

All-Chiefs' Assembly

Hosted by the
BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



British Columbia All Chiefs' Task Force (ACTF) Proceedings Report

November 30 – December 1, 2010
Chief Joe Mathias Centre
North Vancouver, BC

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BACKGROUND

At an All-Chiefs' Assembly held in August 2009, an All-Chiefs' Task Force (ACTF) was established. Part of the mandate of the ACTF was to undertake a review of work to date under the *Leadership Accord*. The Task Force identified an independent consultant to undertake the *Leadership Accord* Review, which was presented to First Nations at the May 18-20, 2010 All-Chiefs' Assembly. The review concluded with recommendations that the First Nations leadership organizations renew their commitment to the principles and objectives of the *Leadership Accord*, and their support of the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC). The review also recommended that the political organizations undertake a process of internal renewal to clarify the roles, responsibilities and Terms of Reference of the FNLC, the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the First Nations Summit (FNS).

The FNLC and the ACTF were directed to follow up on these recommendations by preparing a draft FNLC mandate statement and Terms of Reference, and circulating these draft documents to First Nations for review. The ACTF Operational-Technical Working Group coordinated the draft FNLC mandate statement and draft FNLC Terms of Reference, as well as the Accountability Framework, and draft Process Document for All-Chiefs' Assemblies. All documents were circulated among First Nations for review and comments, and presented for approval at the All-Chiefs' Assembly on November 30th to December 1st, 2010.

The Coordinated-Action Working Group (CAWG) was struck to raise public awareness of First Nations issues at regional, national, and international levels. They have developed a transition plan for the FNLC that builds on Phase One of the CAWG workplan, and focuses on Title and Rights, and Social Justice issues. The CAWG identified key messages, tactics and suggested timelines for the Leadership Council to continue this work.

The Political-Legal Working Group (PLWG) was struck to develop recommendations to achieve: a) effective implementation of section 35 constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights, court decisions, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; b) revision of the comprehensive claims policy; and c) implementation of the duty of the Crown to negotiate in good faith and uphold its fiduciary duty. The PLWG wrapped up Phase Two of its workplan and developed a Framework/Plan with priorities for action on key political and legal issues for the FNLC to act upon including: political and advocacy efforts; research requirements; collaboration and linkages with other organizations; and, potential resourcing required.

In concluding their work, the three Working Groups of the ACTF developed a Transition Framework/Plan in the form of recommendations for review and approval by the Chiefs in British Columbia. Work will be transitioned to the FNLC and the three political organizations to work collectively, and the Chiefs will continue to work and maintain unity on issues that affect us all.

DAY ONE

Welcome to Territory

Squamish Nation and Nuu-chah-nulth Nation both provided opening songs and welcoming remarks.

Introduction & Meeting Overview

Chair Gwaans (Beverly Clifton Percival) expressed that the purpose of today is to celebrate our renewal of the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC). She reviewed the agenda and encouraged people to come and see her with any items for the agenda tomorrow afternoon. After tomorrow, the All-Chiefs' Task Force (ACTF) will disband, and turn the work over to the FNLC. She reviewed the report done in May 2010, which concluded that the three organizations have strengths, and need to work together better. She explained that the FNLC Draft Terms of Reference and appendices were sent out, and feedback was provided and incorporated.

Opening Remarks

Grand Chief Ed John, First Nations Summit (FNS), offered thanks to the Squamish Nation, to the Nations, and to the ACTF for their tremendous amount of work. Grand Chief John reviewed the history that led us to where we are. Today is a new period for us to begin this amount of work. It is important for us to trust each other and stand together as solidly as we can, and maintain political discipline. We must ensure that alliances across this country and around the world with Indigenous peoples are maintained and made stronger. Today, Indigenous peoples are gathered in Cancun to discuss climate change and the impacts on our peoples. We do have representation down there. Grand Chief John closed by offering thanks to National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo for being in attendance.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), expressed gratitude for being in Chief Joe Mathias' house, and thanked the Squamish Nation and Nuu-chah-nulth for their songs and reminders of the reality of our worlds. We are here out of the deep love for our people and collective care about our future. He expressed gratitude to the ACTF for the work they've taken on in the last few months. Grand Chief Phillip provided a discussion of the provincial political context and intensification of doing away with our rights all together. He shared that he had the privilege of being in the courtroom for the Tsilhqot'in case recently. The federal government has also been active in moving forward bills that will affect us, particularly Bill C-3 (Mclvor), Bill S-11 (Safe Drinking Water), and Bill S-4 (Matrimonial Real Property Act). He expressed appreciation for Wickaninnish's words about the intensity of our struggle. We will only change the reality if we come together and change the political agenda in this province. Although we win court cases, the governments continue to walk on our rights. He expressed admiration for the Tsilhqot'in and their unwavering stand to defend Teztan Biny (Fish Lake). He noted that this joint work began with the Title and Rights Alliance in 2004; it will take more joint work such as that to move the province off of its extinguishment agenda. We have the unique situation of the Premier resigning- he was the minister who committed to the New Relationship. With his impending departure, the government will likely swing to the right, creating further challenges for

us. Grand Chief Phillip reminded the Chiefs that the government has been reconfigured, which is challenging because of the relationships which were built with previous ministers. He concluded by expressing appreciation for being here and being part of this important dialogue.

Regional Chief Jody (Puglaas) Wilson-Raybould, British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), acknowledged elders and Chiefs in the room. She offered thanks to the Squamish Nation for the welcome and prayer and allowing us to conduct our business in this house; thanks to Nuu-chah-nulth Nation for that song as well. She spoke of feeling honoured to stand here on the FNLC, and offered acknowledgement of Chief Chamberlin's new position as Vice-President of UBCIC, and Chief Marilyn Baptiste's new position as Secretary-Treasurer of UBCIC. She offered acknowledgement of National Chief Shawn Atleo who is here today, and described the role he played in the formation of the FNLC. The Regional Chief echoed the words of Grand Chief John and Grand Chief Phillip regarding the importance of strategically coming together, building on successes and building on strengths. She acknowledged the hard work of the ACTF. She noted that we work in a Nation-based approach with our own unique interests and needs, but come together to collectively advance our Aboriginal Title and Rights and Treaty Rights. She encouraged the Chiefs to move the UNDRIP into practical implementation. The Regional Chief concluded by sharing that she looks forward to continuing work with the FNLC.

National Chief Shawn A-in-Chut Atleo, Assembly of First Nations (AFN), expressed gratitude for being here and listening to the words of the leaders who've spoken. Speaking of residential schools earlier, he described a picture of the Alberni Residential School, and his dad is part of this picture; he shared that the picture is both emotional and inspirational. The picture shows a group of people from different Nations, like here. In summer of 2004, he remembers coming together with many Nations and the political organizations came together too. The National Chief expressed that he has been privileged to be involved for the past six years. The effort to come together is still required, and again, across our province, nation, and around the world. UBCIC has had international standing for a long time, and Grand Chief Ed John has had international standing for a long time. The National Chief discussed the work on Site C and Enbridge Pipeline, and gave consideration of political shifts that are occurring. He commended the work of the people here in BC and thought ahead to the ceremony planned for this afternoon. He also recognized the focus here on being clear in who has what role. The National Chief shared that he and Puglaas have clear roles to support and advocate, and discussed the Special Chiefs Assembly coming up in December in Gatineau. It's about moving from endorsement to implementation. The agenda is always so great. He noted that we are pushing the Ministers and Prime Ministers on all the Bills, and there appears to be an opening. The National Chief concluded by offering thanks to Gwaans and leaders here for all the work they've done. He acknowledged that his colleague and CEO Richard Jock was in attendance, as well as Charlene Belleau and Bonnie Leask from the AFN.

British Columbia All Chiefs' Task Force (ACTF) Review and Recommendations

Operational Technical Working Group

Presented by Gwaans (Beverley Clifton Percival)

Overview: Members of the Operational Technical Working Group (OTWG) were Chief Maureen Chapman, James Wilson, and Gwaans (Beverley Clifton Percival). A proposal was submitted to the New Relationship Trust on behalf of the ACTF to secure \$50,000 dollars of which \$25,000 was identified for meetings of the ACTF and working groups. As well, \$25,000 was set out to assist the BCAFN with meeting costs of the All Chiefs' Meeting.

The OTWG met three times over the summer and fall.

They also met with the FNLC in August 2010 and had a meeting with the Councils that have been formed out of FNLC initiatives in October. In November they met with other committees and organizations that work on behalf and represent First Nations in British Columbia. In meeting with the Councils and committees they heard common issues around: Resources, Capacity, Governance, Community Engagement, Communications, and overall a mechanism is needed to support their work and each other along with advocacy by the FNLC.

The OTWG worked with the FNLC and technical people from UBCIC and the BCAFN to complete the work on the Terms of Reference for the FNLC that was circulated widely around the province and feedback received was integrated into the document in your package as well as feedback given by Chiefs, Councils and technical people.

Section 6 of the draft Terms of Reference call for an All-Chiefs' Process document, which has been drafted for discussion by the Chiefs.

Another piece is the Accountability Framework for FNLC and Chiefs to be accountable to each other and community.

Recommendations: The recommendations of the Operational Technical Working Group are:

- 1) Each year to FNLC made up of the three organizations put forward an implementation strategy to the Chiefs of BC that sets out goals and workplan on collective issues as identified by leadership along with the use of resources to meet goals.
- 2) The FNLC finalize a formal process for All Chiefs' Forum that includes the contributions, financial and otherwise, that support the Chiefs coming together once a year to dialogue and strategize.

[Political-Legal Overview \(Phase Two\)](#)

Presented by Chief Judy Wilson and Robert Morales

Overview: The Political-Legal Working Group (PLWG) was struck to develop recommendations to achieve an answer to the failed Recognition Legislation initiative. The following areas were identified as

the key elements that must be addressed:

A) Effective implementation of:

- i. Section 35 constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights,
- ii. Court decisions, and
- iii. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the OAS Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man.

B) Revision of the comprehensive claims policy.

C) Implementation of the duty of the Crown to negotiate in good faith and uphold its fiduciary duty.

- **Key priorities**

- Effective implementation of s. 35 recognition of Aboriginal & Treaty Rights:
 - Legislative options,
 - New litigation options,
 - Treaty / Negotiated options- Common Table & Other Agreements,
 - Policy options, and
 - Assertion options (just do it).
- Effective implementation of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the OAS Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man:
 - Develop a proposed advocacy strategy,
 - Meetings with key officials,
 - Linkages with partners such as the AFN and social justice and educational organizations, etc., and
 - Community tools and materials (i.e. UNDRIP toolkit work conducted by the Political-Legal Working Group in Phase One).
- Revise Comprehensive Claims Policy:
 - Develop a plan for the development of a collective First Nations' policy position paper on the Comprehensive Claims Policy (building upon the gap analysis and other work conducted by the Political-Legal Working Group in Phase One),
 - Liaise with other regions and the national AFN to assess ongoing work on the Comprehensive Claims Policy and linkages that may need to be made, and
 - Develop options for a political lobby of the federal government to change the Comprehensive Claims Policy (either to be conducted by the political organizations, or through engaging a lobby firm – see Unity Protocol template).
- Effective implementation of duty to negotiate in good faith:

- BC Treaty Commission study,
- Class Action, and
- Litigation by Nations.

Recommendations:

- 1) To develop a unified Framework/Plan for action on key priorities for the political organizations (BCAFN, FNS, UBCIC):
 - Political and advocacy efforts,
 - Research requirements,
 - Collaboration and linkages with other organizations, and
 - Potential resourcing required for implementation.

- 2) Develop framework/plan for a First Nations Think-tank / Centre for Policy / Legal Defence:
 - First step undertake preliminary research into existing policy and legal institutes worldwide.

- 3) Develop implementation plan for existing key court decisions:
 - Host a second 2 day legal workshop at Westbank.

Coordinated Action Campaign Overview (Phase Two)

Presented by Wickaninnish (Cliff Atleo)

Overview: The Coordinated Action Working Group (CAWG) was struck to raise public awareness of First Nations issues at regional, national, and international levels. The Working Group identified four key issues to take action on:

- 1) Socio-economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians with particular focus on child poverty,

- 2) Justice issues with particular focus on the 520 cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada,

- 3) Recognition and respect for First Nations inherent Title and Rights, and

- 4) Canada’s refusal to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) (until November 12, 2010 when Canada provided “qualified” endorsement).

In Phase One of the campaign, CAWG carried out work with an ongoing media campaign that also took advantage of the international press present in BC during the 2010 Winter Olympics. Phase One wrapped up in May 2010.

Goals and Objectives of Phase Two: In the second phase of their work, the CAWG sought to take advantage of the momentum built with the national and international media during the first phase of the program, and to gain international, national and local media coverage. They also aimed to work with First Nations political organizations to coordinate and reinforce key messages and to lay the groundwork for those political organizations to take over the coordinated action campaign by November 2010. As in Phase One, CAWG maintained a high-level goal of effecting public policy change through media coverage of events, actions and activities by First Nations in British Columbia.

The CAWG highlighted key concepts in the second phase of the public relations campaign that were in concert with messages being advanced by First Nations political leadership:

- **Aboriginal Title and Rights and Treaty Rights:**
 - o Highlight mega-projects such as the Site C hydroelectric dam, proposed Prosperity Mine and Enbridge Pipeline and related policy and legislative issues and barriers, and
 - o Key message will be that First Nations hold inherent Title and Rights, are self-determining, and want to work with governments to implement solutions (i.e. shared decision-making) pursuant to international and national law, and political agreements (i.e. UNDRIP, Constitution, New Relationship, etc.).

- **Social Justice issues:**
 - o Highlight Canada's position and seek unqualified endorsement of the UNDRIP, and
 - o Key message that Canada must endorse the UNDRIP in its original spirit and intent, without qualification.

Tactics to Move Framework Forward

The CAWG met success with a number of tactics, and identified the following methods which can be used to strategically continue their work:

- **Mainstream media:**
 - o Work with local, national and international media outlets to generate interest,
 - o Conduct interviews and develop editorials,
 - o Provide short fact sheets on all key messages, and
 - o Arrange meetings with editorial boards.

- **Social media:**
 - o Utilize Facebook, Twitter, and blogs,
 - o Build a YouTube video library (develop short documentaries / post video on the key messages to post on YouTube), and
 - o Utilize the websites of the three provincial political organizations to disseminate materials and key messages (BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC).

- Petition and postcard campaign:
 - o Develop petitions and postcards on the key messages, and disseminate these online, at identified upcoming events, etc.
- Support local efforts:
 - o Develop a local media kit with First Nations communities at their request,
 - o Support local First Nations in raising awareness and garner media exposure on their positions on mega-projects.
- Engage social justice organizations and educational institutions:
 - o Meet with leaders of relevant social justice and educational groups.
- Speaking opportunities:
 - o Identify and create key upcoming speaking opportunities to engage the non-Aboriginal community in Task Force issues (i.e. Board of Trade).

Recommendations:

The Coordinated Action Working Group (CAWG) recommends:

- 1) That the FNLC engage in a high-level analysis of the current political context to identify and strategize a response to the most pressing issues facing First Nations in BC regarding Aboriginal Title and Rights and Treaty Rights, and Social Justice issues, including Canada’s “qualified” endorsement of the UNDRIP, and
- 2) That the FNLC develop a comprehensive communications and action plan to implement the strategies identified in the high-level analysis of the current political context, making use of the tactics identified by the All-Chiefs’ Task Force CAWG.

In concluding their discussion, the CAWG discussed:

- Socio-economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians with particular focus on child poverty,
- Justice issues with particular focus on the 520 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada – conference in Victoria was well attended and useful in bringing attention to the need of recognizing all missing women,
- Recognition and respect for First Nations inherent Title and Rights – assertion of Rights need to be exercised and supported in their implementation – NRT – media coverage – key concepts of Rights and Title of Treaty Rights, and
- Canada’s refusal to adopt the UNDRIP.

Comments from other Members of ACTF

James Wilson- shared that he was a member of the OTWG. He noted that the reports and

recommendations are complex and all-encompassing, and so are the documents in the kits (Terms of Reference, Process Document, and Accountability Framework). In the last phase, the political and financial support waned. The ACTF was tasked with reviewing how the FNLC and organizations operated and intended to simplify the processes. Mr. Wilson noted that every organization is different. They work hard on our behalf, but the process is complex. He pointed out that we have to go through three organizations before the FNLC has a mandate to operate. Somehow we have to streamline the processes. He suggested that is up to the Chiefs, as the leadership of BC, to make those decisions and make some hard recommendations on themselves. Mr. Wilson commended the FNLC for their hard work, and also the Councils. He shared that in the North Vancouver Island, in the Kwagiulth district, his Nation is now reviewing how they act and will be discussing this on December 8th. Mr. Wilson concluded by commending the Chiefs for all of the work they do, and said that he looked forward to the dialogue.

Chief Maureen Chapman- expressed gratitude to Squamish for opening prayer song, for ability to meet here; to the Nuuchahnulth for setting the stage, to the National Chief for being here and promoting unity, and to all the ACTF for volunteering and for their hard work. Chief Chapman said she was very encouraged by the comments from the FNLC this morning. There was no interest in creating one organization, so we are here to honour the FNLC as they continue to work together. This is about what we are going to leave behind for our leaders. She shared that she has faith in this process, and looks forward to the dialogue as well. This is a lot of work and needs to be completed for our future generations.

Kathryn Teneese- acknowledged the work of her colleagues around the table, and the work of the ACTF. She shared her hope that the ACTF are leaving you with a plan to move forward. We all have to do something for ourselves. This is about laying out how we relate with each other, and tackling the challenges we've identified. She noted that she is here to support advancement of our agenda in a strategic way. This will not be without debate among us, but that is healthy. Ms. Teneese concluded by suggesting that we need to adopt and agree on a process so we can move forward and make some progress.

Feedback and Discussion

Grand Chief Doug Kelly- expressed that during ceremony this afternoon, we should remember our leaders who have passed away. He offered thanks to the ACTF for all of their work. The work is very complex, and there is lots of it. Grand Chief Kelly discussed that we must simplify so that the work gets done, given our capacity. To help keep it simple, the FNLC should focus on the outstanding land question and only the outstanding land question. Grand Chief Kelly recalled the political leaders that we've had, and the incredible amount of work in the 70s and 80s to resolve the land question through good faith and negotiations. He recalled an effort a few years ago led by Robert Morales, Gwaans, and Chief Louie, called the Common Table. While we respect our sacred ceremonies, and the need to implement the 19 recommendations in the BC Claims Task Force Report, the province did not understand, and neither did Canada. Instead they created a government program long on process, short on outcomes. We worked on legislation, ultimately this was rejected. We are going to overburden our FNLC, and not equip them with the tools and human power to get this done. We've created a number

of institutions and Grand Chief Kelly expressed thanks to the FNLC for doing this. He encouraged the Chiefs to simplify this work, as James said. We need to be sure we give one set of marching orders to our FNLC and that we support them. The FNLC can't be our warriors, they have to be our diplomats and statesmen; they must be proactive in finding solutions. We need them to maintain the bridge, and not re-burn them like they did last year. Leaders and Tribal Leaders need to be warriors. Grand Chief Kelly concluded by speaking of his recently deceased brother. Grand Chief Kelly expressed gratitude to the Chiefs of Vancouver Island who put together a love offering for the family, and told the Chiefs where that went.

Chief Negotiator Rod Naknakim- expressed that what has to happen is that each of us in our communities has to take our own responsibility now. We each need to implement. The FNLC is there to open the door for your fight in implementation, we need to work from the community and make healthier communities. Over the last 17 years each of our communities' capacity has grown. We need to focus on an economic package to implement these rights properly. We need to make these companies that are benefiting from our resources pay. We must work together and respect each other based on our own values.

Heethgingum (April Churchill) - Vice-President of Haida Nation- shared that she is a new face to this table, and shared her history. She recommended that we change the term "shared decision making" to "joint and exclusive decision making" and also recommended that when we refer to land claims, to be clear that it's Canada and the province that are making land claims. We are not making land claims we've been here forever and all of us know that. The Haida Nation has a joint management in the Gwaii Haanas Haida Heritage site, and Canada calls it a park reserve. It must be by consensus that we move forward to manage that area, so joint decision making is a possibility. We don't wait for Canada or the province to implement court cases, we must implement on the ground. It is a matter of deciding to "just do it." Ms. Churchill offered thanks to everyone who sits at this table, and shared that she looks forward to working with this table and the FNLC, and bringing information from the Haida Nation table that may help other Nations move forward.

Chief Fabian Alexis- in the summary of the PLWG, Chief Alexis asked Mr. Morales if he could summarize some of the changes to the federal Comprehensive Claims Policy.

Robert Morales- the Comprehensive Claims Policy is a national policy, not just for BC. They have a different way of implementing it in BC. Some of the issues we would say need to be revised are: certainty, starting with "cede, surrender and release" and then modification and release, what we're looking at is a recognition model. The government wants legally recognized title and rights to be fully defined within the treaty; they have no recognition of First Nations or sovereignty. There are no exclusive areas of jurisdiction. The treaty process is a "forward looking" process, so there are no provisions for compensation in the policy. The way it is implemented, the land selection model and particularly in BC, some of the ways they are implementing it is the status of lands. That all First Nations lands including existing reserves have to be converted into fee simple under Section 92, our provincial underlying jurisdiction. So there are several areas that need to be revised.

Chief Ko'waintco Michel- expressed thanks for all of the work that has been done by the ACTF Working Groups. The recommendations they made map out what we need to do to move forward. Chief Michel acknowledged the work of the FNLC and said that we did much work, but did not have terms of reference for our FNLC. Thank goodness we have been able to come together again. She agreed that we need to be very clear about the work we need to get done, and also acknowledge that work needs to be done at home. We must be clear on who does what. She noted that in the resolutions it is specifically made clear that the Terms of Reference need to be endorsed by each organization.

Gwaans concluded the discussion by thanking all the Working Groups for the work they've done. It was a lot of work, but it was important to get it done. She advised that after lunch, would be a cultural ceremony to formally acknowledge the renewed support and endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the FNLC.

Cultural Ceremony

[Description of ceremony provided by Kwagiulth Nation]

Discussion of Resolutions-in-Principle

Gwaans read through the first draft of the first resolution provided to the Chiefs in their kits. Chief Jonathan Kruger moved all three of the draft resolutions, which were seconded, and then carried unanimously with no discussion. They will now go back to the three organizations for endorsement.

Moved:	Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band
Seconded:	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation
Disposition:	Carried [in principle]
Date:	November 30th, 2010

Day One Closing Comments

Grand Chief Ed John- expressed his appreciation and honour for being part of the discussion, and spoke of the need to endorse the UNDRIP in our communities, and then implement. It does not just belong to the United Nations; it belongs to us as well as Indigenous Peoples. For example, there should be free, prior and informed consent if there is to be any development in any Nation territory. We could prepare a draft resolution for your communities to endorse. We need to educate and inform our people what the Declaration is, and adopt it as a set of standards by which we engage and conduct our work with governments. Grand Chief John recommended that each First Nation endorse and implements the UNDRIP. He noted that the US is the only country in the world currently not in support of the UNDRIP. However, once the US adopts it, it will become a consensus document at the UN, which will pave the way for other steps at the UN. He acknowledged that the UNDRIP is referenced as an important document in the All-Chiefs' work and expressed thanks for the opportunity to add to that discussion.

Chief Fred Sampson- expressed thanks to the Kwagiulth Nation for the incredible ceremony that they provided and noted that it is truly something we need to do often and more often. Chief Sampson said

that the strength in the room reminded him of that day where we had that huge ceremony. He concluded by expressing his deep thanks.

Chief Ko'waintco Michel- requested clarification regarding the three resolutions that were moved, and if all three were moved or if only one was moved.

Gwaans- clarified that Chief Kruger did move the three resolutions together, and they were seconded and carried with no opposition. She noted that these are living documents that will continue to be circulated amongst community and amongst leadership for changes and revisions and strengthening of the documents themselves.

Chief Jonathan Kruger- offered thanks to Grand Chief Ed John for his comments on the UNDRIP. Chief Kruger suggested that we need to make a movie about the UNDRIP. We could have each section be read by a different Chief, have beautiful music, beautiful footage. We can make this video and circulate among our communities and then among media. Then people will know what we've been fighting for. He concluded by suggesting that the FNLC and the national AFN make a DVD on the UNDRIP.

Wickaninnish (Cliff Atleo) – expressed thanks for the cultural ceremony. It's like medicine on all of us. A powerful blessing on all of us, and we need this.

Chief Judy Wilson- requested clarification regarding the discussion that there was something in the BCAFN constitution about notice for meetings and the resolution. She wants to make sure that procedurally we are covered.

Gwaans- clarified that the resolutions have now been approved in-principle, and they will go back to the three organizations for ratification.

Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould- said that according to the BCAFN Bylaws, by last Friday, we'd already missed the notice requirements to pass resolutions, so we'll be bringing the resolutions forward to our meeting.

Grand Chief Kelly- echoed the words of Wickaninnish, and discussed how important it is for us to do the work in a cultural way. Recalled how over the last few years, different nations have invited the FNLC and had different ceremonies to support them. Expressed thanks for reminding us of our old ancestral ways that give us strength and bring us together. Encouraged all leaders, if you're having a cultural ceremony, don't be shy about inviting the FNLC.

Gwaans thanked all for coming and participating.

The first day of the All-Chiefs' Assembly concluded at 3:00pm.

DAY TWO

Opening Comments and Overview of Day One

The second day of the All-Chiefs' Assembly was called to order and welcomed by Gwaans. She also acknowledged that it is National AIDS Day.

Opening Song provided by Wickaninnish.

Proper Title and Rights Holder

Presentation by Robert Morales

Robert Morales stated that the ceremony yesterday was a great example of the customs, practices, traditions and laws that have given the foundation for today's discussions. He reviewed the PowerPoint Presentation and documentation provided, and noted that each First Nation has its own laws and teachings to discuss on this issue.

Discussion:

Chief Nelson Leon- asked a question relating to Nation-based Title. How are communities of a Nation engaged or entered in the Treaty Process, negotiating a treaty based on Title, yet it is Nation held?

Robert Morales- the federal government takes the opinion that the BC Treaty Process is a political process and is not about Rights. When First Nations put in statements of intent, there is no requirement to have any proof to sustain that. Mr. Morales noted that he expects there is work to be done on that issue, and knows there is work to be done in and out of the treaty process.

Chief Negotiator Rod Naknakim- expressed problems with Canadian law. The concept of "ownership" is completely wrong and conflicts with our customs; however, the Canadian law has the power to get us through. If there's a dispute about who owns the land, then the Canadian law says there is no Title. Mr. Naknakim shared that in their traditional territory, about 90% is covered by other claims. And if we don't come to agreement with 7 other Nations claiming our same areas, there is a good chance the Canadian court will say there is no Title. And if there's no Title, what do we have left? Rights. The big thing about Title to land is that it has an economic component. It's where all the money and resources are. We need to come to an agreement with each other about who holds the Title. We have no choice but to say that we have shared Exclusive Title with the other Nations. If we're going to have any power against BC in development and control of our resources we have to agree with one another first.

Chief Ko'waintco Michel- noted that she sees this as a discussion on overlap of territories. Chief Michel reminded the Chiefs that it is really important to be mindful that we need to make the government aware we're working with decolonization.

Hank Chipps- questioned how Aboriginal Title is classified- above ground or below, and what it includes.

Robert Morales- shared that at the Common Table they were discussing this issue. A Title that doesn't come from the Crown is independent of the Crown. Part of the concept of Title is absolute ownership. Mr. Morales noted that he would think to the core of the earth and up to the sky. We need to

document any traditional knowledge about this, and make sure they are well known. In a more modern context, allodial Title is something that is continuing to be defined, but this is a good question.

Kukpi7 Wayne Christian- regarding issues of collective title, Kukpi7 Christian noted that we must be honest that we are also considering economic component. Previously we fought, even among our Nations, now we enter into agreements. Title comes from our genetic connection to the land. We must come together in our own processes. Without that, the government is going to win. We have a spiritual connection to the land. In the Laurier Memorial of 1910, he spoke of tribal territories known by all- he thinks we've forgotten those boundaries. 1919 was when the Allied Tribes gathered together. This issue has to be dealt with in our territories and on the land.

Grand Chief Doug Kelly- was mindful of the discussion yesterday. We all have stories about how we came to the land. We must work together and be mindful and do the work at home. It's not just governments that wish to see us fighting at home among ourselves. It's also industry. Sometimes they will wave a benefits agreement among neighbours. We must learn from each other. If we harvest resources, we must do it responsibly.

Wickaninnish (Cliff Atleo) - expressed appreciation for this presentation, and suggested that we should have had this at the beginning of the so-called modern day Treaty Process. Wickaninnish shared that he has a problem with being called Canadian, and stated that he agreed with Rod in that we must focus on Title. It's the role of the FNLC to lead all advocacy throughout the province on this. We must be diligent on our histories to help us come together and come to some protocol agreement. Without, we deal with consequences in the court system. That history is where the values are. Wickaninnish shared that he knows histories vary throughout the province, and there are overlaps and gaps. A lot is related to the residential schools and forced speaking of English. He appreciated this opportunity to think about the core values of what our Nations are about. It is vitally important to clearly understand our history. And use the power you have collectively to assert and let it be known; where the territory is at, where any agreements are at if they are in place. We must be mindful of those mechanisms we choose to plug into. Our intention in our fisheries litigation is for the benefit to extend to all Nations, beyond Nuu-chah-nulth.

April Churchill- expressed that this work has been joyful. She shared a Haida word that means "to share all things." If we follow our own formalities, we won't go to war. We have the formality of marriages, potlatches. We have worked together forever, and there are great stories in our oral histories. April Churchill encouraged everyone to embrace our family trees; they explain our responsibilities to each other.

Grand Chief Ed John- offered thanks to Robert Morales for the overview of determining who has rights to land- this is an area ripe for controversy. In the 1960s the African states went through decolonization, how did they do that? All Nations have distinct processes. We need to figure out how to resolve this and how to address this. Grand Chief John suggested that this be added to the recommendations from the ACTF, and we establish a working group to address this issue of governance. In his Nation, there is a distinction between the hereditary Chiefs and elected Chiefs. Everybody knows

that the federal policies and provincial policies have been highly challengeable. Robert has said that the court cases that have been decided typically don't have bearing on treaty cases- they make it up on their own as a policy. When we talk about this, Grand Chief John remembers the first time he became involved. He remembered hearing about the Royal Proclamation of 1763, which acknowledged Indian Nations. There was discussion about calling us "Indigenous Nations" and this went very far. Grand Chief John encouraged First Nations to find a way to establish a process to examine where boundaries are and who holds what territory, and come up with some potential solutions as to how to address it. It is a reconciliation between ourselves first and foremost, and secondly reconciliation between ourselves and Canada. Grand Chief John expressed his agreement with the recommendation by the VP of the Haida Nation, and Robert's recommendation, that we need to implement our rights. He also put forward a recommendation that we get ourselves together and examine what kinds of laws we need by our respective Nations in their territories, how we articulate our inherent rights at this time in this context. For example, this is how we implement our rights right now.

Chief Coreen Child- shared that she is trying to approach Title and Rights as a young learner. Chief Child comes from a strong cultural background. She acknowledged some of her Chiefs in this room. She shared that she has been working on putting together a genealogy, and has learned that she is not looking at status numbers or who is registered. She was able to go back 11 generations, and find the place of origin of her people. In her family, there are about 400 that are descendants of two. She has looked at obligations of her Chiefs and how we are supposed to take care of each other. The system in her area is their potlatch and their Bighouse. It's very inclusive, and acknowledges all significant events. She suggested that First Nations set up a time where all governments adopt the UNDRIP at the same time on the same day. Chief Child concluded by recalling that the Douglas Treaty was signed in 1851, and wondered how many people were present given the season it was signed in.

Chief Dolly Abraham- discussed that this is a very sensitive issue, and should have been brought up a long time ago and dealt with a long time ago. Chief Abraham questioned how the inconsistencies working through the Treaty Process will affect all of us. We all signed a declaration to work together, but are not. Chief Abraham stated that the Treaty Commission is trying to divide and conquer. How do you go from there with the communities that are already signed on? She reminded everyone that there is also consideration of the industry, which plays games with communities. Within the traditional community, they tend to divide and conquer. She discussed a recommendation to deal with the issue of overlap for bands that are signed onto treaties and bands that are not, and said that she thinks that the AFN, or FNS, or UBCIC should step in and try to help avoid a full-blown conflict. She had thought that there was a stipulation in the Treaty Commission stating that you can't go into Treaty if you are directly in conflict with one other community's traditional territory. Chief Abraham also discussed land use planning, and raised the issue that in some bands there is not the capacity to do land use planning.

Robert Morales- discussed that in the BC Treaty Process, the government has what they call non-derogation clauses in treaties which they say protect the Nations who have not entered into a treaty. Mr. Morales said he is not sure that those non-derogation clauses have really been tested in terms of what their effect is and how solid those provisions are. He shared that from the process point of view, in terms of the Treaty Process, the BC Treaty Commission had a policy that we should not be able to

move from stage 4 to stage 5 until these issues are resolved, however in reality that hasn't happened. We have seen Nations move from stage 4 to stage 5, and complete stage 5, which is the final agreement stage, without resolution to these issues. On our side, if we say we have exclusive Title, how do we deal with that if the foundation is joint and amicable use of the land? You can't have a joint and amicable relationship if you disagree with each other. Does that mean that none of the Nations have Title? We need to continue researching this issue. If we destroy the joint and amicable nature of our relationship, does that mean really undermine our argument that we have in fact a joint Title to that particular area?

Dan Smith- thanked Robert Morales for his presentation on Title. Mr. Smith recalled that after 1969, various tribal communities got together to form tribal councils. They were basically First Nation communities from a particular language group. He recalled the formation of the Kwagiulth District Council to determine how they were going to share their language and resources. Mr. Smith discussed that right now, capacity for a First Nation to address all of the issues it faces is limited because of limited human resource capacity. Limited because they have to address all of the referrals and all the activity that is going within their own territory itself. Mr. Smith expressed that he is hearing the challenge of how we're going to work together to address overlap and shared territories. Governments are moving quickly on shared territories, and final agreements, and may not take this into consideration. Mr. Smith shared some history and experience of his Nation. He concluded that what First Nations need is communication and dialogue among neighbouring Nations so they can move ahead and protect our access to our resources. Traditional use studies have also indicated that use of occupancy of our lands is there. There are good examples where First Nations are supporting each other in the land questions.

Chief Wayne Morris- shared that he came to speak because his Nation (Tsartlip) and neighbouring First Nations staged a roadblock a few weeks back and had the AFN national Chief stand with them. The roadblock was to discuss the issues of overlap and Rights, the issues we all talk about. Chief Morris stated that we all have cultural heritage, and we choose to follow the government's way when we talk. He noted that we sit here and discuss our relationships, but allow the government to steer us in a different direction. We talk about the overlaps we have. He shared that his Nation chose to have that roadblock to counter things in the media saying that our relatives were forgetting we were there. First Nations need to look at our own processes, our own ways of life. Its fine to come here and outline a process, but it won't work for all of us. We continually need to prove who we are to the government. Chief Morris stated that this long process is frustrating. He shared that he sees his relatives around this table, yet we need to have more communication in what we do. Chief Morris expressed gratitude to all for listening and to the Squamish Nation.

Chief Judy Wilson- noted the importance of discussing that a Nation's Title is not for sale. In the Treaty Process, the government defines what our Title means, but that's not what it is. Chief Wilson stated that inherent Title is what we have, and the Nations will define that. We must affirm that the Indigenous laws are still there today. We're fighting for our own sovereignty and laws. She questioned what the ongoing Crown relationship looks like, and why it is so hard for Canada to deal with that. Resources are a big part of this. She concluded that the citizenship of our Nations is up to us. This meeting has reaffirmed that we are on the right path.

Chief Mike Archie- expressed thanks to Squamish for hosting, to Wickaninnish for prayer this morning, and to the FNLC. He expressed thanks for the discussion this morning, and said it is why he comes here. He shared that he has a degree in fine arts with a major in First Nation studies, and that our First Nation veterans fought for the land we have today. He noted that it took time for him to learn his roots, to learn about the language, traditions, and ties to land. Today we look at the land a bit different because we discuss economics. He noted that it is very challenging when we look at where the opportunities are in BC, which is here in Vancouver. He concluded by asking what working together as three organizations looks like, and where do we want to go.

Chief Tim Manuel- noted that there is an elephant in the room regarding overlapping territories. He shared his own experiences, and said that between the Okanagan and the Shuswap to the north, there is the Fish Lake Accord, which he would like to revisit. Chief Manuel shared that their ancestors did this, and they need to continue to revisit. The government is making First Nations draw these lines in the sand. We are right in the middle of it. Chief Manuel suggested that it is personalities that is the elephant in the room. He noted that ancestors worked hard on these relationships with international diplomacy. He reminded everyone that we know we have relatives together. He said he would like to encourage his Nation to sit down with their relatives to the north. We need to stop fighting and support one another, and revisit protocol agreements.

Chief Marjorie McRae- expressed thanks to the leadership for bringing this issue to the floor. She thanked Cliff Atleo, and said that she always listens as he 'walks the talk.' Chief McRae said that the sad reality is that not many of us walk our talk, and then there is not trust, which means we won't move anywhere. She shared that right now, we are at a point in our history where we have two processes in a head-on collision. She stated that she is working with a clean heart. She represents her community who elected her, and that she knows that her authority comes from the *Indian Act*. She stated that some of us are not going away, because some of our communities have decided we don't want treaty. The regional processes and the political organizations all need to be aware of this. All of us are affected at home regarding what you are doing on our behalf. Personalities need to be put aside, and we need to look at the good of all people. Chief McRae noted that she believes there are a lot of problems with the *Indian Act*, but she doesn't believe it needs to be thrown out the door. Why can't the government work with First Nations to create whatever is necessary to make our lives better? She shared that she has been speaking about child welfare federal legislation, which she is not going to stop, as she feels we need legislation. Progress can be made, and it doesn't have to be locked into treaty. There are times she is afraid to speak here. Some of the decision making process at these tables are not good for all of us. She might be the only person speaking out about an issue, but even if she disagrees with a position, it goes ahead to a vote, so there's a winner and loser. That's not consensus to Chief McRae, that's not our way. She asked Elders, when people are quiet at a meeting, does that mean that person is agreeing with everything that is going on. No, it means that they don't agree. In our forums, it's the opposite- if you don't hear from her, you take that to mean she agree with what you're doing. We assume when we shouldn't be assuming. That's why she asks a lot of questions. This is not internal process only- she is not here to point blame, she is here to say we need it fixed before more people die. All the suicides going on, it's a sign of hopelessness and intergenerational abuse. Chief McRae concluded that she can't

see that we're going to change much in her lifetime, but she is sure going to do everything in her power to protect her grandchildren. We need to fix this, it's broken.

Chief Albert Gerow- shared his Burns Lake heritage. He noted that when the government introduced the Treaty Process, it did not stop our communities from fighting. It's going to be difficult to resolve unless we come together in a unified manner. One of the thoughts he had with respect to resolving overlaps, was when we look back to ancestors, they had ways of resolving issues. In terms of resolving Title, what if we looked at the some 17 tribal council districts. If we were to look at the ancestral trails that bordered each of the tribal council areas and agreed that we would allow those areas of overlap to be called ancestral trails, and governed not by tribal councils, but by entity that we all agree to. We're always looking for something to give to our youth. What if we allowed our youth from all territories to be representative of those shared areas? With shared Exclusive Title, Chief Gerow questions, if we as a collective of Chiefs were to sign a protocol saying this is how we choose to resolve our overlap issue, would a protocol or accord be sufficient to prove to government that we have shared Title under their eyes?

Chief Joe Hall- expressed thanks for the presentation and discussion. Chief Hall discussed that the presentation offers a solution to how we can proceed. He believes that the need for us to resolve shared territories is critical. Perhaps we need to say to our leaders that they need to say to government that we need to take two years to figure this out. He thinks we need to completely accept the reality that we are communities in care. All of us have been apprehended and put into care under a foreign government. Today's discussion is 20 years old. Coming to agreement is a good thing. If we can show the government we can all get along, it may weaken the government's resolve.

Chief Bob Pasco- shared his personal history of being in residential school, but said that he had been fortunate to learn his language beforehand. He has been able to maintain this, and is very proud of his Nlaka'pamux heritage. Chief Pasco offered congratulations to Chief Chamberlin and Chief Baptiste for their new positions at UBCIC. He noted that this is a difficult time. The FNLC was created because of "hot spots" around the province, one of which Chief Pasco was involved in and is still involved in. He realizes there were problems, and one of these was that the Province really took advantage of certain areas. Chief Pasco shared that he thinks we've learned a lot. The issues we're dealing with here are political and legal, and that is the thing we have to look at very carefully. How do we move forward now? We need to be very serious with what we are going to do. The system is exploiting us big time. One statistic is the export of energy across the border. Last year, it was over \$1B for this province. They are making arrangements that are far in their benefit. The term "overlap" is such a negative term. With our people, we try to use the word "joint use," because it's the government that uses the word "overlap." Chief Pasco shared that where he is from is one of the driest places in the province, and shared a word in his language for a root that is one of the first plants they harvest in the beginning of the year. His Nation has a word for it, and so does the Shuswap. It was an area that both came to harvest from, really a joint use territory and this is visible in the language. Chief Pasco concluded that the FNLC has been blessed with work, and we expect this work to move forward. He shared the unique geography in the Nlaka'pamux territory, and the challenges of how the landscape has been utilized by the Province.

Robert Morales – shared that what he has really heard is that the Title is based on our connection to the land. It is held by those who are closely connected through language, customs, practices, traditions, through family. There can be two ways we hold Title: exclusively or in a shared exclusive according to the Canadian law. Mr. Morales said that regarding First Nations’ laws, he has discussed the issue with elders, and is constantly reminded and they use the term, that in the past there were no fences. Lands were held under traditional ways, communities held larger aggregations. Mr. Morale suggested that what we need to focus on into the future, again, goes back to the concept of an amicable relationship. The term “overlap” really speaks to conflict. As long as there is conflict then we may be undermining our own position in respect to the Canadian government’s position. We need to focus on how we continue, or how do we re-establish our amicable relationships; how do we get to the issue of protocol, and a strong piece of position on Title. Mr. Morales closed by offering thanks for all the comments and encouraging First Nations to move this area forward.

Other

Chairperson Gwaans announced the upcoming “other” items people had requested be added to the agenda. She also announced a petition at the back of the room against Enbridge and in support of the Fraser River watershed.

Resolutions

Chief Ko’waintco Michel- expressed concern regarding how the resolutions were passed yesterday, and said that the Chiefs need to totally agree with how we are moving forward. She stated that she heard that we need to move forward in culture and ceremony, but recognition that we also are working within the elected Chief system. She noted the Chiefs have agreed that we’re going to bring these resolutions to our respective organizations. Chief Michel shared that yesterday a number of Chiefs did not have the understanding that all three resolutions were being moved together. She would like to be very clear that everyone agrees with the process. She also thanked everyone for their hard work and their time.

Gwaans- re-clarified that yesterday there was an omnibus of the resolutions in principle. This means that there is still room for debate at the organization level. She reminded everyone that the ACA does not have a mechanism to pass resolutions.

Chief Lydia Hwitsum- regarding the previous agenda item, Chief Hwitsum shared some experiences Cowichan had. Regarding a common approach, in the Treaty Process, the Cowichan is negotiating with the Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group. Cowichan had to examine clauses of the Tsawwassen Treaty that were in effect. The Treaty Process isn’t an evidence-based process. In terms of coming to resolution, there was urgency as the Tsawwassen Treaty had been ratified. We had a mediated process, and moved forward toward an agreement between Tsawwassen and Cowichan. When there is urgency, they seem to be able to identify resources that allow for a properly mediated process. What is it that we want to resolve in terms of the underlying access to resources? Moving forward, we had a one-year mediated process to come to an agreement. It is not an inexpensive process, but we needed to come to a negotiated agreement with our overlap neighbours. Part of the exercise is determining what levels of

interest are being exercised and negotiated. Chief Hwitsum concluded by acknowledging the FNLC and all present, and all the speakers before her.

Kathryn Teneese- regarding the previous discussion, Ms. Teneese cautioned that she thinks there was some information that wasn't totally correct, and everyone needs to be careful. We must ensure we are all starting from the same knowledge base. With respect to the resolutions, Ms. Teneese supports the direction taken by the chair. She noted that what we've done is in-principle endorsed the resolutions, but that we are still allowing room for the organizations. She noted that she spoke on this issue as a matter of process. She is comfortable with the process that took place yesterday. Ms. Teneese reminded people that this information has been in circulation for some time, and there has been feedback. She concluded by noting that it is the Chiefs' responsibility to give direction to the FNLC.

Gwaans- thanked Ms. Teneese and also noted that all the feedback has been incorporated and kept track of.

Chief Jonathan Kruger- shared that he moved the resolutions yesterday not to disrespect anybody in this house. A lot of what was discussed yesterday morning was in the resolutions. Rather than talking about it again, it was to make things happen. He moved the resolutions in support of where we are going. He expressed that he thinks we need to get to work, and likes what we have discussed today. These resolutions have been out there, and there was opportunity for somebody to question it and have discussion.

Aquaculture

Chief Bob Chamberlin- shared that his First Nation has been involved in battles regarding fish farms for the past 30 years. In the discussions of overlap, Chief Chamberlin said that he thought of the Nations that share the Broughton Archipelago. He shared some great news from that morning, which was that their class action lawsuit against the provincial and federal government about the licensing of fish farms was certified this morning. Chief Chamberlin said that this has been a struggle, and has been about ensuring what they want in their territories is respected; the struggle has gone on for a long time, and now they will be able to get in front of the courts, which is quicker than any other way. Chief Chamberlin concluded that he was going to buy five of the Tsilhqot'in Blue-Gold DVDs, as we need to help each other. He turned the microphone to his hereditary Chief Bobby Joe (Robert Joseph).

Chief Robert Joseph- urged everyone to consider responsibilities. Chief Joseph said that he was really pleased his Nation is going to move forward with this court case, and hopefully they can move the industry to a place where all our territories can be protected. He shared that he was so encouraged by the discussions this morning. Our responsibility to each other is to reach a peace between us. Those ancient laws that have been handed down for millennia will be the ones in place; they empower us to move forward together. Chief Joseph offered congratulations to all the leadership here. He concluded by saying that our children are sacred, but we must realize that all children are that sacred. Once we grasp onto that, we'll be able to create a society where all of our children can flourish. That is what we are really working about.

New Forestry Template and Prevention Framework- Resolutions passed at the UBCIC Nov 29 meeting

Chief Tim Manuel- the resolution regarding the new revenue sharing agreements in forestry, the new FRA templates was passed at the Union and has been forwarded to the FNS. Chief Manuel said that he wanted to bring that to the table for further support from the ACA, asking the Chiefs for their support. Secondly, Chief Manuel said that the Okanagan Nation has discussed looking at reviewing and revamping the First Nations Child and Family Wellness Council. There are four processes outlined and the Okanagan Nation is not sure which way they are going- there are delegated agencies, Child at the Centre Forum, Indigenous Approaches and now the potential prevention funding. Chief Manuel shared a potential recommendation from the Okanagan Chiefs that we look at a provincial Think-tank for child and family issues, and have legal counsel included in this process as well.

Announcements

IndigenACTION- Regional Chief Wilson-Raybould and Josh Gottfriedson (BC AFN Male Youth Rep and Co-Chair for National Executive Youth Council)- Discussed a youth sports initiative launched at AGA in Winnipeg called IndigenACTION. This is a partnership to support healthy lifestyles, healthy living and youth in sports and physical activity. Mr. Gottfriedson shared the positive role that sports has had in his life. Gwaans sang a song called Gwey'aa and Chiefs came forward with donations totalling \$1,400 for IndigenACTION.

Fraser River Watershed – the spokesperson of the Indigenous Nations of the Fraser River Watershed announced they would like support at a rally tomorrow at 10:15am located at Hyatt on Burrard Street against oil tankers.

Closing Remarks

Grand Chief Ed John, First Nations Summit (FNS) - expressed his thanks, and said that the resolutions-in-principle will be presented at the FNS on Friday for discussion. He reiterated that the UNDRIP contains a lot of important provisions, including minimum standards for our peoples. Grand Chief John noted that we are not alone, but that colonization has forced us to think in certain ways. When we think of ourselves in a global context, we start thinking of ourselves as who we are. We go into our communities, and one of the biggest things people are fighting for is band membership, because it means access to this service or that service. In this period of transition, we're all looking forward, looking for a hope. Looking to have our rights supported and implemented. That's been a big battle. We'll get there. Grand Chief John acknowledged that tonight there will be awards for First Nations Aboriginal Businesses. The Justice Institute will also have awards. One of those recipients will be the Four Host First Nations for bringing to the international stage that we are still here. Grand Chief John expressed his thanks again.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) - expressed deep gratitude and appreciation to Kwakwaka'wakw dance group that was here yesterday. It reminded him of similar ceremonies that we had in A-in-chut's backyard. Grand Chief Phillip reiterated what Chief Dolly

Abraham said about the Chiefs having this conversation three years ago. We met three years and two days ago at Tsleil Waututh, and we signed the All Our Relations Declaration. Grand Chief Phillip read out two provisions: “We acknowledge the interdependence we have with one another and respectfully honour our commitment with one another where we share lands, waters and resources. We commit to resolving these shared lands, waters and resources based on our historical relationship through ceremonies and reconciliation agreements” and “Recognize and respect each other’s autonomy and support each other in exercising our respected Title, Rights and jurisdiction in keeping with our continued interdependency.” Grand Chief Phillip spoke of all the Chiefs having the same discussion over and over again, and recalled that Louise spoke of the movie “Groundhog Day” where this happened. Grand Chief Phillip expressed appreciation for Robert Morales’ presentation with respect to shared territories. He shared his complete agreement with Kukpi7 Christian who said those discussions must take place at the Indigenous Nations level. That was the commitment we made three years ago. He shared that he would like to pray and think that a year from today, there will be testimony that we’ve made progress. Grand Chief Phillip thanked Wickaninnish once again, because this conversation is long overdue, and we should have had it long ago before we tried reconciling our title. He noted that First Nations have discussed decolonization, and those discussions go back some thirty years plus. It’s a challenging process. Grand Chief Phillip noted that he has had the privilege of being part of a number of ceremonies. At the last one, Chief Robbins organized a ceremony of our people regarding Fish Lake. Grand Chief Phillip concluded that the work of the ACTF cannot just be resolutions that pile up in our filing cabinets; we must continue with this work and implement their recommendations. He shared that he looks forward to moving past these growth bumps that have been causing pain and uncertainty over the past years. Grand Chief Phillip thanked everyone for time, commitment and honesty.

Regional Chief Jody (Puglaas) Wilson-Raybould, British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) - expressed thanks and appreciation for the dialogue that’s gone on, and highlighted the importance of the dialogue. She shared that she has had the privilege of hosting this All-Chiefs’ gathering along with UBCIC and the FNS, and we are in a period of transition and change. We’re in a period of building and rebuilding our Nations. There are so many opportunities out there. Those opportunities and successes need to be provided to all of our communities so that we don’t have those suicides that Chief McRae spoke of. How can we take this discussion back to the most important place, our communities? We are in a period of change. Our Chiefs and communities are directing that. The Regional Chief expressed appreciation for her colleagues on the FNLC, and appreciation for the endorsement yesterday that was rooted in culture, of the FNLC and the renewed trust and respect. The Regional Chief expressed her appreciation to the ACTF and to all Chiefs across this region who contributed to this day. She said that we are starting down the road map that Grand Chief John and Chief McRae spoke about and hear the instructions and direction that have been provided here. She pointed out that she has heard that there is support for All-Chiefs’ meetings, and support for us to collectively identify issues of importance and priorities we need to tackle, whether it is the land question, and the embedded Title holder question. The Regional Chief shared that she 100% supports the concept that the proper Title holder is the major issue that we are dealing with as First Nations in this province and fully supports what Grand Chief John said in terms of making it a key priority. The Regional Chief concluded by thanking all the Chiefs for the discussion, and thanking the ACTF, and shared that she was leaving with great hope and optimism.

National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) - offered thanks and appreciation for all the work here. He noted that the roots of our work seem to come back to relationships, and recalled the experiences his generation grew up with in the villages at home, and the conflicts and dysfunction that were occurring which we are still being hit with. We're all impacted, at every level. The National Chief said that he has the great privilege of being part of this conversation across the whole country. The Grand Chiefs at the beginning said this was an opportunity to review, renew, and recognize, which feels like exactly what has occurred here. The National Chief recognized all members of the FNLC, and said that he is honored to be part of this work in a supportive role. There is tremendous opportunity. Let's not have anyone left behind- I still go to communities where kids need schools. They just want a school. The general public does not understand that if you get a school, then it doesn't mean all First Nations get a school. The *Indian Act* is our reality right now. We also need to understand that a one-size fits all approach does not work. The National Chief concluded by expressing his deep appreciation for being here, and being able to participate in the historic conversation that took place over the past two days.

ACTF Acknowledgements

Puglaas (Regional Chief Wilson-Raybould) - on behalf of the FNLC, the Regional Chief acknowledged the work of Gwaans as chair of ACTF for bringing us to this point and doing it very well. The Regional Chief would also like to commend the FNLC policy team for the continued diligence and devotion in providing the technical support required to fulfill the ACTF & FNLC mandates.

Gwaans- acknowledged the work of the ACTF, who are a diverse group and have listened to each other. She also acknowledged Chief Bobby Joseph for his ceremony yesterday. And yesterday, we gave our word to the FNLC to renew our support for them. We make decisions and we have to hold to them. The chairs of the ACTF have had a request to meet with the FNLC and provide an implementation plan on the resolutions. The main focus for the task force has been on unity and how to implement.

Next Steps & Wrap Up

The ACTF recommendations have been set out in resolutions which are approved in principle and will be formally adopted by each organization at duly convened meetings. The ACTF Co-Chairs will meet with the FNLC to see implementation move forward.

The second day of the All-Chiefs' Assembly adjourned at 2:00pm.

Chief Chamberlin provided a closing song.

Appendix: All-Chiefs' Task Force Final Recommendations

The Coordinated Action Working Group recommends:

1. That the First Nations Leadership Council engages in a high-level analysis of the current political context to identify and strategize a response to the most pressing issues facing First Nations in BC regarding Aboriginal Title and Rights and Treaty Rights, and Social Justice Issues, including Canada's "qualified" endorsement of the UN DRIP.
2. That the First Nations Leadership Council develops a comprehensive communications and action plan to implement the strategies identified in the high-level analysis of the current political context, making use of the tactics identified by the All-Chiefs' Task Force Coordinated Action Working Group.

The Operational-Technical Working Group recommends:

1. Each year the FNLC made up of the three organizations, puts forward an implementation strategy to the Chiefs of B.C. that sets out goals and workplan on collective issues as identified by leadership along with the use of resources to meet goals.
2. The FNLC finalize a formal process for All-Chiefs' Forum that includes the contributions, financial and otherwise, that supports the Chiefs coming together once a year to dialogue and strategize.

The Political-Legal Working Group recommends:

1. Develop a unified Framework/Plan for action on key priorities for the political organizations (BCAFN, FNS, UBCIC):
 - o Political and advocacy efforts,
 - o Research requirements,
 - o Collaboration and linkages with other organizations, and
 - o Potential resourcing required for implementation.
2. Develop a framework/plan for a First Nations Think-tank / Centre for Policy / Legal Defence:
 - o First step undertake preliminary research into existing policy and legal institutes worldwide.
3. Develop an implementation plan for existing key court decisions:
 - o Host a second 2 day legal workshop at Westbank.