

RESOLUTION NO. 39

**Annual General Assembly
Resolution No. 39/00
July 11 – 13, 2000 Ottawa Ontario**

**Subject:
Forgive Land Claims Loans**

Moved By:
Chief Ernest Campbell, Musqueam First Nation, B.C.

Seconded By:
Chief Norman John, Gitwangak First Nation

Carried

WHEREAS First Nations are forced to participate in a one sided so-called land 'claims' process where the federal government is both the defendant and the judge, which represents a major conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS the loss of their traditional lands and resources has left many First Nation communities impoverished while federal and provincial governments thrive off the exploitation of First Nation resources; and

WHEREAS First Nations are forced to borrow funds and go into debt to effectively participate in the process to restore their land rights and entitlements, in some cases over great periods of time and amounting to millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS Canada has forgiven the debts of many foreign countries in amounts exceeding hundreds of millions of dollars;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs in Assembly call on Canada to forgive the debts of First Nation communities participating in the land 'claims' process, and to provide adequate amounts of resources to enable effective participation by First Nation communities in all future processes, to address First Nations land rights and entitlements issues;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chiefs in Assembly direct the National Chief to work with the Executive committee to implement this resolution on a timely basis.