



TREATY No. 6



TREATY No. 7



TREATY No. 8

ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION: 27-01-2010#001 R

**SUBJECT: CONTINUING CARE NEEDS OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE
THROUGHOUT THE LIFE CYCLE**

WHEREAS the Chiefs of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8 (Alberta) known as the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs did meet in a duly convened Special Chiefs Assembly on Health held at the Edmonton Marriot, River Cree Resort & Casino in Enoch Cree Nation on January 26 & 27th, 2010; and

WHEREAS the Co-Management Chiefs have identified continuing care needs as a priority within Alberta region; and

WHEREAS First Nations people, when compared with the Canadian public, face much higher rates of chronic and communicable diseases, and are exposed to greater health risks due to the social determinants of health resulting in significantly higher disability rates. The Statistical Data Registry Template (SDRT) rates on age of users confirm these statistics; and

WHEREAS there is an increased prevalence of disabilities among young adults due to brain injury from trauma, accidents or from long term substance abuse; and

WHEREAS current on-reserve Home and Community Care and Assisted Living Programs and services are not comparable to those provided provincially and are basic, limited and sometimes altogether absent; and

WHEREAS the demand for institutional and related continuing care services for First Nations will grow rapidly over the next several decades due to increases in the number of First Nation members aged 55 and older and the high disability rate among young adults; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta is cutting back significantly in acute care, in-patient services, de-listing of services, hospital closures, early hospital discharges and has no cohesive discharge plan or process for on-reserve residents returning to their communities; and

WHEREAS the situation is further exacerbated by the Provincial health care reform changes with the delivery of mental health services which has resulted in First Nations individuals being placed at risk; and

WHEREAS the gap is widening in comparability of programs and services between Provincial and First Nations' community health services for the elderly and disabled members, communities have no existing facilities or capacity and limited funding, yet they are expected to respond to specialized needs of diverse population groups; and

WHEREAS continuing care components currently provided by Health Canada's *Home and Community Care Program* and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs *Assisted Living Program* are not adequately funded nor can they be considered sufficient to meet the immediate, short and long term continuing care needs of First Nations; and

WHEREAS there is a fiduciary constitutional obligation of the Crown under Treaty to provide quality holistic health care to First Nations peoples.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to make a strong commitment to urgently support First Nation Governments to develop a program that will provide a holistic continuum of continuing care services for the elderly and disabled, ranging from home support to higher levels of care, that are comprehensive, culturally appropriate, accessible, effective and equitable to those accessed by other Canadian citizens guaranteed by the Canada Health Act, with sustainable long term funding; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the current Assisted Living program delivered by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs be transferred to First Nation Inuit Health immediately within FNIH Alberta Region followed by a National transition of the same; and