Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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UNITY-STRENGTH-SUCCESS

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RESOLUTION: 09/41
CONDEMNATION OF BILL 191, THE FAR NORTH ACT

WHEREAS Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations have expressed grave concerns regarding Bill 191, the Far North Act;

WHEREAS Bill 191 splits NAN First Nations between the North and South, and recognizes provincial control over the Land Use Planning (LUP) process;

WHEREAS Bill 191 provides for an interconnected protected area or park of at least 225,000 square kilometres, which is inconsistent with the Treaties and the long term economic development prospects of NAN;

WHEREAS time is of the essence as Ontario is holding minimal Standing Committee hearings this summer, and plans to pass the legislation by December of 2009;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby condemn Bill 191;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the NAN Executive Council is directed to pursue all appropriate local, legal, political, and international steps to prevent the passage of Bill 191;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the steps in opposition to Bill 191 may include alliances with third party entities, as long as such entities are fully and openly committed to stopping Bill 191, including the 225,000 square kilometre protected area;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NAN is prepared to enter a fresh dialogue with Ontario on land use planning, without an artificial deadline, on the condition that Bill 191 is withdrawn;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that if Bill 191 is passed in spite of NAN opposition, NAN First Nations will not recognize the legislation and will move to exercise full and exclusive jurisdiction over their traditional territory.

DATED AT BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION THIS 6TH DAY OF JULY, 2009.

MOVED BY: Chief George Hunter, Weenusk First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Theresa Hall, Attawapiskat First Nation

CARRIED

Grand Chief Stan Beardy

Deputy Grand Chief