

DESCRIPTION OF ABORIGINAL & FIRST NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

PARTNER ABORIGINAL / FIRST NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

Assembly of First Nations: The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

Aboriginal Financial Officers' Association: AFOA was founded in 1996 to support individuals working in the fields of Aboriginal finance, administration and governance by providing training, professional development, tools and resources, and lobbying support.

Aboriginal Housing Committee of BC: AHC is a partnership of representatives from BC First Nations (selected based on their qualifications and range of perspectives), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The 12-member committee consists of eight First Nations, two CMHC, and two INAC representatives. The Committee's mandate is to provide advice on operations and strategies to improve Aboriginal housing in BC and assist with their implementation.

Aboriginal Tourism BC: The Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC has a mandate to contribute to the preservation of Aboriginal culture and advancement of economic development through support, facilitation and promotion of the growth and sustainability of a quality and culturally rich Aboriginal tourism industry in British Columbia.

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres: The BCAAFC is the umbrella association for 23 Friendship Centres throughout the Province of British Columbia. Friendship Centres provide a number of quality services to the Aboriginal communities located in an urban setting.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society: ACCS became a nonprofit society in March 1998 with a goal to support First Nations communities in the creation and development of quality, community-based Aboriginal child care services which promote child growth and development, in an environment respectful of culture, history and language.

BC Aboriginal Network on Disabilities Society: BCANDS provides a variety of support services and resources to Aboriginal People with disabilities and those associated with the disabled. It is a registered non-profit society with charitable status and currently serve more than 6100 members.

BC Treaty Commission: The BCTC is an independent and neutral body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations among the governments of Canada, BC and First Nations in BC. The First Nations Summit appoints two commissioners and the federal and provincial governments appoint one each. The chief commissioner is appointed to a three-year term by agreement of the three parties. The four part-time commissioners serve two-year terms.

Caring for First Nations Children Society: CFNCS was established in 1994 and is a professional association and professional development body for persons employed or active in the field of First Nations and Aboriginal child and family services.

Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents: The Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents represents Foster Parents providing quality care for Aboriginal children in a nurturing, culturally appropriate environment.

Financial Management Board: The FMB was established through the federal First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act (FSMA). Its purpose is to provide the tools and guidance that will instill confidence in First Nations' financial management and reporting systems to support economic and community development.

First Nations Education Steering Committee: FNEESC is an independent society that is committed to improving education for all First Nations learners in British Columbia. FNEESC is led by representatives of First Nations across the province.

First Nations Schools Association: The **First Nations Schools Association** collaborates with First Nations schools to create nurturing environments that develop learners' pride and competence in their First Nations language and heritage and equips them to realize their full potential, within self-governing First Nations communities. The FNSA is a registered society and charity that is directed by First Nations schools in BC.

First Nations Emergency Services Society: FNESS evolved from the Society of Native Indian Fire Fighters of BC (SNIFF), which was established in 1986. SNIFF's initial objectives were to help reduce the number of fire-related deaths on First Nation reserves, but changed its emphasis to incorporate a greater spectrum of emergency services. In 1994, SNIFF changed its name to First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC to reflect its growing diversity of services provided. FNESS has a mandate to assist First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities through delivery of programs and services that include training, capacity development and emergency response services.

First Nations Directors' Forum: The Forum is comprised of the Executive Directors of the First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies within the province of British Columbia. Since its inception in 1996-97, it has grown to represent 23 agencies.

First Nations Social Development Society: The FNSDS is a non-profit society that represents the Band Social Development Workers of BC. The Band Social Development Workers (BSDW) administer Income Assistance On-reserve for BC First Nation Communities. FNSDS provides BSDW training, policy clarification and essential services as they relate to Social Development and Income Assistance.

First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council: The FPHLCC is a provincial Crown Corporation formed by legislation of the government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. The mandate of the FPHLCC is to assist BC First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts and cultures.

Industry Council for Aboriginal Business: ICAB facilitates programs furthering dialogue and relationship-building essential to economic development in Aboriginal communities in BC. The organization fills the need of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people for enhanced knowledge so they can conduct productive business negotiations; resulting in collaboration, partnership and wealth creation.

Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society: The Indian Residential School Survivors Society incorporated as a society in March 2002 with a mandate to assist First Nations in BC to recognize and be holistically empowered from the generational effects of residential schools by conducting research, promoting awareness, establishing partnerships and advocating for justice and healing.

Metis Nation BC: MNBC was created in 1996 and was formally incorporated as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MPCBC). In 2003 the Métis leadership ratified the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution thereby establishing a new Métis Nation governance structure. MNBC represents thirty-seven (37) Métis Chartered Communities in British Columbia and is mandated to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services.

Native Brotherhood of BC: The NBBC is a membership organization representing First Nations fishermen, tendermen, and shoreworkers in BC.

Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of BC: Established in 1972, the NCCABC is a provincial organization that provides services to Aboriginal peoples in conflict with the law (i.e. counselling and referral services to clients with substance abuse and detox support issues; advocacy services for aboriginal family and youth; facilitating and enhancing access to justice by assisting clients involved in the criminal justice system; provides services to Vancouver community court; providing community outreach; networking and partnerships; advocacy services; and providing training and workshops).

National Centre for First Nations Governance: The National Centre for First Nations Governance develops programs and services that are culturally enriched and empowered by First Nations traditions, customs, laws and inherent governing powers. The Centre has a two-pronged mandate. First, it is designed to support First Nations as they seek to implement their inherent rights of self-government and secondly, it assists First Nations in the further development of their day-to-day government operations.

New Relationship Trust: The New Relationship Trust was created in 2006 and is composed of 7 Directors appointed for 2-year terms (1 each appointed by the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC; 2 collectively appointed by the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC; and 2 appointed by BC). The most recent appointments were made in 2009.

United Native Nations: Formed in 1969 (name changed to UNN in 1977) to work towards the betterment of status and non-status Aboriginal peoples off-reserve in BC. The UNN is affiliated with the national Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

COUNCILS

First Nations Fisheries Council: The interim BC First Nations Fisheries Council was formed in late 2007 by First Nations as an outcome of the BC First Nations Fisheries Action Plan which was adopted by resolution of the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC in 2006. This interim First Nations Fisheries Council had six members – two appointed by the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC – representing regional diversity and also a diversity of expertise and perspectives. This interim Council was tasked in part with developing a permanent structure for the First Nations Fisheries Council. A number of engagement sessions on a permanent Fisheries Council structure were held around the province in 2008, leading to the adoption of this structure by resolution of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC in 2009. Highlights of the new structure are as follows:

- Membership – Chiefs or delegates of each of B.C.'s 203 First Nations, which will meet in an annual Fisheries Assembly to provide overall guidance and direction to the Council.

- Executive – Comprised of representatives selected by First Nations in each of 14 regions in BC through whatever means they deem appropriate, and with the support and assistance of the Fisheries Council in making their appointments.
- Directors – 6 people appointed from and by the Executive (1 coastal chair; 1 interior chair; 4 directors with portfolios)

The First Nations Fisheries Council incorporated as of April 1, 2009.

First Nations Forestry Council: The First Nations Forestry Council, endorsed by resolution, incorporated as an independent society, and composed of a 7-member Board of Directors (3 each appointed by the FNS and UBCIC, and 1 appointed by the BCAFN) is responsible for the implementation of the BC First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan (adopted by resolution in 2005) and the BC First Nations Forestry and Land Stewardship Action Plan (adopted by resolution in 2008).

First Nations Technology Council: The First Nations Technology Council (FNTC) is incorporated as an independent society, and is composed of a 7-member Board of Directors (3 each appointed by the FNS and UBCIC; 1 appointed by the BCAFN). Its mandate is to develop a First Nations Technology Plan for BC which will address technology issues including high speed internet connection, technology skills development and development of technical support.

First Nations Energy & Mining Council: BCAFN, UBCIC, and FNS Chiefs in Assembly have passed resolutions approving a BC First Nations Energy Action Plan, and a BC First Nations Mineral Exploration and Mining Action Plan. Resolutions have also been passed assigning responsibility for the implementation of these Action Plans to the BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC) composed of one representative each appointed by the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC. The FNEMC has incorporated as a society and is sharing office space and overhead costs with the First Nations Forestry Council.

Interim First Nations Child & Family Wellness Council: An Interim First Nations Child and Family Wellness Council (IFNCFWC) has been established (resolution of support for its terms of reference adopted in 2009), composed of a maximum of 15 First Nations representatives (3 each in 5 provincial regions). The IFNCFWC's mandate is to finalize and commence the implementation of the Indigenous Child at the Centre Action Plan (adopted by resolution in 2009) and to recommend a permanent structure for the Council.

First Nations Health Council: The First Nations Health Council was created by resolution of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC in 2007 to implement the following agreements in health: Transformative Change Accord; First Nations Health Plan; First Nations Health Plan Memorandum of Understanding; and the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan. Collectively, these health agreements set out two streams of work: Health Actions; and Health Governance. The First Nations Health Council is composed of 7 members (3 each appointed by the FNS and UBCIC and one appointed by the BCAFN) who also serve as the members of the First Nations Health Society (incorporated in 2009). The Health Council (the political arm) appoint the 7 Directors of the First Nations Health Society (the business arm), which is an interim step pending the outcomes of the health governance negotiations.

First Nations Interim Health Governance Committee: The Tripartite First Nations Health Plan includes a commitment to develop a new governance structure for First Nations health in BC within 3 years. The First Nations Interim Health Governance Committee was struck to lead this work, and is composed of

numerous First Nations representatives appointed within various regions in BC, and co-chaired by three individuals (one each appointed by the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC).

First Nations Justice Council (Working Group): The First Nations Justice Action Plan was approved by resolution of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC, and included a terms of reference for a Justice Council. An interim Justice Council (Working Group) was established in March 2009 to progress the establishment of the First Nations Justice Council which will implement the First Nations Justice Plan. The interim working group has met once in August 2009 and is moving towards developing an interim budget and workplan for the Justice Council.

First Nations Economic Development Council (Working Group): In mid-2007, in follow-up to BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC resolutions, a First Nations Economic Development Working Group was struck which coordinated engagement with First Nations to develop a BC First Nations Economic Development Action Plan and a BC First Nations Economic Development Council concept paper (both adopted by resolutions). The Working Group is open to any organizations interested in joining and able to contribute, and currently includes: First Nations representatives (i.e. Regional Program Management Advisory Committee members and other First Nations representatives); First Nations political organizations (BCAFN, FNS, UBCIC); First Nations economic development organizations (i.e. Industry Council for Aboriginal Business, Aboriginal Tourism BC, etc.); First Nations training and education organizations (i.e. First Nations Human Resource & Labour Council, Native Education College, University of Victoria, etc.); federal and provincial governments. Pending the current work being undertaken by the First Nations Task Force, the Economic Development Working Group is not proceeding on further Economic Development Council development at this time.

WORKING GROUPS / INITIATIVES

Aquaculture Working Group: The Aquaculture Working Group (AWG), composed of six Chiefs and chaired by Chief Bob Chamberlin, was established by resolution of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC to engage with the province on behalf of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC in the development of a BC Aquaculture Plan. This engagement was to take place through a Government-to-Government Aquaculture Forum. The Working Group is currently down to 3 members and is working closely with the First Nations Fisheries Council.

First Nations Task Force & Working Groups: At the August 2009 All-Chiefs' Assembly, a First Nations Task Force was struck to build upon the Assembly's outcomes by developing a short-term and urgent Action Plan to a) raise awareness and recognition of Aboriginal title and rights at the provincial, national and international levels (as well as with the general public), and including by establishing a direct action committee and strategy to take advantage of the window of opportunity created by the 2010 Olympics; and, b) better organize ourselves internally as First Nations in British Columbia to work together on issues of common concern.

The Task Force has developed an action plan, building upon previous efforts including the All Our Relations Action Plan, which was adopted in principle by resolution of the BCAFN in October 2009. It has now struck three working groups to commence the implementation of the action plan as follows:

- Coordinated Action Working Group: Develop and implement a strategy to increase public, provincial, national, and international awareness of First Nations issues.
- Political/Legal Working Group: Develop and implement a strategy to achieve implementation of section 35, implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

implementation of court decisions, revision of the comprehensive claims policy, and effective good faith negotiations.

- **Operational/Technical Working Group:** Building upon organizational reviews of the FNS and UBCIC, lead an independent review of the “First Nations Leadership Council” and Councils/Societies with the aim of increasing the efficiency and transparency of province-wide political decision-making processes.

First Nations Public Service Initiative: The intention of the initiative is to provide a coordinating function to increasing the capacity of the existing First Nations Public Service. This will include an inventory of existing capacity building opportunities, coordination of new training opportunities, and supporting First Nations organizations in making these training opportunities available to their memberships.

Gaming Revenue-Sharing Steering Committee: The BC First Nations Gaming Revenue-Sharing Steering Committee is a province-wide volunteer initiative created in 2007 by resolution of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC with the mandate by resolution to negotiate a gaming revenue and benefit sharing agreement with the provincial government (BC is the only province that does not share gaming revenues with First Nations and do not have licensing mechanisms for First Nations casinos). Financial support for this work has been secured through contributions from First Nations and the New Relationship Trust.

FNS Renewal Committee & UBCIC Constitution Committee: These committees were established by resolutions of the two organizations in 2008 and 2009, respectively. They have a mandate to prepare recommendations for organizational renewal.

Heritage Conservation Act Working Group: The Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation was established in 2007 and is an initiative between the provincial government and the executives of the BCAFN, the FNS and the UBCIC to identify solutions to critical issues regarding the protection and conservation of heritage sites, heritage objects and sacred sites. The Working Group is composed of representatives of First Nations with expertise in these issues, as well as provincial government representatives.

Housing Technical Committee: On May 21, 2008, the tripartite First Nations Housing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed, committing the Parties to collaboratively develop interlinked on and off reserve housing strategies through the work of a Technical Committee composed of representatives from all of the parties. The Technical Committee includes technical staff from the FNS, UBCIC, BCAFN, INAC, CMHC and BC.

Recognition Working Group: Pursuant to the New Relationship, the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC were granted a mandate by resolution to pursue the enactment of provincial recognition legislation, and developed a Recognition Working Group composed of the legal counsel of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC to lead the technical work and technical discussions with the province. Currently, recognition work is on hold pending the outcomes of the First Nations Task Force.

Resolutions Strategy Side Table: The bilateral Resolutions Strategy Side Table (RSST) was struck under the New Relationship with the goal of creating consistency between the commitments in the New Relationship and provincial government pleadings in litigation. The provincial representatives declined to participate at the RSST following the *Tsilhqot'in* decision and the RSST is currently on hold pending the outcomes of the First Nations Task Force.

Telling Our Stories Committee: The bilateral Telling Our Stories Committee was struck in 2006 to increase public awareness and understanding of First Nations people in BC. The Committee oversaw the production of a number of community profile videos, and developed a draft strategic plan. This Committee has not met in a number of years.

DIALOGUE TABLES / PROCESSES

First Nations Integrated Emergency Management Committee: A First Nation Integrated Emergency Management Committee (FNIEM) was struck in 2008 to improve coordination and collaboration amongst governments (INAC and Emergency Management BC) and First Nations organizations (including the FNLC, First Nations Emergency Services Society, the First Nations Forestry Council, and others) with respect to emergency response.

Chief Negotiators' Forum: A Forum for negotiators for First Nations in the treaty negotiations process in BC to come together to share information, provide mutual support, and discuss issues of common concern.

Common Table: Process whereby Canada, British Columbia and participating First Nations can negotiate and develop options in a collective manner to overcome barriers in the six key identified areas (and others that may be agreed upon) that are impediments to the conclusion of honourable treaties in British Columbia.

Principals' Meetings: Regular meetings between the Principals to the BC treaty negotiations process – the First Nations Summit, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the provincial Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Quality of Life Table: Composed of First Nations (through BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC) and Indian and Northern Affairs representatives to discuss Quality of Life issues.

Senior Policy Officials' Group: A Senior Policy Officials' Group, composed of policy staff of the BCAFN, FNS, UBCIC and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation meets on a regular basis to share information and coordinate on policy issues of common concern. Often, Councils and other partner organizations are invited to participate and share any challenges that the Senior Policy Officials' Group may be able to assist with. The policy staff of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC brings forward any relevant and emerging issues to their respective political executives. This is not a consultation or decision-making forum; it is a place to share information and build relationships at the technical level.

First Nations ECD Council: In 2007, an Early Childhood Development Council was created, and its meetings attended by First Nations communities and existing First Nations organizations, including the First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council, the First Nations Chiefs' Health Committee, the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, the Native Brotherhood of BC, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the BCAFN, the FNS and the UBCIC. The ECD Council is not a new organization, but is a working collaboration between various political and technical organizations and Councils with an interest in improving services (education, health, child care, etc.) for children 0-5 years in age.

Treaty Revitalization Table: Composed of First Nations Summit and federal and provincial government representatives, a forum for dialogue on key process issues to identify obstacles, remove barriers, and

promote the speedy conclusion of fair and viable treaties (linked with Quality of Life Table and Section 35 Table).

Section 35 Table: Commitment made by Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to a bilateral Section 35 table with First Nations (through the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC) to discuss title and rights issues (linked with Quality of Life Table and Treaty Revitalization Table). No meetings of the Section 35 Table have taken place.

First Nations Human Resource & Labour Council: Represents all of the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement holders in BC, and serves First Nations in the areas of employment and training.