Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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RESOLUTION: 07/91
OWNERSHIP, CONTROL, AND PROTECTION OF OUR KNOWLEDGE

WHEREAS the Creator has entrusted First Nation people with the ultimate responsibility to preserve and protect the environment;

WHEREAS the traditions of the people of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) provide that wildlife, flora, and fauna on the traditional and customary lands of NAN First Nations are under the full control and supervision of the First Nations, as previously stated in Resolution 05/21;

WHEREAS Article 29 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides that:

> *Indigenous peoples are entitled to the recognition of the full ownership, control and protection of their cultural and intellectual property. They have the right to special measures to control, develop and protect their sciences, technologies and cultural manifestations, including human and other genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs and visual and performing arts;*

WHEREAS the wealth of existing NAN environmental and ecological knowledge is a valuable source of information for identifying and addressing our concerns about the protection and sustainable use of our land and resources;

WHEREAS NAN Chiefs need to provide direction and support for the collection, interpretation, and use of our knowledge, and to make certain that our First Nations are in a position to expand our own capacities for doing this work and for exercising control over the entire process;

WHEREAS government agencies, academic researchers, corporations, medical schools and others are actively collecting our traditional and ecological knowledge, often without our consent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, to protect our knowledge and intellectual property rights the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly declare and maintain that our free, prior and informed consent is required to share traditional, ecological, and other forms of knowledge.

DATED AT TIMMINS, ONTARIO THIS 15th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2007.

MOVED BY: Chief Joshua Frogg, Wawakapewin First Nation

SECONDED BY: Proxy Adam Fiddler, Sandy Lake First Nation

CARRIED

Grand Chief **Deputy Grand Chief**