Nations, provide effective communication on forestry issues, and work with governments and others to ensure that First Nations needs, values and principles are factored into forestry-related policy and program development;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* provides:

> **Article 26(1)**: Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;
> **Article 29(1)**: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination;
> **Article 32(1)**: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2009-60, the UBCIC Chiefs Council directed the UBCIC Executive to work with the FNFC in establishing a proposal for promotion of the idea that $0.10 per cubic meter of harvested timber be paid into a fund for the promotion of First Nations forestry;

WHEREAS efforts to develop sustainable funding from the Province and Canada have not been successful, and recently funded forestry projects are only very specific projects of interest to the Federal and Provincial governments and not necessarily the priorities of our communities;

WHEREAS independent funding from our communities for a portion of the FNFC operations will allow the FNFC to carry out the priorities of our communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the ongoing work of the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC); and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the FNFC to establish and implement a FNFC levy of up to eighteen cents per cubic meter ($0.18/m3) to be charged to First Nations forestry tenure holders and delivered to the FNFC for its ongoing operations.

Moved:
Seconded:
Disposition: **TABLED**
Date: **November 23rd, 2011**