

BCAFN Annual Report

2024
2025



British Columbia
Assembly of First Nations



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BCAFN Regional Chief Terry Teegee



MESSAGE

Hadih Chiefs, Leaders, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, Youth, & Community Members,

The political and economic landscapes in BC and Canada have dramatically shifted over the past year, and these changes demand our attention and response. As we gather for this year's AGM, we must address a troubling reality:

governments in Canada are using tensions with the United States as justifications to abandon legal obligations and commitments that took decades of hard work by First Nations leadership and grassroots members – and the representatives, staff, and board at the BC Assembly of First Nations.

The fast-tracking legislation passed provincially, federally, and in other provinces was sold as a solution to the problem of “red tape,” which the Crown alleges plagues and slows the economy. Politicians said that too many regulations are getting in the way of Canada's ability

to grow economically and independently to weather the existential threat from our southern border. But let us be clear: First Nations' free, prior and informed consent is not red tape, nor is the recognition of our rights an economic impediment. Our consent isn't a problem arising from layers of regulations. It comes from First Nations' inherent human rights as self-determining peoples. Both the duty to consult and the requirement for free prior and informed consent, included in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and enshrined in BC and federal statutes, exist because of these rights. Canada has failed to understand both the costs associated with ignoring these rights and the economic benefits that would be enjoyed with their recognition. There is room to grow the economy and respect First Nations' rights. The *UN Declaration* is the framework by which we do so, and governments in Canada, both federally and provincially, must uphold their own legislation committing them to do so.

This year in BC, the Provincial government also rolled out an inadequate Mineral Claims Consultation Framework in response to Gitxaala's success in fighting the mineral claim staking process in court. While mining claims must now be sent for referral to First Nations,

this process mirrors what we already face with other natural resource projects: we voice our concerns while the province prepares the rubber stamp. This is not free, prior and informed consent. Free, prior and informed consent requires that First Nations be part of decision-making at the outset. As stewards of lands that must sustain and support future generations, we have both the rights and responsibility to shape how our territories and lands are used.

BCAFN is working strategically to advocate for and defend First Nations' rights against the political backsliding we have seen among the Crown governments, and this work is done every day by our dedicated team of policy analysts, administrators, legal advisors and communications professionals. With the theme of this year's Annual Report, "The People of BCAFN," I want to take the opportunity to highlight the hard work done by the entire team, all of the staff, representatives, Board Directors, Chiefs, leadership and experts we work with who fight for progress for all First Nations in BC.

The BCAFN, our Chiefs, our Board, our representatives, our staff, and our community members continue to hold both the provincial and federal government to account in the implementation of UN Declaration legislation. As we have made clear this year, Canada and British Columbia must provide adequate capacity funding, work with us on accountability and transparency mechanisms, and ensure that the *UN Declaration Act* and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* become more than a symbolic gesture. We took a leadership position against Bill C-5, Bill 14 and Bill 15, mobilizing an online and media campaign to support First Nations' rights as directed by Chiefs in BC.

BCAFN's work also continues in other key areas. The Assembly of First Nations released the National First Nations Justice Strategy in June 2025. This strategy complements the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, and the BCAFN is now focused on the implementation of the strategy. We also continue to push provincial and federal governments to address the disproportionate impacts of the toxic drug crisis on First Nations people. To this end, we hosted an All-Chiefs Meeting on the toxic drug crisis in July; the results of that meeting will guide our work on this file into the future. We also continue to advocate for First Nations to reassert their jurisdiction over child and family services. Since the rejection of the Final Settlement Agreement last year, BCAFN has been advocating for a table to address BC-specific concerns for the long-term reform of child and family services. We will keep Chiefs updated on this progress. As you will read in the pages of this report, our work on many more priority areas, as determined by our Chiefs and leaders, continues.

Terry Teegee has served as the elected Regional Chief of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) for the past six years and is currently serving his third term in this position. His exceptional leadership and dedication have recently earned him a unanimous nomination. Terry's ancestry includes Dakelh, Gitksan, and Sekani descent, and he is a proud member of the Takla Nation.

Prior to assuming his role of Regional Chief, Terry worked as a successful Registered Professional Forester, where he was responsible for the management of forests, forest lands, and forest resources. His expertise and passion led him to become deeply involved in natural resources management, particularly in improving laws, regulations, and policies that impact First Nations in British Columbia. Read more about the Regional Chief at bcafn.ca

AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak



MESSAGE

Qey / 'Kwey, bonjour and hello to all the Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Elders, Youth, and delegates.

It is my honour to convey my best wishes for the 2025 British Columbia Assembly of First Nations Annual General Meeting, taking place on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

I look forward to attending this year's gathering to meet with you and engage on your priorities and our shared goals.

Over the past year we have seen many significant events and developments that impact on our people and our rights. We are always vigilant and resilient, and our people have a keen ability to turn challenges into opportunities.

The history of the Crown-First Nations relationship demonstrates we have overcome great odds to protect our rights, laws, lands, resources and waters.

First Nations have learned through hard experience that if we don't mobilize to protect our rights, no one else will.

We have fought in Parliament. We have fought in the Courts. And, we have fought on this land to protect our Rights.

Nothing has been given to us, and we are not going back.

In these uncertain times, First Nations stand with all Canadians in condemning Trump's illegal tariffs.

We have always fought for Canada in difficult times. The War of 1812. Two World Wars. Afghanistan. The pandemic. Now is another one of those times.

First Nations support economic growth and prosperity for all - but not at the expense of our rights or the Crown's legal obligations to our people.

Hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of projects are forecast to be launched on First Nation lands over the next decade.

They represent a cornerstone of Canada's future economic growth - but they won't advance without First Nations support.

So, your work at this year's BC Assembly is complex - and made more intense by the social, economic and cultural challenges facing our people.

There is much to do, but by strengthening our relations, united, I know that together - we will finally unleash the collective power of First Nations in this country.



National Chief Cindy Woodhouse and Regional Chief Terry Teegee at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting 2024

National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak was born and raised in Pinaymootang First Nation, Manitoba. Her ancestor, Chief Richard Woodhouse, was an original signatory of Treaty No.2. She began her term as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations on December 7, 2023, becoming the youngest woman and mother to hold the position.

National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Winnipeg and has completed Harvard Business School's Tribal Leaders program.

In 2021, she was elected as the Regional Chief for the AFN Manitoba Region. During her tenure, she was the lead negotiator for the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle class action lawsuit, which resulted in over \$40 billion compensation for First Nations children and families.

Read more about National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak and the Assembly of First Nations at afn.ca

Chief of Staff Vanessa West



MESSAGE

BC First Nations Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Elders/Knowledge Keepers, Youths, First Nations members and honoured guests:

It is once more an honour and a privilege to report to you as the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Chief of Staff on the administrative aspects of the organization. I would like to begin by acknowledging the leadership provided by Regional Chief Terry Teegee, and our BCAFN Board of Directors, Knowledge Keepers, and Women's/Youth/2SLGBTQQIA+ Council Representatives. It is through their guidance, support, and continued focus on the betterment of the lives of our BC First Nations that BCAFN has steadily moved forward on various issues since our last AGM in 2024.

Last year, I reported on the unprecedented growth that we had experienced in staffing. This trend has continued, and we currently have 25 staff working for the BCAFN:

ADMINISTRATION

Rayna Barter - Finance Manager, Victoria Austin - Executive Assistant, Annette Schroeter - Communications Officer, Ada Madam - Executive Assistant/Records Management.

POLICY – Senior Management

Maureen Buchan - Senior Policy Director - Sophia Iliopoulos - Associate Director, Matthew Norris - Associate Director, Laura Beaudry - In-House Legal Advisor

POLICY – Economic Development

Sarah Behn - Economic Development Manager, Nikki Saadat - Ec Dev Senior Policy Analyst, Hannah Cripps - Ec Dev Junior Policy Analyst,

POLICY – Climate Change/Environment

Patricia Rojas - Regional Climate Change Coordinator/Policy Analyst, Kristi Denby - Climate Change-Environment Policy Analyst, Aaron Wood-Lyons - Regional Nature Coordinator, Charlotte Bull - Climate Change Junior Policy Analyst, Alyna De Guzman - Climate Change Junior Policy Analyst, Alexa Kerr-Warner - Climate Change Junior Policy Analyst.

POLICY

Rochelle King - Policy Analyst (Women/Gender), Mobi Atolagbe - Policy Analyst (Housing), Aiden McGrath - Policy Analyst (Policing/IRS/Justice), Landon Wagner - Policy Analyst (Children & Families)

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Harlan Schilling, CEO, Gordon Campbell, CFO, Katie Robertson, Director of Operations

The focus continues to be on streamlining operations to maximize efficiencies. Over the past year, senior management has worked on strengthening approval and communication pathways within departments/sectors, through the expansion of oversight procedures. As BCAFN continues to grow, we are utilizing best practices observed in provincial/national Indigenous organizations to ensure that we are strategically positioned to respond to emergent issues, and support the Regional Chief and our First Nations membership in the most effective ways possible.

BCAFN hosted our Special Chiefs Assembly earlier this year in February 2025 through a virtual format. We acknowledge that the in-person events provide an increased number of advantages, such as having our Chiefs and Proxies engaged in person as they can take the time to collaborate on resolutions while also connecting with their peers. We also realize that it can be difficult for our First Nations leadership to leave their community to attend our assemblies, as they manage an already demanding schedule. Moving forward, we will try to ensure our assemblies are hybrid with the ability for in-person attendance, but remain cognizant that our approach will need to be flexible and reflective of funding resource availability. The BCAFN Board of Directors have confirmed that the next Special Chiefs Assembly will take place on March 4 & 5, 2026, with further details on the assembly approach to be determined closer to the event.

It is anticipated that with new mandates being implemented both provincially and nationally, funding resources that had previously been accessible to BCAFN will begin to decrease, which may subsequently affect engagement strategies, portfolio support, and operations. We have already seen this in 2025-2026 funding acquisition, and have had to make the difficult decision to close our Vancouver Office, effective March 31, 2026. Within our Constitution and Bylaws, Article 2 Offices, section 2.1: *The principal office of the Society will be located on First Nation reserve lands in British Columbia and, as soon as is reasonably practicable after these Bylaws take effect, that location will be within the Greater Vancouver Regional District, as determined by the Board from time to time.*

Our primary office located in the Lheidli T'enneh community will remain in operation, while senior management continue to seek long-term sustainable office space opportunities on either Xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) or səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) reserve lands.

Moving forward, work will be undertaken to update the BCAFN Strategic Plan and the BCAFN Communications Plan. Internal engagements will occur with BCAFN Board of Directors, Knowledge Keepers, Women/Youth/2SLGBTQIA+ Representatives, and staff for these updates. External consultation with our membership will occur to determine ways to ensure that communication pathways are effective, efficient, and meaningful. At a time when email management can become cumbersome, alternative communication tools will be explored so that opportunities and information available to our membership are not missed.

On behalf of the BCAFN administration and policy staff, I look forward to continuing to work with our BC First Nations leadership as we collaboratively work towards forging a path forward for the betterment and benefit of our First Nations people through the advancement of our collective rights, title and jurisdiction.

Vanessa West (she/her) is a member of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and had served as an elected member of Council from 2001 to 2009 and from 2015-2019. She previously worked as the Treaty Office Manager for the Lheidli T'enneh Treaty Office for nine years from 1998-2007. Prior to taking on the role of Chief of Staff for the BC Assembly of First Nations, she worked with Positive Living North, an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS non-for-profit service organization, transitioning her career from First Nations politics to the social services field. Initially managing the street-level HIV/AIDS/HCV Prevention Program, the Fire Pit Cultural Drop-In Centre in 2007, she then moved into the role of Executive Director, which she held from 2008 to 2018. Read more about Vanessa at bcafn.ca

BCAFN Guiding Principles

VISION

First Nations governments exercising title, rights', and jurisdiction for our lands, resources and peoples in harmony with our customs, languages and laws.

MISSION

BCAFN will ensure that:

- First Nations title, rights, and jurisdiction are recognized and respected;
- First Nations cultural identities, systems of government and approaches to self-determination are the foundation of our success;
- First Nations jurisdiction, laws, territories and traditions are respected by governments, industry and the public;
- First Nations are empowered by governmental legislation, policies, programs and processes; and
- Our efforts support nation building, collective action and a focus on solutions.

MANDATE

- Advance the rights and interests of First Nations people in British Columbia;
- Restore and enhance the relationship among First Nations in British Columbia, the Crown and people of Canada;
- Develop and promote policies and resources for the benefit of First Nations in British Columbia including, but not limited to, governance, lands and resources, economic, environmental, social, education, health and cultural matters; and,
- Take direction from the Chiefs-in-Assembly according to the resolutions passed at Assemblies.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

First Nation Chiefs from coast to coast to coast direct the work of AFN through resolutions passed at Chiefs Assemblies held at least twice a year. The AFN National Executive is made up of the National Chief, 10 Regional Chiefs and the chairs of the Elders, Women's and Youth councils. Regional Chiefs are elected every three years by Chiefs in their regions. Chiefs, who are elected by the citizens and members of their respective communities, elect the National Chief every three years.

The role of the National Chief and the AFN is to advocate on behalf of First Nations as directed by Chiefs-in-Assembly. This includes facilitation and coordination of national and regional discussions and dialogue, advocacy efforts and campaigns, legal and policy analysis, communicating with governments, including facilitating relationship building between First Nations and the Crown as well as public and private sectors and general public.

Go to the afn.ca to learn more.



BC Caucus at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly in Winnipeg, Manitoba, September, 2025

National and Provincial Activity



Regional Chief Terry Teegee at the AFN press conference during the First Nations Summit in Gatineau, Que., July 17, 2025

Bill C-5 (federal) and Bills 14/15 (provincial)

Substantive legislative changes have advanced provincially and federally in recent months with respect to fast-tracking major energy and infrastructure projects in the province, despite significant opposition from rights and title holders in BC. The BCAFN and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) hosted several virtual meetings with Chiefs to support information sharing, seek input on the FNLC's position, and facilitate dialogue between rights holders and Crown representatives. This included hosting an emergency All Chiefs Meeting on Bill 14 - the *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting Act)* (SPA) and Bill 15 - the *Infrastructure Projects Act* (IPA) on May 15th, 2025 and an All Chiefs Meeting on Bill C-5 on July 15, 2025, in addition to contributing to the AFN National Virtual Forum on the Building Canada Act (BCA) on June 16th and July 10, 2025. Despite calls to pause legislation until adequate free, prior and informed consent was achieved, the laws were unilaterally developed by the Provincial and Federal Government contrary to the legal frameworks established, including BC's Interim Approach, to uphold the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which have been adopted as law provincially and federally.

The FNLC further prepared and released a Communique to rights and titleholders on [May 12th](#) and [May 23rd](#), 2025, to provide an analysis on the provincial bills and considerations for Chiefs regarding next steps in addition to several [press releases](#) advocating for the withdrawal of the bills, including a [joint statement](#) with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

In addition to [UBCM](#), opposition to the Bills has been swift and wide-ranging including:

- The Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council [demanded](#) the Province put Bill 15 through rigorous review by First Nations and amended to protect and respect rights and title.
- WJOLELP (Tsartlip First Nation) [rejected](#) Bill 15 and demanded its withdrawal.
- The BC Green Caucus has [announced](#) it will not support Bill 15.
- Stand.earth [urged](#) the Province to drop the Bills.
- Ecojustice [raised concerns](#) over Premier Eby's overreaching new bill.
- Commentators observed that Bill 15 [risks derailing reconciliation](#), was [not developed in accordance with the Declaration Act and Interim Approach](#), and threatens to [bulldoze rights and bypass democracy](#).



Regional Chief Terry Teegee taking questions from media during the First Nations Summit in Gatineau, Que., July 17, 2025

Legislative Overview and Overarching Concerns

The SPA and IPA received Royal Assent on May 29th, 2025. BCA received Royal Assent on June 26, 2025. The IPA and SPA have the potential to greatly impact First Nations' inherent, constitutional and human rights, title, and jurisdiction in their application and their intended outcomes. The Province has indicated an engagement process with rights and title holders to develop regulations under the associated acts will be underway throughout Summer 2025, however the province has not clearly articulated how rights holders will be meaningfully included in regulatory development to date. Moreover, The following section provides a high-level overview of the recently passed laws and their potential impacts.

Streamlining Projects Act

The SPA designates certain projects, such as certain wind energy initiatives and the North Coast Transmission Line project, as "streamlined," and places them into one of three regulatory tiers. These projects may be exempted from key permitting and environmental oversight under laws such as the [Environmental Assessment Act](#) ("EAA"), [Energy Resource Activities Act](#) ("ERAA"), [Wildlife Act](#), [Water Sustainability Act](#), and others. SPA also grants expanded authority to the [BC Energy Regulator](#) ("BCER"), allowing it to unilaterally designate major renewable energy projects, define key regulatory terms such as "renewable resource" and "renewable energy project", and make complex decisions with minimal oversight. Bill 14 does not include any framework for participation in decision making, or for obtaining free, prior, and informed consent from, First Nations whose rights and territories may be affected.

Infrastructure Projects Act

The SPA establishes an expedited regulatory framework by allowing certain constraints that may impede or otherwise interfere with the completion or operations of an infrastructure project to be replaced with alternative measures. Once approved by the Minister of Infrastructure, these replacement measures are legally deemed to satisfy the original requirements, and authorities must issue necessary permits and approvals accordingly, even if the project later loses its designation.

The IPA authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council (Cabinet) to designate “infrastructure projects”, being anything that includes the planning, development, construction, modification, and dismantling of infrastructure, and to expedite or replace existing approval, permitting, licensing, or other authorization processes for those designated projects. Like SPA, IPA contains no binding requirement for consultation and cooperation with First Nations at the project designation or approval stage, nor does it include related consent-based or decision-making processes.

Building Canada Act

The BCA has two operative parts. Part 1, the *Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act*, establishes mechanisms to remove federal trade and labour mobility barriers. Part 2, the *Building Canada Act* (the Act), establishes a process that would enable the streamlining of projects that are determined to be in the “national interest” (National Interest Projects). The Act does the following:

- enables the Governor in Council (GIC) to designate major resource and infrastructure projects within federal jurisdiction as being National Interest Projects;
- establishes a set of factors that will be used to determine whether a project is a National Interest Project;
- enables the responsible Minister to issue a blanket authorization and conditions document (Conditions Document) that will serve as the National Interest Project’s authorization for relevant federal approvals and permits;
- establishes a federal Major Projects Office to coordinate all stages of federal oversight of National Interest Projects; and
- enables the GIC to make regulations exempting National Interest Projects from the application of any provision of the Act or from the application of any provision of another federal enactment as set out Schedule 2 of the Act, or to vary the application of any provision of the Act or another enactment as set out in Schedule 2 of the Act.



Children and Families

CHRT and Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services

Today, First Nations in BC face significant delays in fully realizing their inherent right to jurisdiction over their children. As a result, First Nations children and families continue to experience harm and inequities in the existing child welfare system. The inherent right of jurisdiction over children and families held by First Nations is well-established. Mandated by BCAFN [Resolution 06/2025](#) (concerning a BC-specific pathway for reform) and [Resolution 20/2025](#) (in support of the National Children's Chiefs Commission), the Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle continues to be a priority following last year's rejection of the Final Settlement Agreement. This year, significant work has been completed to establish the mandate of the National Children's Chiefs Commission through technical support and the outstanding representation of BC Commissioners Kukpi7 Helen Henderson and Deb Foxcroft. As a part of this effort, finding a BC-specific pathway that meets the unique needs of our First Nations communities remains a central focus. Ongoing developments from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal have created a complex, fast-paced environment and Canada's unwillingness to negotiate in good faith continues to frustrate progress in this area. In response to these challenges, the FNLC sent a letter on March 17, 2025, to former Minister of Indigenous Services Patty Hajdu regarding the long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services Program (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle which directly requested that ISC address the unique needs of First Nations in BC



Mary Teegee, Chief Administration Officer, Child and Family Services addresses the Chiefs-in-Assembly, September 4, 2025 in Winnipeg, Man.



Mary Teegee, Chief Administration Officer, Child and Family Services, proxy for Saikuz First Nation, addresses the Chiefs-in-Assembly, September 4, 2025 in Winnipeg, Man.

on matters of Long-Term Reform. The response to this letter was non-committal. However, there is a concerted effort across regions to further work on a national plan with strong regional variations based on parameters set out by the CHRT. On August 29th, 2025, BCAFN sent a letter to ISC regarding the establishment of a table for BC-specific concerns on the Long-Term Reform of FNCFS – whether through the CHRT or otherwise. Given the high standards set by the CHRT for remedies which will end discrimination for First Nations children across multiple generations, there is sincere hope that this national plan will mean both lasting and meaningful change and a recognition of the unique needs of the BC region.

Flowing from the CHRT's landmark ruling and the subsequent \$23.2 billion dollar settlement providing compensation for all children and families who endured Canada's discrimination through the First Nations Child and Family Services program and Jordan's Principle, on March 10th, 2025, claims opened for the Removed Child Class and Removed Child Family Class which includes First Nations individuals removed from their homes between April 1st, 1991 and March 31st, 2022, and their caregiving parents or grandparents.



Cindy Blackstock addressing the Chiefs in Assembly in Winnipeg, September 4, 2025

Jordan's Principle

Addressing issues related to Jordan's Principle has remained a central focus for the BCAFN. There are approximately 140,000 outstanding Jordan's Principle requests across Canada and there is currently no functional means to triage the urgency or severity of requests. Despite repeated calls to address it, little action has been taken by Canada to directly alleviate or address the backlog. The BCAFN is fully committed to engaging with both provincial and federal officials to see the unreasonable burden of this backlog lifted from First Nations organizations, children, families, and caregivers.

Children and Youth in Care

In collaboration with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and FNLC partners, BCAFN has continued to support the joint table addressing the unique needs of First Nations Children and Youth in Care. At this table, the BCAFN continues its engagements with the Ministry of Child and Family Development and the Ministry of Education and Child Care on policy and legislative reform to ensure that the needs of First Nations children and youth in care are reflected, and that adequate funding and privacy provision are secured to best meet the needs of both individuals and communities.

Tripartite Working Group

Engagement with provincial and federal governments has continued through the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group. Alongside FNLC partners, this table advocates to ensure that First Nations in B.C. are adequately supported in the preparation, transition, and implementation of their inherent jurisdiction over their children and families and the provision of appropriate services and support for those communities who choose not to exercise this right. There have been significant challenges coordinating the attendance of government officials at these meetings and there are renewed calls to reinvigorate this table with hopes for a meeting before the end of fall to address the myriad concerns for Children and Families at both the federal and provincial level.

Additionally, the BCAFN has engaged both federal and provincial representatives concerning Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards (AOPSI) to ensure that First Nations children and youth receive care that is culturally aligned and consistent with the inherent rights and governance systems of First Nations. Together with the Our Children Our Way Society and FNLC partners, current pursuits focus on the establishment of a Steering Committee and the necessary funding and resourcing for both updating AOPSI and reenvisioning AOPSI into a fully rights-based framework.

Early Learning and Childcare Tripartite MOU

Alongside the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, First Nations Education Steering Committee, and FNLC partners, the Early Learning and Childcare Tripartite MOU tables continued to meet regularly to support self determination and First Nations jurisdiction over early learning and childcare in BC. Our priorities in this area are framed around nation-led systems for children and families that are backed by stable, equitable funding, are in alignment with the UN Declaration, and are grounded in First Nations practices and culture. This year has seen the foundations of this work established and operationalized and we anticipate significant developments in this area moving forward.

AFN Resolutions

The AFN's 46th Annual General Assembly (AGA) was held September 3–5, 2025 in Winnipeg. Alongside panel presentations from Dr. Cindy Blackstock of the Caring Society and NCCC Chair Chief Pauline Frost, several [resolutions](#) looked to directly address the issues facing First Nations Children and Families across Canada. AFN Resolution 51 / 2025 on Jordan's Principle Operations offers a comprehensive approach to addressing ongoing issues with Canada's approach to Jordan's Principle and the ever-growing backlog. Key strategies outlined in the resolution include the rejection of the Jordan's Principle Operational Bulletin, an amnesty approach to all requests in the backlog, the triaging of priority requests, and solutions to payment delays. AFN Resolution 49 / 2025 on Supporting Jordan's Principle Child-First Initiative and Upholding the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal 2016 CHRT 2 is similar in nature to DR-51 and calls on Canada to reject the Jordan's Principle Operational Bulletin and address the burdens put on service-level organizations. AFN Resolution 52 / 2025 on the Approval of Terms of Reference for FNCFS and Jordan's Principle Tables highlighted the lack of funding for the National Children's Chiefs Commission from Canada (who has yet to respond to their funding request) and approved the terms of reference of the NCCC and the NCCC Negotiation Team, thereby supporting the NCCC to continue its work in developing a National FNCFS Long-Term Reform Plan with regional variation. Even with the potential reallocation of \$1mil to the NCCC from the AFN – as called for in the resolution – the NCCC is experiencing a significant funding shortfall.

Citizenship /Membership

The BCAFN continues to advocate for the need to end sex-based discrimination in the *Indian Act* and to do so in a way that aligns with First Nations self-determination, as mandated by Resolution 01/2023 *Ending Sex-Based Discrimination in the Indian Act*, in alignment with the *UN Declaration*. From June 2023 onwards, BCAFN is one of 17 Indigenous organizations across Canada to be a member of the Indigenous Advisory Process ("IAP"). The IAP was launched as part of the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cut-Off and Section 10 Voting Thresholds by the former Minister of Indigenous Services Canada ("ISC"), Patty Hajdu in response to Canada's commitment to "co-develop a collaborative consultation process on a suite of broader reforms relating to registration and band membership issues" in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act's Action Plan, (First Nations Priority APM #8). In September 2025 the IAP was renewed by ISC and as part of this effort, the BCAFN and UBCIC are launching a campaign and will co-host a webinar to engage First Nation communities and encourage them to take advantage of the resources developed by Harmony Johnson. The resources and webinar are designed to help BC First Nations better understand and critically engage with the issues surrounding sex-discrimination and the consultation process. The goal is to ensure that First Nations are fully supported in their participation in ISC-led consultation processes and to foster greater awareness within their communities.

BCAFN continues to monitor the former Bill C-38 (introduced December 2022) *An Act to Amend the Indian Act* (new registration entitlements), which was terminated on January 6, 2025, when Parliament was prorogued. Identical legislation has now been reintroduced in Parliament as Bill S-2. Bill S-2 seeks to address the following four issues: enfranchisement; voluntary deregistration; natal band reaffiliation; and the removal of outdated and offensive language related to dependent persons. This is important as the amendments proposed are in response to concerns raised by First Nation communities, and First Nation organizations during 50 or more virtual engagement sessions hosted from August to December 2022 by Indigenous Services Canada as part of the consultation process for former Bill C-38. If enacted, according to the records from *Nicholas v. Attorney General (Canada)*, 2025, BCSC 1596, ISC estimated that 6,200 people could become eligible for registration over 13 years. As of September 24, 2025, the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples have been meeting to study and deliberate Bill S-2, *An Act to amend the Indian Act* (new registration entitlements). Advocates and legal experts from all levels of government to organizations down to individuals have been witnesses or made submissions for the consideration of the Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples. To learn more and follow along this process you can access documents and the meeting schedule [here](#)

Climate Emergency



Regional Chief Terry Teegee addresses the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Forum

Some parts of the province experienced a rainy and wet summer, while other parts experienced drought, dry weather, and a late summer heat wave that led to several large wildfires. Despite the escalating climate impacts, the BC government continues to fall short on meeting its legislated 2030 climate emissions targets. Despite crown governments' lack of investment and political commitment to climate action, First Nations continue to lead the way in combating and responding to climate change. The BCAFN will continue working under the direction of Regional Chief Terry Teegee to support First Nation-led climate action and leadership and implement the various climate mandates received by First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly.

BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (BC FNCSAP)

[BC FNCSAP](#) centres First Nations in BC to advance strategic actions addressing the climate emergency. These actions align with inherent and constitutionally protected First Nations' rights, title and treaty rights, and seek to foster the inclusion

of Indigenous Knowledge and knowledge systems and worldviews in climate policy and planning. BCAFN, in partnership with the FNLC, is collectively implementing and advocating for First Nations-led climate action and full implementation of the BC FNCSAP. Recent activities include:

- A Clean BC Review submission and ongoing participation on the [FNLC-BC Technical Working Group on Climate Change](#)
- Collaborating with the Great Bear Initiative on a province-wide Climate Change Capacity Assessment Report and a First Nations climate action planning guide
- Scoping the development of resources to support First Nations-centred climate education.
- Working in collaboration with the [Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions \(PICS\)](#) in implementing the FNLC-PICS Relationship Protocol to create research opportunities and partnerships between PICS, the FNLC, and First Nations rights and title holders.

First Nation Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) and AFN-Canada Joint Community on Climate Action (JCCA)

BCAFN continues to collaborate with the AFN's Environmental, Water and Land sector through the ACE and the Regional Climate Change Coordinators Network, as well as with Canada via the [JCCA](#). In May 2025, regional political and technical representatives convened under the ACE to review priorities in critical areas and the current political context, including conservation and biodiversity, environmental health, impact assessment, economic reconciliation, Climate Change, freshwater protection and sustainable development. BCAFN has been actively advocating for First Nations' climate key issues at the JCCA table, including the implementation of the BC FNCL Agenda. The 2024 JCCA report is available on the [JCCA website](#).

From Vision to Action: the BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (BC FNCL Agenda)

During the summer of 2024, BCAFN drafted the BC FNCL Agenda High-level Recommendations Report, building on the [BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan](#) based on the extensive engagement, to inform a Memorandum to Cabinet and a Treasury Board Submission. The BC FNCL Agenda's final report and recommendations were endorsed by First Nations leadership at the BCAFN

21st Special Chiefs Assembly via [Resolution 05/2025](#). This final report presents twenty-four (24) concrete recommendations across eleven (11) themes in alignment with the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan and to support and transform First Nations climate leadership and action. The final report can be found on the BCAFN website.

Despite progress being stalled on the federal side due to political and economic uncertainty, BCAFN continues to advocate for the implementation of the BC FNCL Agenda in alignment with the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan. BCAFN has begun to undertake several activities to support the implementation of the FNCL Agenda recommendations, including program delivery reform research and analysis, supporting three regional self-determined climate gatherings ([Resolution 04/2024](#)) and hosting a panel at Adaptation Futures in October 2025 in New Zealand. The panel will reflect on the BC FNCL Agenda and explore how First Nations-led climate action, leadership, and governance can be transformed through Ceremony.



Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales, Minister Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development, Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Lewis Archer, Save the Children, at the press conference announcing funding for Indigenous-led climate projects and partnerships between Latin America and Canada

Building Climate Resilience from Indigenous Perspectives (BCRIP)

BCAFN remains committed to fostering partnerships and relationships between Indigenous Peoples around the world and First Nations in BC, which are vital for climate adaptation and resilience. Indigenous Peoples have an intrinsic relationship and interconnectedness with Mother Nature and possess ancestral knowledge systems, science, and technologies.

BCAFN, in partnership with Save the Children Canada and the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA SUR), continues to collaborate on the implementation of the [Building Climate Resilience from Indigenous Perspectives Project](#). The BCRIP project was [jointly announced in November 2024](#) and is a four-year (2024 – 2028) Indigenous-led project funded by Global Affairs Canada ([Indigenous Peoples Partnering for Climate funding stream](#)). The BCRIP project will fund Indigenous-led Nature-Based Solutions Partnership Projects in Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala. These projects will be co-designed and co-implemented in partnership with First Nations in BC and Indigenous Peoples in Canada and include knowledge sharing, relationship building, and joint advocacy opportunities. A call for proposals was open in the Spring of 2025, and proposal evaluation and selection will be complete by the end of September 2025.

The BCRIP Project is an opportunity to deliver on BCAFN's mandate ([Resolution 32/2023](#) and [Resolution 05/2021](#)) to pursue international advocacy opportunities on climate change, Indigenous rights, and sovereignty and build relationships for joint action and advocacy with Indigenous Peoples abroad.

Carbon Toolkit

Support First Nations Community-Based Climate Leadership: BC First Nations Carbon. BCAFN works to support First Nations in their climate leadership by providing information about carbon-related policies, frameworks and instruments such as taxes, protocols, and markets to ensure alignment with inherent title, rights, and Treaty rights. Between June and August 2025, Alexa Kerr-Warner, a proud Gitksan youth, joined the BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio Team through the B.C. Government's Indigenous Youth Internship Program. Alexa prepared a research report on Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreements (ABSAs) and carbon offsets to inform BCAFN advocacy for First Nations-led carbon offset projects. Upon completion of her internship on August 29, 2025, Alexa will continue to be employed part-time in the BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio.

In September 2025, BCAFN, in partnership with Ecotrust Canada, delivered two workshops in partnership with Seabird Island Band and Skwah First Nation. The workshops guided participants through the First Nations Carbon Toolkit, including an overview of carbon offsets, carbon markets, provincial offset protocols, and pathways to starting a carbon project. BCAFN continues to participate in the federal First Nations Focus Group for Integrated Forest Management (IFM) on Public Lands to ensure that the development of the protocol considers the priorities of BC First Nations regarding carbon offset development, including the alignment of the protocol with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.



First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Forum Panel: Improving accessibility to transportation for First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Individuals and responding to Calls for Justice 4.8, 8.1 & 17.9. Orene Askew, Tiffany D. Hind Bull-Prete, Lorna Brown, Anna McKenzie

Low-Carbon Transportation Project

The BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio continues to implement the [First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project](#) (2022 - 2027) to improve First Nations' access to safe, affordable, reliable, accessible low-carbon transportation. The Phase 1 Pilot Project Communities wrapped up in March 2025 and the BCAFN Climate Portfolio secured funding to support a further six Pilot Project Communities as part of Phase 2. The selected communities will each receive \$65,000 to develop a Low-Carbon Transportation Plan and Gap and Opportunities Analysis Report. BCAFN will provide ongoing support

in the development and implementation of their low-carbon transportation plan through regular meetings and in-person visits.

On May 27-28, 2025, BCAFN hosted the inaugural First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Forum, on the territory of the Lheidli T'enneh in Prince George. The forum highlighted First Nations-led leadership in low-carbon transportation and climate action while advancing conversations on improving mobility and transportation access through the lenses of justice, equity, safety, and reconciliation.

BCAFN, in collaboration with the Community Energy Association, developed a draft BC First Nations Transportation Assessment Report and Action Plan and will seek endorsement at BCAFN's 22nd Annual General Meeting, October 28-30, 2025. This report will support BCAFN and First Nation-led advocacy efforts for improved policies, programs, shared decision-making, and investment that prioritize a just, equitable, accessible, safe, affordable, and efficient transportation and low-carbon transportation system that aligns with the needs, realities, and priorities of First Nations in BC. The report brings together research, survey findings, and lessons from the Pilot Project Communities to identify barriers, opportunities, and recommendations for policy reform. BCAFN hosted a Virtual Engagement Session on September 8, 2025 with First Nations Chiefs, leadership and technical staff to provide space for dialogue, discussion and feedback on the Transportation Action Plan themes and recommendations.



First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Forum Keynote Speaker - Dr. Jacob Taylor (Phd), Curve Lake First Nation, Ontario

Culture and Heritage

Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project

BCAFN, with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), has been working with BC on reforming BC's heritage legislation. The Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project (HCATP) aims to ensure the *HCA* is consistent with the *UN Declaration*, in accordance with Section 3 of the *BC Declaration Act*. FNLC appoints First Nations representatives to a Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (JWGFNHC or JWG) with BC to lead the transformation process. FNLC also provides policy and legal support to the JWG.

Based on the JWG's submissions and past engagement with First Nations, the provincial government recently provided policy direction for the new legislation. Key intentions include:

- affirming First Nations' inherent rights in relation to their cultural heritage;
- expanding the definition of "heritage" to include First Nations values and provide expanded protections; and
- affirming First Nations as decision-makers regarding where ancestors and heritage belongings are held and cared for.

The transformed *HCA* will also include a suite of decision-making options for Nations to exercise decision-making and jurisdiction with respect to cultural heritage.

The JWG is now working on the legislation itself, targeted for introduction in Spring 2026. Consultation and cooperation with First Nations on the legislation is underway.

Repatriation Policy Framework

In addition, BCAFN and FNLC are working with BC to co-develop a provincial Repatriation Policy Framework in alignment with the *UN Declaration*, in response to BC Declaration Act Action Plan Measure 4.33.

The Policy Framework will

- support First Nations leading repatriation efforts;
- provide guidance to BC heritage-holding organizations, including museums, archaeological repositories, archives, and universities; and
- set standards for the return and care of ancestors and belongings that these organizations must follow.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Concrete Actions and *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

Concrete Actions established a systemic reconciliation agenda, with commitments to change for laws, policies, practices, and institutions in ways that uphold title and rights, and Indigenous human rights.

One of the commitments in the Concrete Actions – the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* includes tools and obligations to advance tangible actions and structural changes that ultimately will support reconciliation and transformative change.

The past year has seen some successes, but a significant number of challenges, tensions, and risks of regression in advancing this agenda.

Alignment of Laws

Section 3 of the *Declaration Act* obligates the Province to take all measures necessary to ensure its laws are consistent with the UN Declaration, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples. Consultation and cooperation is informed by the [Interim Approach to Implementing the Requirements of the Section 3 of the *Declaration Act*](#), which describes a legislative development process that involves five points in time.

This creates space for First Nations governments to be involved in legislative and policy development in accordance with their needs and priorities, and to ensure that the province's laws uphold First Nations self-determination and role in decision-making, among other *UN Declaration* standards.

In past years, efforts have focused on creating a consistent process and guidance for various Ministries to consult and cooperate with First Nations on legislative and policy design. Results have included significant pieces of legislation such as the *Emergency Disaster Management Act*, *Health Professions & Occupations Act*, *Anti-Racism Act*, and the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*.

This year, major tension has been created due to the Crown unilaterally passing significant pieces of legislation that have implications for title and rights without following the Interim Approach – such as that related to energy and infrastructure. As a result, these bills do not reflect Indigenous human rights, such as the right to free, prior, and informed consent.

Additionally, we are seeing growing public backlash and racism to our efforts to embed Indigenous human rights and the commitments of the *Declaration Act* in legislation, further creating tension, friction, and a freezing effect on this work.

In recognition of the capacity that First Nations governments require to participate in consultation and cooperation, a [Declaration Act Engagement Fund](#) was established in 2023, providing a four-year funding contribution to First Nations to support their capacity to engage with the Province. It is unclear if the Province intends to renew this funding envelope.

Ultimately, this past year has been a significant challenge for legislative and policy conformity with the *UN Declaration*. This coming year, we will continue to press for the Province to uphold its legislative obligation to consultation and cooperation, and conclude co-development of a number of critical bills of interest to First Nations, including the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

Action Plan & Annual Report

Section 4 requires the Province to develop and implement an action plan, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, to meet the objectives of the *UN Declaration*. The five-year [Declaration Act Action Plan](#) released in 2022 sets out 89 actions in four key theme areas focusing on areas like self-determination, rights, ending racism, and enhancing well-being.

The last report for 2024/25 was issued in June. Work is underway on 78 of the original 89 priority actions, with the remaining 11 actions not yet initiated or on hold. Recurring themes of progress in the last report include:

- Efforts to establish and support culturally safe services, such as shelters and transitional homes, and fund Indigenous-led prevention programs for family and youth violence.
- Developing culturally relevant materials and using diverse approaches, including storytelling and land-based gatherings, to increase awareness and understanding of the *Declaration Act* and Action Plan among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
- Strengthening government-to-government relationships with First Nations through partnerships and agreements that support their self-governance and priorities.

Many of the most substantive actions are multi-year in nature, including fundamental issues such as accommodating our languages in provincial systems, eradicating racism from systems and institutions, supporting shared decision-making agreements, and supporting substantive equality in health, social, and educational outcomes.

Agreements

Sections 6 and 7 of the *Declaration Act* enable the Province to enter into decision-making and consent-based agreements with Indigenous governing bodies.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee speaks at a press conference during the First Nations Leadership Gathering held in January, 2025 (photo by BC Government)

A major barrier is that these agreements require further legislative enablement across all sectors. It is a near-impossible process to enable these agreements across individual statutes, as was done for example in the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*. This will take years to produce sufficient space for shared decision-making and consent agreements across all sectors of interest and priority to First Nations governments, and this approach runs risk of racism and public backlash as we saw with the *Land Act*. This is a key reason why so few of these agreements have been reached to date. It is imperative that this work be accelerated in a more comprehensive and consistent way.

Nation Rebuilding & Territorial Boundaries

Concrete Actions committed to supporting Nations in their work of Nation rebuilding, governance development, and resolution of territorial boundary matters. Many years of previous work among Nations has taken place on this matter. As increasing pressure mounts in our relationships with the Crown, it is all the more important to strengthen our governance and our agreements among ourselves.

The FNLC is synthesizing all previous work on this issue and developing a set of practical tools and supports for Nations to advance their own work in this regard. This work will be tested through on-the-ground projects with interested Nations to ensure adaptation and efficacy.

This report highlights the important progress and the major ongoing challenges with respect to our joint agendas with the Province of BC. We have provided significant leadership in this work across the country and the world, however, threats to this progress are increasing. Facing these threats requires us to remain vigilant, hold the Crown accountable to its obligations, and build strength and unity from within.



Khelsilem and Sempulyan speak at the First Nations Leadership Gathering held in January, 2025 (photo by BC Government)

Economic Development

BCAFN advances economic reconciliation and growth through policy advocacy, research, and projects that bolster First Nations' economic sovereignty. This year's priorities reflect the shifting socio-economic climate, including legislative and regulatory changes to facilitate natural resource extraction, trade and tariffs, cost of living, and food security. Advocacy and representation include Global Affairs Canada's Indigenous-Trade table (I-Trade, formerly the Indigenous Working Group on Trade), the BC Trade and Economic Security Task Force (TEST), the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED), the BC Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food (IACAF), and BC's External Advisory Council for the Indigenous Procurement Initiative (EAC IPI).

First Nations Trade and Economic Sovereignty

The Trump administration's aggressive and sweeping trade policies directly impact First Nations' inherent rights and economies in BC, highlighting the need to diversify trade markets and advocate for economic opportunities and self-determination. The province of BC responded to the threat of US tariffs with Bill 14, the Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act and Bill 15, the Infrastructure Projects Act. The former focuses on fast-tracking renewable energy and transmission infrastructure, and the latter allows for the expedited review of broader infrastructure, such as housing, mines, and pipelines.

Citing Bill 14 and Bill 15's conflict with the Province's obligations under the *Declaration Act*, [Regional Chief Terry Teegee withdrew his participation in Premier Eby's Asia Trade Mission](#). Regional Chief Teegee affirmed that First Nations rights and title take precedence over international promotion, and that sustainable growth rests on respect, relationships, co-development, and fair outcomes.

Regional Chief Teegee will lead a First Nations trade mission to Aotearoa/New Zealand in early 2026. The project was developed in partnership with the Federation of Māori Authorities (FoMA) and supported by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) through the Indo-Pacific Regional Connectivity Envelope. The Indo-Pacific holds markets of opportunity, with alignment in people-to-people connections, economic priorities, and geographical alignment. The Indo-Pacific is projected to account for 50% of the world's GDP by 2040, making it a priority for First Nations businesses exporting. The mission, bringing together First Nations in BC and Māori to build enduring business and cultural relationships, is a foundational step toward sovereign trade within Indo-Pacific regions and diversifying markets beyond the U.S.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee at the Opening Reception for the BCAFN Economic Development Forum

FNLC All-Chiefs Meeting on Tariffs

In February 2025, the [First Nations Leadership Council](#) (FNLC) convened an All-Chiefs Meeting on U.S. Tariffs: Understanding Impacts on First Nations and a First Nations Strategic Response, in response to the announcement of new tariffs by the Trump administration. The meeting gave space to Chiefs and leadership to explore the potential impacts of U.S. trade tariffs and federal and provincial countermeasures, as well as a space to share perspectives that shape primary discussions around critical trade strategies.



BCAFN Economic Development Forum Forestry Panel: Markets of Opportunity with Chief Jerry Jack, CEO COE Harlan Schilling, Lennard Joe, CEO FNFC and Regional Chief Terry Teegee

Economic Development Annual Forum

In March 2025, BCAFN hosted its annual Economic Development Forum, Economic Sovereignty Beyond Borders, on the lands of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples in Victoria, BC. The forum opened with an evening reception featuring the Tzinquaw Dancers and a special-collection fashion show by producers and talent from Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week, showcasing the strength and diversity of First Nations economies across industries. Over the program, First Nations business and economic development leaders, as well as emerging youth voices, shared strategies for advancing economic sovereignty and building values-aligned partnerships. The forum underscored that First Nations' economic sovereignty extends beyond borders and encompasses First Nations' right to self-determination, intergenerational prosperity, and respectful partnerships. The gathering closed in a good way with the Ləkʷəŋən Traditional Dancers.



Keynote speaker Shannon Baker

Indo-Pacific Strategy Feedback Session

BCAFN facilitated a virtual Indo-Pacific Feedback Strategy session for Global Affairs Canada (GAC), creating a direct channel for First Nations in BC to shape Canada's trade strategy for the Indo-Pacific. Through this collaboration, GAC outlined the federal Indo-Pacific Strategy while First Nations participants offered feedback to align Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy with First Nations' defined priorities. Participants underscored alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), environmental stewardship, cultural and data sovereignty, opportunities for relationship building in the region, and the support and resources needed to ensure export-readiness. The session highlights that meaningful inclusion and co-development with First Nations are essential to trade strategy and policy.



Rural and Remote Economic Development Series

BCAFN convened Rural and Remote Economic Development Sessions on the traditional territories of the Lheidli T'enneh (Prince George), the traditional lands of the Dane-Zaa (Fort St. John), and the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations, home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation (Parksville). The sessions began with a presentation from contractor Maggie Mills on gaps, challenges and opportunities for rural and remote First Nations in BC. Through participant-led discussions, challenges and solutions were explored, demonstrating distinct economic barriers require First Nations-led innovative solutions to closing gaps in outcomes for First Nations communities and citizens in BC.

Looking Ahead

BCAFN Economic Development will continue to address challenges and advocate for opportunities for First Nations in BC amid a shifting socio-economic climate. Our approach affirms that meaningful inclusion and co-development with First Nations are essential to effective economic policies across all sectors. BCAFN will continue implementing mandates from the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly and support priorities and initiatives determined by First Nations.

For updates on our initiatives and upcoming events, please visit events.bcafn.ca or contact our Economic Development team at sarah.behn@bcfn.ca, hannah.cripps@bcfn.ca and nikki.saadat@bcfn.ca

Economic Development - Centre of Excellence

Over the past year, the First Nations Centre of Excellence (FNCOE) has continued to strengthen partnerships, expand its services, and deliver hands-on economic development support to First Nations across British Columbia. Through a targeted, community-focused approach, the FNCOE has worked directly with Nations and development entities, providing tailored support in economic planning, project management, governance advisory, funding alignment, and diversification strategies.

Key highlights from the year include:

- Hosting in-person engagement sessions with partner communities to support local economic priorities.
- Participating in the Indigenous Economic Pathways Conference in Campbell River to share strategies and foster collaboration.
- Building strong partnerships with government, industry, and community organizations to enhance economic opportunities for First Nations.
- Expanding international relationships through CEO Harlan Schilling's engagement in Australia, where he met with Indigenous leaders, government officials, and business innovators to explore cross-jurisdictional strategies for Indigenous-led economic growth. Most recently, Harlan is representing the FNCOE at Supply Nation's Connect 2025 in Sydney, further strengthening international partnerships and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

Looking ahead, the FNCOE will focus on providing community-driven support, with an emphasis on delivering responsive and high-impact services to First Nations across the province.

The FNCOE remains committed to advancing Indigenous-led economic development through collaboration, practical support, and a service delivery model that meets communities where they are. Go to fncoe.ca to learn more.



First Nations Centre of Excellence for Economic Development CEO Harlan Schilling speaking at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting 2024

Emergency Management and Wildfire/Flood Emergency Response

In 2025, the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) continued to advance the mandates given by Chiefs-in-Assembly to secure a new rights-based Multilateral Emergency Management Services Agreement with Canada and British Columbia. This work is critical as the current bilateral agreement between Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) expires in 2027 and only funds on-reserve preparedness and response. Chiefs have been clear that a replacement must close long-standing gaps, uphold First Nations jurisdiction, and direct sustainable funding to rights holders.

This year, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and its multilateral partners advanced Phase 2 of the Multilateral process. Building on Phase 1 outcomes, which secured 34 First Nation Emergency Program Coordinators and new mitigation projects, Phase 2 is focused on costing the full scope of service delivery, identifying roles and responsibilities, and developing a Joint Business Case with ISC and EMCR for Treasury Board consideration. This work is supported by technical experts and draws on foundational reports such as the Abbott/Chapman Review, the Nadleh Whut'en Trial by Fire report, Tsilhqot'in Nation's *The Fires Awakened Us*, and the 2017 Tripartite Emergency Management Review.

BCAFN continues to advocate for direct, sustainable funding to First Nations and recognition of inherent jurisdiction under the *Declaration Act*, *UN Declaration*, the *UN Declaration Act*, as well as the Sendai Framework, across all areas of emergency management. The FNLC will also host a provincial Emergency Management Forum to provide updates and seek further direction from title and rights holders on the draft Multilateral Framework.

Throughout 2025, First Nations have faced another record wildfire season alongside rising risks from flooding and drought. Since April 1, there have been 123 wildland fires, impacting 98 First Nations and forcing the evacuation of 73 communities on-reserve and eligible under EMAP. As of September 2, 11 First Nations remained directly affected and 21 were under evacuation, with more than 8,000 individuals displaced across western Canada. A [current map of BC wildfire locations is available here](#). These impacts underline the urgency of moving from short-term responses to long-term resilience, including land-based approaches such as Indigenous fire stewardship. BCAFN is committed to securing an agreement that is First Nations-led, fully resourced, and capable of protecting communities from the increasing impacts of climate change.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

The BC Assembly of First Nations and Regional Chief Terry Teegee continue to advocate for the protection and revitalization of wild salmon populations, the health of marine and freshwater ecosystems, and the full recognition of First Nations rights and jurisdiction in fisheries governance. Salmon are central to the cultural identity, food systems, and economies of many First Nations across BC. However, the combined threats of climate change, habitat degradation, industrial development, and regulatory exclusion have exacerbated the long-term decline of salmon populations and other culturally significant aquatic species.

Signs of Resurgence and Ongoing Crisis

This year, the Fraser River is witnessing a historic surge in Sockeye return, with over 10 million Sockeye expected, levels not seen in decades. This rebound is in part due to the successful restoration of fish passageways at the Big Bar landslide site, a major effort spearheaded by First Nations since 2019. This success story demonstrates the power of First Nations-led habitat restoration in securing the future of wild salmon.

Yet, this positive development contrasts sharply with the realities in other regions. The 2024 T̓silhqox (Chilcotin River) landslide obstructed critical fish passage and severely disrupted salmon migration and access to culturally vital areas. This contrast underscores the uneven state of salmon recovery across the province and the urgent need for sustained, First Nation-led restoration efforts and long-term emergency preparedness in all watersheds.

National Advocacy and Leadership

Regional Chief Teegee continues to serve as Pacific Region Co-Chair of the AFN National Fisheries Committee (NFC) and represents BCAFN at key national forums. In August 2025, he participated in the Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial (IFPT) dialogue with the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) and in the AFN National Fisheries Committee, advancing the following priorities:

- Full transition from open-net pen fish farming by 2029.
- Rights-based fisheries frameworks and regulatory reform.
- Legislative modernization of the Fisheries Act.
- Improved marine and inland water emergency planning.
- Strengthened First Nations representation on CCFAM and related decision-making bodies.

Transition from Open-Net Pen Salmon Farming

The transition away from open-net pen salmon aquaculture remains a core fisheries priority. While the federal government initially committed to a 2025 timeline, its decision to delay full transition until 2029 generated concern among BC First Nations. BCAFN continues to call for a clear, co-developed transition plan that:

- Respects First Nations laws, values, and self-determination.
- Includes economic transition support for Nations impacted by the phase-out.
- Reflects social, environmental, and jurisdictional considerations.

Regional Chief Teegee has emphasized that isolated successes, such as the Fraser Sockeye run, must not obscure the broader crisis facing salmon in BC, nor delay urgent reforms to aquaculture policy.

Fisheries Governance and Rights-Based Fisheries

BCAFN continues to advocate for the implementation of rights-based fisheries in BC, where First Nations can manage and access their fisheries guided by their own laws and governance systems. Landmark decisions such as *Sparrow*, *Gladstone*, and *Ahousaht* affirmed First Nations constitutionally protected rights to fish for food, social, and ceremonial purposes. However, enforcement practices, regulatory uncertainty, and prolonged litigation have undermined these rights and left many Nations in a state of recognized but not implemented.

Emerging assertions of Métis harvesting rights in areas with no historical Métis presence have also raised legal concerns, particularly where they overlap with First Nations constitutionally protected fishing territories. While BCAFN supports the advancement of rights for all Indigenous peoples, this must not come at the expense of First Nations inherent and territorial rights.

Fisheries Act Legislative Review

The mandatory five-year review of the *Fisheries Act* officially began in early 2024, offering a pivotal opportunity to align federal legislation with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the realities of First Nations fisheries governance. Under [AFN Resolution](#) 22/2024, BCAFN and the National Fisheries Committee (NFC) have called for:

- Full First Nations participation in the review process.
- Adequate funding and technical support for communities.
- Meaningful legislative amendments that embed recognition of inherent and Treaty-protected rights.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee will address the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans on October 23, 2025 in their five-year review of the *Fisheries Act*. A written submission will also be provided to the committee.

Marine and Inland Waters Emergency Preparedness

As raised at CCFAM, BCAFN is also calling for serious investments in emergency preparedness on BC's coast and inland waterways. From spills to tragedies, the absence of coordinated response infrastructure has devastating consequences. First Nations are often the first responders to remote marine and environmental emergencies, yet lack the necessary support and equipment.

Under [AFN Resolution](#) 20/2024, BCAFN is advocating for:

- Long-term resourcing for First Nations-led emergency response systems.
- Infrastructure investments beyond pilot projects.

The BCAFN and Regional Chief Terry Teegee remain steadfast in their commitment to ensure that salmon, fisheries, and aquatic ecosystems are protected through policy and legislative frameworks that uphold First Nations rights, jurisdiction, and knowledge systems. Whether in habitat restoration, aquaculture reform, emergency response, or legislative modernization, First Nations must be recognized as full partners, leading solutions that reflect their deep and enduring relationships with land, water, and fish.

Housing and Homelessness

First Nations Housing and Homelessness Forums

BCAFN successfully hosted the 2024 First Nations Housing and Homelessness Forum in collaboration with the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) from November 5-7, 2024, at the Coast Kamloops Hotel on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory. The hybrid event brought together BC First Nations leadership, housing managers, policymakers, technicians, service providers, and community members to engage in critical discussion on a wide range of issues impacting First Nations housing. The BC First Nations Housing Managers Association hosted a Pre-Forum Workshop, where housing managers were provided with valuable insights to enhance their work in housing administration and advocacy.

BCAFN staff developed a What We Heard Report outlining the key recommendations from the forum, please read the report at this [link](#). Staff have also consolidated the recommendations into [Resolution 12/2025](#) which was endorsed and passed by BC Chiefs-in-Assembly in February 2025.

On September 16 & 17 2025, together with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), the First Nations Summit (FNS), and the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC), BCAFN hosted the 3rd Annual First Nations housing forum at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre on the traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. The What We Heard Report from the event is now under development, however, in the meantime, all relevant materials from the forum can be found at this [link](#)



BCAFN-FNHIC 2024 Housing and Homelessness Forum Lived Experience Panel (Julia O'Quinn, Angell Olsen, Crystal Lewis and Quintin Courtoreille) with Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Harvey McLeod

BCAFN Housing and Homelessness Advocacy

BCAFN continues its strong advocacy to uphold First Nations inherent rights, title, and self-determination with respect to housing and infrastructure as well as to address the disproportionate over-representation of First Nations peoples among those experiencing homelessness. BCAFN [Resolution 12/2025](#), *Advancing First Nations' Right to Culturally Appropriate Housing and Infrastructure*, calls upon all levels of government in Canada to respect and affirm First Nations' fundamental human right to housing by urgently releasing the \$349.2 billion required to close the infrastructure gap between First Nations and the rest of Canada by 2030.

The resolution further urges BC municipalities to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (*UN Declaration*) at the local level and repeal punitive anti-homelessness bylaws while committing to working with First Nations as territorial rights holders on municipal responses to homeless encampments. BCAFN staff continue to work to fulfil chiefs' mandate as directed by the resolution and have sent follow up letters to relevant municipal, provincial and federal authorities. Please read the full resolution at bcfn.ca

Regional Chief Terry Teegee continues to monitor homelessness encampment responses around the province. Following the leak of a City of Vancouver memo detailing plans to rehouse Indigenous residents in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) to their "home" communities, Regional Chief Teegee, in a press release, strongly condemned the proposal as a violation of First Nations inherent rights, title, and self-determination with respect to housing as well as a contravention of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)* which articulates First Nations peoples' rights to be protected from relocation and population transfer.

Regional Chief Teegee further met with Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim to discuss the need for culturally safe, Nation-based solutions that respect First Nations rights and are developed in partnership with First Nations leadership and urban Indigenous service providers.

Regional Chief Teegee also continues to monitor encampment responses in Prince George with the goal of ensuring First Nations rights are respected and protected. In 2021, BCAFN participated as an intervenor in the City of Prince George case against residents of two homeless encampments in the city. The court ruling at that time prohibited the City from clearing the Moccasin Flats encampment on the basis that "absent other suitable housing and daytime facilities, the occupants of those encampments must be permitted to stay at the encampments". The City most recently returned to court in August 2025 seeking broad injunctions regarding who could be categorized as "sheltering illegally" or "trespassing", and while those injunctions were not granted, the most recent court ruling has authorized the City to clear out the Moccasin Flats encampment if the remaining residents do not accept offers of housing (however unsuitable they might be) within 7 days of the order. Previous BCAFN resolutions have affirmed First Nations' right to housing and called for sustainable funding for culturally appropriate housing that supports First Nations inherent rights, title, and self-determination ([Resolutions 08/2020](#) and [08/2024](#)). Specifically, [Resolution 12/2025](#) calls on municipalities to repeal punitive bylaws and commit to working with First Nations as territorial rights holders on municipal responses to homeless encampments. We will keep Chiefs informed of any other critical developments as they arise.

Hunting and Wildlife

Exercising our inherent right to hunt is crucial in stewarding and monitoring the land, water, and wildlife for seven generations and beyond. The climate crisis, industrial development, drought, polluted waterways, and habitat loss continue to disrupt traditional hunting practices and grounds, undermining First Nations food security, cultural continuity, and the health of ecosystems.

In 2022, through [Resolution 11/2022](#), the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the BCAFN to advance the recognition of First Nations Rights, Title, Treaty Rights, and traditional protocols related to hunting and wildlife. In response, BCAFN and Regional Chief Terry Teegee continue to advocate for wildlife and habitat protection rooted in First Nations jurisdiction, self-determination, and stewardship.

BCAFN continues to monitor several key initiatives including the *Wildlife Act* Review. First Nations engagement on the *Wildlife Act* review occurred from October 2023 to March 2024, raising important concerns around the need for shared decision-making, co-management arrangements, long-term funding mechanisms, improved collaboration and data transparency. Legislative amendments are currently targeted for spring 2026.

In March 2025, BCAFN attended a national presentation hosted by the AFN on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal brain disease affecting deer, elk, moose, and other cervids. Since its first detection in British Columbia in February 2024 (Kootenay Region), First Nations have raised alarm about its implications for food sovereignty. The AFN's briefing emphasized the potential for spread, long-term persistence of the disease in the environment, and the need for transparent communication, increased funding, surveillance, and engagement with First Nations in monitoring and management efforts. BCAFN will continue to advocate for First Nations-led monitoring, improved testing, clear and culturally appropriate communication strategies, and precautionary approaches to containing CWD and other wildlife disease threats.

BCAFN also continues to monitor and respond to ongoing Species at Risk concerns, including those related to the Spotted Owl and Southern Mountain Caribou. While First Nations are leading conservation efforts across the province, structural barriers, such as limited funding, siloed governance, and jurisdictional ambiguity, continue to hinder effective protection. BCAFN urges stronger commitments to long-term, First Nation-led approaches to species recovery and habitat protection that fully recognize First Nations laws, priorities, and responsibilities.

BCAFN remains committed to upholding First Nations rights and responsibilities related to hunting and wildlife. Moving forward, BCAFN will continue to advocate for First Nations-led stewardship, stronger legal protections for species and habitat, and meaningful collaboration that respects First Nations laws, governance, and knowledge systems.

Justice and Policing

Regional Chief Terry Teegee continues to hold the National AFN Portfolio on Justice and Policing alongside Quebec-Labrador Regional Chief Francis Verreault-Paul. Justice and policing reform remains a major priority for BCAFN at the provincial and federal levels. The proroguing of Parliament and the federal election created a barrier to advocacy on this topic for much of year, but BCAFN remains committed to advocating for meaningful reform to better serve First Nations.

Federal Updates:

National Inquiry – AFN SCA 2024

In December of 2024, the Regional Chief (RC) attended the annual AFN Special Chief's Assembly on the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. During this event, the Chiefs-In-Assembly brought forward an emergency resolution calling for a National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths. 2024 was a year plagued with violence against First Nations, resulting in the deaths of at least 10 individuals between August and November of that year. This is not a new issue, as First Nations have never been adequately served by colonial police forces who consistently criminalized and harm our people. To complement this resolution, RC Teegee, National Chief Cindy Woodhouse-Nepinak, and the mothers of Chantel Moore and Jon Wells hosted a press conference to call on Canada to immediately and urgently convene a National Inquiry to address and prevent the continued violence against our people. RC Teegee and the BCAFN remain committed to working with and calling on Canada to recognize the urgency of this request.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee speaking at a press conference calling for a national inquiry into systemic racism in policing at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, December, 2025

AFN National Justice Forum – April 2025

Over April 2-3, 2025, the AFN hosted a National Justice Forum on the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh, bringing together First Nations from across Canada. Co-hosted by the B.C. First Nations Justice Council, the major theme of the event was the “Revitalization of First Nations Laws and Legal Orders”, connecting with one of the two paths identified in the National First Nations Justice Strategy. RC Teegee provided opening remarks at the beginning of the session, and several First Nations from B.C. were highlighted as keynote speakers or during concurrent dialogue sessions occurred over the two days, including Kory Wilson, Kukpi7 Helen Henderson and BCAFN Board of Directors member Chief Jerry Jack. The AFN was to host a second Justice Forum in Kanien’keha:ka territory in the Fall of 2025, but due to funding constraints this did not materialize.



Kory Wilson, Chair of the BC First Nations Justice Council speaking at the BC Caucus in Winnipeg, September 2025

Release of the National First Nations Justice Strategy

On June 11, 2025, the Assembly of First Nations released the National First Nations Justice Strategy (FNJS), a distinctions-based strategy that complements the larger Indigenous Justice Strategy. RC Teegee traveled to the traditional territory of the Algonquin people to commemorate the release alongside the National Chief and Kory Wilson, Chair of the B.C. First Nations Justice Council. The FNJS aims to address long-standing issues within the justice system under two main paths and twenty-five corresponding strategies with specific action items. These strategies provide flexible, First Nations-driven approaches, developed over five years of extensive engagement and co-development with title and rights holders, and Canada’s Department of Justice. The B.C. First Nations Justice Council was an integral support in the development of this national strategy after their development and implementation of the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy. The BCAFN commends the efforts of the BCFNJC for their dedication to reforming the justice system to better serve First Nations, both in B.C. and nationally. It is critical this strategy be allocated long-term and sustainable funding to assure its’ implementation, as neither funding nor an implementation plan was committed to by Canada following the release. RC Teegee and the BCAFN will continue to work with the AFN to ensure this remains a top priority for Canada.

AFN Chiefs Committee on Justice

RC Teegee remains a co-chair of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Justice. A leading priority of this committee continues to be advocating for essential service designation for First Nations Police Forces across Canada. The committee convened in December 2024, and August 2025, where the AFN provided updates on advocacy and the release of the National First Nations Justice Strategy. The proroguing of Parliament and the federal election disrupted much of the progress made in advancing this initiative. In August of 2025, BCAFN Board of Directors member, Chief Jerry Jack, of Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation was appointed as the B.C. representative to this committee. The BCAFN thanks former BCAFN Board of Directors member, Lynda Price for her many years of service and dedication to this committee during her time as Chief of Ulkatcho First Nation.

Provincial Updates:

BCAFN SCA 2025

In February of 2025, the BCAFN hosted the annual Special Chief's Assembly, where the Chiefs-In-Assembly brought forward several resolutions related to Justice and Policing. This includes [Resolution 07/2025](#), *Support for National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths*, [Resolution 08/2025](#), *Conditional Support for the Use of Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) by Police Officers in British Columbia*, [09/2025](#), *Addressing Racial Profiling by Security Services and Loss Prevention Officers*, [10/2025](#), *Call to End Exploitative Legal Fees Structure*. RC Teegee and BCAFN staff continue to work with Canada and British Columbia to advance these resolutions as outlined.

Profiling by Security Officers

In February of 2025, the BCAFN became aware of a video recirculating on social media that depicted the violent apprehension of two First Nations youth by loss prevention officers inside a Save-On Foods grocery store on Lheidli T'enneh territory. RC Teegee penned an open letter to Save-On Foods demanding an apology to the victims and calling for a meeting with the Pattison Food Group to discuss the incident. RC Teegee met with representatives from the Pattison Food Group in March of 2025, where they discussed the incident. The Pattison Food Group has committed to working alongside the BCAFN to ensure First Nations shoppers are not victims of violence within their locations. This is not the only occurrence of violence reported to the BCAFN, as we continue to track instances of profiling and violence against First Nations at the hands of B.C. security officers. The BCAFN continues to call on the provincial government to immediately trigger a review of the Security Services Act, to ensure compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Public Safety and Policing Modernization

The BCAFN, alongside our FNLC partners and the B.C. First Nations Justice Council continue to work with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) on the Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative (PPSM) to reform the *Police Act*. These reforms are guided by the submissions to the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCORPA), engagement with B.C. First Nations, policy submissions from the FNLC and FNJC and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Several years of engagement have now been captured by PSSG, as they work to present reform options to the Minister. The working group was paused throughout the winter, and discussions resumed in the spring. The sudden cabinet change, which resulted in the appointment of Minister Nina Krieger caused delays to the group's work plan. This initiative remains active and is a priority for BCAFN and the FNLC. In 2026-2027, the working group is positioned to co-develop, introduce and enact new legislation to address critical needs and priorities of B.C. First Nations. Full participation and representation of the interests of B.C. First Nations are the major priority of this work as B.C. explores these legislative amendments.

Languages

First Nations in British Columbia represent the largest diversity of spoken languages over all other regions in Canada. 36 First Nations languages are actively used, representing all corners of the province. Language is the heart of First Nations individuality and culture, and the BCAFN is committed to advocating for widespread supports to preserve and expand all First Nations languages spoken in BC.

Regional Allocation Funding Formula

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) has been tasked with developing a new regional allocation funding formula on behalf of the Department of Heritage Canada's Indigenous Languages Component funding currently administered by the First Peoples Cultural Council in BC. In July of 2024, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 19/2024, First Nations Languages Regional Allocation Formula, in response to Heritage Canada's underfunding of First Nations languages. Additionally, this resolution calls for Canada to fulfill the legislative requirements through the Indigenous Languages Act (ILA) to provide long-term and sustainable funding that reflects the actual cost to protect and strengthen First Nations languages. The AFN was also mandated to file a complaint with the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages regarding the chronic underfunding and misalignment with the principles and objectives of the ILA. The AFN estimates the annual cost of First Nations languages revitalization to be \$2.003 billion dollars, to meet the needs of all language revitalization and preservation efforts nationally. The Government of Canada committed approximately \$85 million dollars to First Nations across Canada on an annual basis. On July 10, 2024, a temporary funding approach was agreed upon to be implemented over the next two-years, expiring in 2026 resulting in additional funding shortfalls for the BC region.

AFN Chiefs and Technical Committees on Languages

Following the development of a temporary funding formula, the CCOL and Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL) have met on several occasions. In November of 2024, the TCOL convened in Toronto for a strategic planning session, where BC Technicians advocated for the proper implementation of the Regional Allocation Funding model, to ensure BC First Nations receive adequate funding to protect the large diversity of languages in this province. Technicians from across Canada carry different perspectives regarding the proposed funding formula, but all agreed on the working principle that every language matters. The CCOL gathered ahead of the December 2024 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, where it was determined another strategy session would occur in 2025 to bring together both the CCOL and TCOL to navigate a clear path forward. Additionally, the AFN drafted an official complaint to the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages as outlined in AFN Resolution 14/2024. This document was reviewed and approved by Chiefs and Technicians, before being finalized in March of 2025. At the March meeting, the CCOL and TCOL joined together for a two-day strategic planning session, identifying long-term and short-term goals for advocacy on First Nations languages. The strategic plan identifies five main goals and corresponding action items that are expected to be implemented through 2026 and 2027. This strategy was presented to Chiefs and Technicians at the August 2025 meeting and was approved by the committee members.

Through all of these meetings between November and August, it must be noted that the Regional Allocation Funding Formula has not been addressed. BC technicians have identified this as a critical priority for the CCOL and TCOL in the coming months and must be revisited in the coming meetings. The BCAFN is also committed to calling on the Province of BC to co-develop a *First Nations Languages Act*, affirming support for all First Nations languages in the province, and as noted in BCAFN [Resolution 06/2024](#). The BCAFN will continue to engage with the CCOL, TCOL and British Columbia, advocating in favour of support for any and all initiatives that support the preservation and perseverance of B.C. First Nations and their distinct languages.

Métis Colonialism

First Nations Combatting Métis Colonialism in B.C. Working Group

On September 25, 2024, the FNLC released a letter in support of the 45 Coast Salish nations that denounced a false claim made by the BC Métis Federation (BCMF) that BC is home to the “Pacific Northwest Métis,” a claim made with no historical accuracy and erases the history of the Coast Salish that have thrived on this land since time immemorial. Like the Metis in Ontario, the BCMF have taken to re-writing history by wrongfully claiming that descendants of First Nations and European families are Métis.

The Working Group has developed a *Draft Strategy to Address Métis Colonialism in B.C.*, which the UBCIC passed through Resolution 2025-36, and the Chiefs of the BCAFN and the First Nations Summit will be submitting mirrored resolutions to further support the work of the Working Group.

Most recently, on September 10, 2025, the Working Group and the FNLC co-drafted a letter to Minister Guilbeault, Minister Hodgson, and Library and Archives Canada asking them to recall funding provided to the BC Métis Federation (BCMF) that we understand will be used for “community-based research,” so that BCMF can continue their research to prove they are rights-holding Métis peoples Indigenous to BC and further their claims that the “Pacific Northwest Métis” are real. This goes against First Nations inherent title and rights, laws, legal system, jurisdiction, legal systems and governance.

Mining Reform

Mineral Claims Consultation Framework

The Mineral Claims Consultation Framework (MCCF) is now in effect as of March 25, 2025 in British Columbia which establishes a mandatory process for the Province to consult with First Nations before registering new mineral and placer claims, as part of the BC Supreme Court’s decision in *Gitxaala v British Columbia* (Chief Gold Commissioner). Formerly, mineral and placer claims received automatic registration through an application-based system. Despite the Province of BC committing to develop the MCCF with rights holders, the framework was ultimately forced through without the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations in BC. Regional Chief Terry Teegee spoke at the Mineral North Conference in Prince George on May 2nd, 2025 highlighting the significant gaps in the MCCF which undermines First Nations’ rights and the UN Declaration, placing additional referral burdens on First Nations. Regional Chief Teegee also released an [Op-Ed in the Vancouver Sun](#) highlighting the shortfalls of the framework and the vital need for the Crown to shift from a “duty to consult” to a “duty to consent”.

Overarching Concerns with the MCCF

1. The Province developed the MCCF unilaterally during interregnum when no engagement with First Nations or First Nations organizations could occur. Following interregnum, the Province presented the unilaterally developed MCCF to First Nations and invited oral and written feedback on an accelerated timeline.
2. The MCCF reflects a bare interpretation of the Province’s duty to consult and accommodate and falls well short of the minimum human rights standards outlined in the UN Declaration including First Nations’ inherent rights to self-determination, including self-government, and the Province’s obligation to obtain free, prior, and informed consent.

The MCCF is undertaking a 6-month review in September 2025. Any interested First Nation who would like to share a submission can send their feedback to Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals, Jagrup Brar at MCM.Minister@gov.bc.ca

With the 6-month review process currently underway, the FNLC has called on the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals to:

1. Provide First Nations with adequate funding to ensure that they have sufficient capacity to respond to the volume of referrals received because of implementation of the MCCF.
2. Provide First Nations with adequate time to review referrals provided under the MCCF, as determined by the First Nation(s) concerned.
3. Provide First Nations with all information necessary to effectively review and assess each referral, as determined by the First Nation(s) concerned.
4. Provide First Nations with relevant information held by the Province that relates to proponents who are operating or wish to operate within their territory.
5. Be meaningfully and demonstrably responsive to feedback received from First Nations related to implementation of the MCCF in a timely manner.

Mineral Tenure Act Reform

As part of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan, Action Plan Measure 2.14 commits the Province of BC to “Modernize the Mineral Tenure Act (MTA) in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and First Nations organizations”. The Province of BC committed to working with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and engage directly with rights holders on the co-development of the legislation but has since stalled in September 2024, despite repeated calls from the FNLC to reconvene.



Hugh Braker, FNS, Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Robert Phillips, FNS on the Minerals Tenure Act panel at the Minerals North Conference in Prince George, April 29, 2025

Nature, Biodiversity and Tripartite Nature Framework Agreement

In 2025, the BCAFN continued to support First Nations leadership in the stewardship and protection of biodiversity across British Columbia. The dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss demand First Nations-led solutions rooted in rights, responsibilities, and place-based knowledge systems.

First Nations Nature Table Engagement

BCAFN continues to participate in the First Nations Nature Table (FNNT) which is a technical body established jointly by the AFN and Environment and Climate Change Canada, designed to integrate and uphold First Nations rights in federal biodiversity frameworks. This includes attending the November 2024 and January 2025 FNNT meetings, where key discussions focused on Species at Risk legislation, Indigenous Guardians, cross-departmental program coordination, and performance indicators for conservation outcomes. BCAFN shared early insights from its policy work and emphasized the importance of legislative coherence, Nation-led recovery planning, and accountability in funding pathways.

Looking ahead, BCAFN will continue to participate in the FNNT, including at the November 2025 meeting, and will participate at the AFN Conservation Gathering in October 2025, ensuring that First Nations' concerns and priorities from BC are reflected in broader federal policy and legislative frameworks.

Environmental Scan of Biodiversity Policy in BC

In 2024/2025, BCAFN commissioned an environmental scan of biodiversity-related policies, strategies, and funding programs in British Columbia. The resulting report was developed in partnership with independent consultants and serves as a foundation for identifying legal gaps, policy risks, jurisdictional tensions, and opportunities for First Nations to lead in biodiversity governance.

This scan critically assessed the current provincial policy landscape, including (but not limited to):

- The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (BEH) Framework, which remains a blueprint without legal force or binding targets.
- The lack of adequate Species at Risk legislation.
- Inconsistencies in funding mechanisms, siloed government programs, and the need for more coherent, accessible support for First Nations conservation.
- The need for full alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

This policy scan is now being developed into a public-facing document, which will help inform BCAFN's biodiversity policy positions, advocacy strategies, and engagement with government partners. The final version will support First Nations in understanding and influencing policy pathways related to protected areas, species recovery, and land use planning.

Looking Forward

BCAFN recognizes that First Nations are the original stewards of the lands and waters, and we remain committed to supporting rights holders in the protection and restoration of biodiversity for current and future generations.

Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation

The Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation, signed in November 2023 by the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), the Government of Canada, and the Province of British Columbia, continues to guide a more integrated, distinctions-based, and place-based approach to nature

conservation in British Columbia. The Framework prioritizes First Nations leadership, governance, and stewardship responsibilities, and aims to address the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change through collaborative, sustained action.

Now entering its second year, implementation of the Framework has continued. A formal governance structure is now in place, including a tripartite committee and three co-chaired subcommittees focused on:

- Species at risk protection and recovery.
- Habitat enhancement and restoration.
- Foundational knowledge and information sharing.

A secretariat has also been established to support coordination, reporting, and communication. Partners are working to align funding programs, policy, and conservation priorities, and to develop shared performance indicators and reporting tools.

Highlights from 2025

Advancing Protection of Critical Ecosystems

As of March 2024, 19.7 percent of B.C.'s terrestrial area is protected or conserved, with efforts continuing toward the goal of protecting 30 percent by 2030. Several landmark conservation achievements were advanced this year, including:

- The creation of the Incomappleux Conservancy, protecting 58,000 hectares of old growth habitat.
- The designation of Clayoquot Sound Conservancies, securing 76,000 hectares through a First Nations-led initiative supported by the Old Growth Nature Fund.
- The expansion of the Klinse-za / Twin Sisters Park in northeastern B.C., protecting nearly 200,000 hectares in support of caribou recovery, watershed health, and cultural values.

Restoration and Enhancement

Over 14,800 hectares were restored or enhanced in 2023–24 with support from federal programs. This includes invasive species removal, wetland rehabilitation, and reforestation efforts across multiple regions. One example is the work of the Stqeeye' Learning Society in Quw'utsun territory, restoring culturally significant wetlands and forests while reconnecting youth and Elders through land-based learning.

Species at Risk Recovery

The Framework supports the protection and recovery of 212 terrestrial species listed under the federal Species at Risk Act. As of this year:

- 3.8 million hectares of critical habitat have been identified.
- 404,000 hectares of that habitat are protected or conserved.
- 82 species have critical habitat located in formally protected areas.

Projects like the Bunchgrass Hills Conservation Area, which protects over 6,100 hectares of native grasslands, contributes to the recovery of species.

Investments and Capacity

As of March 2024:

- The Government of Canada has invested over \$173 million in Framework-related programming, including 127 funding agreements with First Nations.

- The Province has allocated over \$370 million across multiple programs supporting conservation financing, land use planning, restoration, and stewardship training.

Federal contributions have come through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, Old Growth Nature Fund, 2 Billion Trees Program, and others. Provincial contributions include the BC Conservation Fund, Watershed Security Fund, and Guardian and Stewardship Training Initiative.

Looking Ahead

Work continues to advance shared indicators, improve transparency and public reporting. As the Framework Agreement enters its next phase, the BCAFN will continue to advocate for strong implementation grounded in First Nations rights, title, and priorities, and to support community-led conservation across the province.

Residential Schools and Unmarked Graves

First Nations in B.C., and across Canada, will always be the knowledge keepers when it comes to the history of residential schools. First Nations know exactly what happened behind the doors of these institutions, and the BCAFN remains committed to uplifting the stories of survivors, and their descendants.

Denialism

Residential school denialism continues to infiltrate colonial government spaces, often being used as a political tool to seek support from specific groups and to alienate First Nations communities and undermine our rights and interests. This is an appalling use of political influence by the most powerful to undermine, diminish and cast doubt on the lived experiences of survivors. These actions undermine trust in our elected institutions and represent a significant dereliction of duty whereby these representatives are duty-bound to represent and advocate on behalf of all of their constituents, which often includes First Nations peoples and Indian Residential School Survivors.

In February of 2025, MLA Dallas Brodie for Vancouver-Quilchena released a series of statements on social media, directly belittling and downplaying the atrocities of the residential school system, and refuting the findings of unmarked gravesites at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. In response to these deeply harmful sentiments, the B.C. Chiefs-In-Assembly passed Resolution 21 /2025, Call to Reject and Criminalize Residential School Denialism. This resolution categorically rejects all denialist-based claims regarding the residential school system and calls on the federal government to support Bill C-413, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code* (promotion of hatred against Indigenous peoples), that would classify denialist sentiments as hate-speech under the Criminal Code. The resolution also explicitly called for Brodie's removal from the B.C. Conservative Caucus, and for John Rustad to publicly denounce her statements. Following Brodie's removal, she went on to continue perpetrating racist-fueled hatred against First Nations, while continuing to ignore the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Reports, the 94 Calls to Action and the Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves' Final Report, released in October of 2024. Each of these reports were developed using government records and survivors' stories, to ensure they holistically capture the entire truth. RC Teegee and the BCAFN will always stand with survivors in the face of hate and will not tolerate the continued attacks against First Nations.

In May of 2025, the BCAFN sent a letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney, Minister Fraser, Minister Alty and Minister Gull-Masty, detailing the continued hate speech faced by First Nations in B.C., calling for their support for Bill C-413 to criminalize residential school hate speech. In August of 2025, Minister Fraser responded to this letter, acknowledging the harm caused by these ongoing comments, and assuring Canada's commitment to implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. At no point did Minister Fraser commit to supporting Bill C-413, which was explicitly articulated in BCAFN's correspondence. We continue to urge Canada to recognize the ongoing harm caused by residential school denialism. First Nations in Canada already face systemic racism and racial profiling as they navigate Canada's institutions, and acknowledging this problem is a critical step in preventing this harm.

Supporting Community-Led Work

Also at the 2025 BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly, [Resolution 16/2025, Support for B.C. First Nations Community-Led Indian Residential School and Indian Hospital Investigations](#) was supported by the Chiefs-In-Assembly. This resolution mandates the FNLC to work with the B.C. First Nations Community-led Indian Residential School Investigations Technical Working Group (TWG), to identify issues and develop recommendations to support the advancement of community-led investigations, and advance key recommendations and concerns identified by the group. The BCAFN has connected with the TWG and will work to support them as needed.

B.C. First Nations continue to conduct research and investigations at the sites of former residential school in search of potential unmarked graves and burial sites. In August of 2025, shíshálh Nation announced the findings of an additional 41 unmarked graves in the area surrounding the St. Augustine Residential School, bringing the total number of unmarked graves to 81. This is deeply saddening announcement, and our thoughts are with survivors and their families as they process this information. Despite this troubling news, the BCAFN commends the hard work and dedication of the technicians involved in this search, for amplifying the stories of Elders and survivors by shining a light on their truth and lived experiences.

RC Teegee and the BCAFN will continue to advocate to B.C and Canada, calling for their support in criminalizing denialist remarks. Additionally, the BCAFN will continue to call on all levels of government to support community-led initiatives on the sites of former residential school across B.C. and nationally. This is all critical work in uncover the history of First Nations and sharing that truth with the rest of Canada.

Toxic Drug Crisis

The Toxic Drug Crisis continues to impact First Nations across British Columbia. 2025 marks nine years since B.C. declared an official state of emergency as a result of this crisis, yet First Nations continue to be disproportionately impacted by the crisis. In 2024, First Nations people died at 6.7 times the rates of other B.C. residents. Notably, First Nations women died at 11.6 times the rate of other women in B.C. These statistics are alarming and show the need for urgent action. The BCAFN remains committed to advocating alongside the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the First Nations Summit (FNS), together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and B.C. title and rights holders for adequate and effective solutions to this ongoing emergency.

Resolution 39/2024

In October 2024, B.C. Chiefs-In-Assembly passed Resolution 39/2024 entitled Call for Immediate Action to Address the Toxic Drug Poisoning Crisis. The resolution calls on the Province of B.C. and Canada to immediately acknowledge the impacts of the toxic drug poisoning crisis on First Nations and provide long-term and sustainable resourcing for First Nations-led initiatives. This resolution was mirrored and carried at the FNS and UBCIC assemblies in November 2024 and June 2025 respectively. Notably, this resolution called on the FNLC to host an All-Chiefs Meeting to identify priorities, key issues and recommendations to holistically address the crisis. Following this meeting, the FNLC is to analyze this information, to determine an action plan and strategy to advance advocacy on this topic.

Letters and Meeting with Minister Osborne

Fulfilling the mandate received through [Resolution 39/2024](#), in May of 2025, the BCAFN sent letters to the B.C. Minister of Health, Josie Osborne, and Majorie Michel, the federal Minister of Health, calling on the Province of BC and Canada to acknowledge the urgent toxic drug crisis in British Columbia and its disproportionate impacts on First Nations. The letters requested meetings with both Ministers, to discuss the current state of the crisis and to collaboratively secure equitable, culturally appropriate and rights-based health outcomes for First Nations in B.C. On July 4th, 2025, the FNLC met with Minister Osborne to address the concerns outlined in the resolution. During the meeting, the FNLC outlined urgent need for provincial and federal action, to support First Nation-led initiatives to address the growing crisis. The FNLC emphasized the need for collaboration between all levels of government due to the intersectional nature of this crisis, to provide long-term and sustainable solutions for care and treatment. During this meeting, Minister Osborne accepted the invitation to address B.C. Chiefs and Technicians at the upcoming All-Chiefs Meeting, hosted by the FNLC.

All Chiefs Meeting

On July 24th, 2025, the FNLC hosted a Virtual All-Chiefs Meeting on the Toxic Drug Crisis, bringing together over 100 B.C. Chiefs and Technicians. The session included three panel discussions comprised of speakers from various organizations engaged in work to address the ongoing crisis under the following themes: Community Impacts of the Toxic Drug Crisis, Provincial Approaches to the Toxic Drug Crisis and First Nations Approaches to Wellness and Care. This allowed for a diverse group of speakers to drive dialogue on this topic from various backgrounds.

Following the panel sessions, the remainder of the day was dedicated for open discussion, to give the floor directly to B.C. Chiefs and Technicians to describe their experiences and raise key priority issues within their communities. Many representatives emphasized the need for prioritizing trauma-informed healing over treatment, by shifting short-term addiction programs to long-term, land-based, culturally rooted healing that addresses trauma at the core. B.C. Chiefs and Technicians highlighted the increased need for wraparound and prevention services for First Nations youth and supported the expansion of First Nations-led treatment centres.

First Nations face a number of intersectional issues that connect to the toxic drug crisis, including ongoing systemic racism in education, health and the justice system that further exacerbates the problem. Throughout the session, B.C. Chiefs, Technicians, and the FNLC emphasized that more dialogue is needed to develop a strong action plan that holistically addresses this crisis. The toxic drug crisis touches many different aspects of our communities, and more research and discussion are needed to capture the priorities of B.C. First Nations to properly inform the FNLC.

FNLC staff continue to analyze the information gathered during the All-Chiefs Meeting and are developing a What We Heard Report capturing discussion and recommendations from the event. This report will be presented to the FNLC Executive before determining next steps. The BCAFN and Regional Chief Teegee are committed to continuing this work in the best interests of B.C. title and rights holders and will continue to fulfill the mandate received from B.C. Chiefs-In-Assembly.

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The BCAFN remains concerned that the Canadian Government's implementation of the *United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA)* and its associated Action Plan is suffering from the lack of political will, the necessary financial investments, the articulation of a robust and comprehensive engagement process and as a result has achieved the systemic and significant change envisioned by the Act or the *Declaration* itself.

The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA)* came into force on June 21, 2021. This Act requires the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to:

- Take all measures necessary to ensure that federal laws are consistent with the *Declaration* (Section 5);
- Prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the *Declaration* (Section 6); and
- Develop annual reports on progress and submit them to Parliament (Section 7).

On June 20th, 2023, the Department of Justice tabled in Parliament the UNDA National Action Plan (NAP), as mandated by Section 6 of the UNDA.

Early in 2025, DOJ released a call for feedback to inform their first draft of the third 2023-2024 UNDA Annual Report.

In April 2025, the FNLC submitted to DOJ an identification of our work on UNDA implementation over the 2024-2026 period and our ongoing concerns with Canada's implementation efforts.

The FNLC noted its concern that the implementation of the Action Plan has been hindered by a lack of department guidance, coordination, clearly defined FPIC processes, appropriate funding commitments and fulsome engagements with First Nations.

DOJ released the 2024-2026 UNDA Annual Report in late August of 2025, significantly later than in previous years, with limited opportunity for First Nations engagement. The report highlights three common issues raised by 58 Indigenous organizations:

1. Need for transparent reporting

1. Culturally relevant education
2. Improved consultation processes that respect FPIC

The report further identifies a number APMs which have seen some progress over the last year, including:

- Shared Priority #2: Non-Derogation Clause in the *Interpretation Act*
- Shared Priority #22: Launch of the UN Declaration Act Action Plan Advisory Committee
- Shared Priority #28: Release of the Indigenous Justice Strategy
- Shared Priority #52: Addressing border crossing challenges
- Shared Priority #91 and 92: Advancing services aligned with the *Indigenous Languages Act*
- Shared Priority #96: Co-developing an Indigenous Stewardship Policy (Parks Canada)
- First Nations Priority #15: Addressing on-reserve infrastructure gaps through investment
- First Nations Priority #16: Addressing drinking water advisories

As well as key legislative initiatives and collaborative work occurring over the past year, including:

1. *Interpretation Act*
2. *Haida Nation Recognition Act*
3. *Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act*
4. Bill C-38, *An Act to amend the Indian Act* (New Registration Entitlements)
5. Bill C-61, *An Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nations lands*
6. Bill C-77, *An Act respecting the Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation*.

This report was the first year in which federal departments were asked to report on indicators to ensure progress on implementation is monitored. As of this reporting year, only 50 APMS had at least one indicator developed, 20 of which were developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.

Finally, the report identifies that 170 of 181 Action Plan Measures are currently being actioned across federal ministries. 28 are in the planning stage, 99 with work underway, 6 complete and 37 are being implemented on an ongoing basis.

The Minister of Justice, Sean Fraser, is now responsible for the implementation of the Act and the associated Action Plan, with the obligation to take measures to ensure consistency of federal laws and to develop an action plan for the implementation of the Act.

BCAFN sent a letter and met with the Minister in the summer of 2025, raising concerns with the Act's implementation to date and with the failure of the Government of Canada to incorporate and reflect the principles and standards of the *UN Declaration* and its corresponding federal legislation in Canada's effort to implement the *One Canadian Economy Act*, and invited the Minister to utilize the existing BC-specific bilateral process on *UNDA* implementation to ensure future bills are developing in alignment with the standards and principles of the Declaration.

The BCAFN, as a member of the First Nations Leadership Council, continues to advocate for the comprehensive and fulsome implementation of the *UNDA* through a variety of tables and respond to the concerns of First Nations regarding lack of transparency, accountability, progress and funding.

FNLC Involvement

The FNLC is in conversation with the Department of Justice to continue the work of the bilateral BC-

Specific Table on *UNDA*, which was previously led by Minister Lametti and Minister Virani and is now being led by Minister Fraser. The work of the tables were delayed due to the federal election, but are planned to reconvene imminently.

The FNLC has developed a work plan to move forward with key priorities that reflect the concerns and interests of First Nations in BC. This plan continues to progress despite the delays at the joint tables. The FNLC is actively inviting other federal departments to join these tables to discuss the alignment of law work and APM implementation across federal initiatives.

Currently, the table's focus is on developing key concept papers to guide federal implementation of the *UNDA*, including guidelines and processes to ensure First Nations' rights to self-determination, free, prior, and informed consent, and self-government is reflected in the consistency of the law process, alongside the development of accountability, coordination, prioritization, and funding mechanisms that would ensure Canada's efforts to implement the *UNDA* are aligned with the standards of the *UN Declaration*.

AFN Chiefs Committee on UNDA Implementation

BCAFN Regional Chief Terry Teegee holds the portfolio lead for the *UNDA* file and chairs the AFN Chiefs Committee on UNDA. The Chiefs Committee held a meeting in August to review the committee's 2025 work plan, debrief on the AFN UNDA Forum held in February of 2025, review *UNDA* implementation progress to date and develop an advocacy strategy to ensure the *UNDA* remains a priority for the newly elected Liberal government. The AFN CCUNDA is preparing to release a comprehensive Progress Report Card to First Nations nationally soon. The federal report card will summarize Canada's efforts to date to implement the *UNDA*, including its consistency of laws process and the implementation of the Action Plan Measures.

Water

BCAFN Water Forum

BCAFN hosted a two-day Water Forum on March 3 - 4, 2025 at the Westin Wall Centre, Richmond in Musqueam Territory. Over 200 First Nations participants joined the two-day event with over 35 panelists and presenters. The theme of the Forum was, *Strengthening First Nations' Sovereignty: Advancing Sustainable Water Governance, Jurisdiction and Stewardship*. The Forum focused on key topics including transboundary agreements, advancing First Nations-led water governance mechanisms, and exploring social determinants of health and healthy watersheds. Discussions will centre on empowering community-driven governance systems and strengthening legal frameworks to protect First Nations' water rights. A Water Forum Recap Report was shared with Forum registrants in June.

First Nations Clean Water Act

The *First Nations Clean Water Act* (Bill C-61) was introduced into parliament on December 11, 2023 as part of the Federal Government's commitment to co-develop the legislation with First Nations in 2018 and as a result of the [First Nations Safe Drinking Water Class Action Settlement Agreement](#) in 2021. Due to significant delays and an early election called in 2025, Bill C-61 died on the order paper. During Prime Minister Mark Carney's campaign, he made explicit commitments to "[Enshrine First Nations' right to water into law](#)". It is expected that the Federal Government will re-introduce First Nations Safe Drinking Water legislation in the fall sitting for the House of Commons.

Since the passing of the One Canadian Economy Act , the Provinces of Ontario and Alberta have since openly called on Canada to cease re-introducing C-61 which they view “undermine[s] competitiveness, and delay project development,” with respect to implementing the fast-tracking legislation. BCAFN sent a letter to Carney and his Cabinet Ministers in July 2025 urging the Prime Minister to denounce these statements made by Ontario and Alberta officials and double down on prioritizing his commitment to enshrine safe drinking water as a human right for First Nations into law without delay in full partnership with rights and title holders and in alignment with the *UN Declaration*.

BCAFN will continue to monitor the advancement of federal safe drinking water legislation and will continue to keep Chiefs and leadership informed on progress.



BCAFN Water Forum Panel: Strategic Pathways for Passing and Implementing the First Nations Clean Water Act with UN Declaration Alignment with Dr. Kerry Black, Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Caleb Behn.

Women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and MMIWG2S

BCAFN 2025 First Nations Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples Dialogue Session: Healing in Action

From June 24-26, 2025, the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) proudly hosted the 2025 First Nations Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session in Lheidli T'enneh Territory / Prince George, BC. The event, which was held both in person and partially hybrid, carried the theme “Healing in Action”, aimed at uplifting and advancing equity and justice for First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

With over 90 First Nations leaders and community members of all genders in attendance, this year’s gathering sparked meaningful dialogue on healing, empowerment, and collective action. Co-chaired by Chastity Davis Alphones and Jaylene Tyme, the session served as a space for collaboration and learning from one another’s lived experiences and wisdom.



Welcome Reception Highlights: Reflection & Powerful Connections

The Dialogue Session kicked off on June 24 with a heartfelt welcome by BCAFN Knowledge Keeper, Sempulyan, and BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, Orene Askew. They emphasized the importance of the gathering, affirming that the stories of elders and youth carry the weight of generations, and the wisdom shared is what will guide future paths. Elder Minnie Bjorklund of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation offered a warm and gracious welcome, setting the tone for a respectful and purposeful gathering.

The evening continued with a special performance from the Thundering Eagles Drumming Group, who honoured the space and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals with song. This poignant moment was followed by musical performances from Hayley Wallis and guitarist Stephanie Jackson, as well as a light-hearted comedy show from Bubbas Comedy, featuring Keith Nahanee Jr. The evening provided a chance for participants to reflect, enjoy the rhythm of the music, and honour the experiences of those often silenced.

Day One: Shared Knowledge & Space

On the first full day, we heard from BC Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Union of BC Indian Chiefs Grand Chief Stewart Phillips. Both leaders underscored the importance of advocacy and alignment with the needs of First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. This reinforced the focus on continuing the fight for equity and justice.



BCAFN 2025 First Nations Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ Peoples Dialogue Session: Healing in Action



Cheryl Rule, BCAFN Women's Representative, shared insights into the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan and its intersection with the Dialogue Session. Through the opportunity of roundtable discussions, participants will be able to explore internal and external initiatives on topics like leadership, climate change, safety, and economic development.

A powerful keynote address was delivered by Carol Anne Hilton, CEO of the Indigenomics movement. Hilton shared her personal reflections on navigating corporate spaces as a First Nations woman, highlighting the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge systems into economic narratives, which supports inclusive growth and multi-generational wealth.

Further discussions included updates from the British Columbia First Nations Justice Council on the Indigenous Women's Justice Strategy, as well as a presentation on

efforts by the MMIWG2S Advisory Committee to implement the 231 Calls for Justice. Participants also engaged in seven roundtable discussions on crucial topics, with the collective goal of shaping action to address issues directly affecting First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Day 2: Building Bridges and Inspiring Leadership

Day two opened with remarks from BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, Orene Askew, who emphasized the need for safe and inclusive spaces for 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. Duane Aucoin, Chair of the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council, also joined us virtually to discuss the Council's role in advancing advocacy and ensuring the Calls for Justice for 2SLGBTQQIA+ are addressed.

Lheidli T'enneh Chief Dolleen Logan's presentation underscored the work First Nations communities are doing to elevate the voices of women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, and to push for systemic changes that guarantee equity and justice.

A virtual presentation from Harmony Johnson focused on the Indian Act's second-generation cut-off, offering a deep dive into how it affects BC First Nations and the on-going advocacy efforts to challenge discriminatory status provisions.

The second keynote, *Carrying the Fire Forward: Leadership, Identity, and Healing in Action*, delivered by Khelsilem, a queer Skwxwú7mesh-Kwakwaka'wakw leader, was particularly moving. Khelsilem shared a powerful and personal journey of leadership, identity, and resilience, inspiring attendees to lead boldly while honouring their identities. Khelsilem's reflections covered the interwoven timelines of the past, present, and future struggles, urging all to build restorative governance models that value mentor-ship, integrity, and cultural grounding.

The final presentation was with an update from former Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Garry Begg, who spoke on the ongoing provincial response to the 231 Calls for Justice and stressed the importance of leadership in enacting meaningful change. More details on their work can be found on the [Status Update on the Path Forward](#), released on June 3, 2025.

As the Dialogue Session came to a close, co-chairs Chastity Davis Alphones and Jaylene Tyme offered closing reflections, reiterating the need for continued action and advocacy. The Thundering Eagles Drumming Group closed the session with a powerful song, and Elder Les Baker from Lheidli T'enneh offered an official closing prayer, followed by Regional Chief Terry Teegee's closing remarks.

BCAFN looks forward to compiling a comprehensive post-event report, capturing the voices and priorities shared during the session. These insights will contribute to ongoing advocacy efforts and action for First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. We hope this report will foster not only an understanding of the challenges but also actionable steps toward justice and healing. Stay tuned for more updates and the official report. Together, we continue the work of lifting each other up, of creating spaces where healing is possible, and of ensuring that our voices are heard and acted upon. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2025 Dialogue Session. We look forward to carrying these conversations forward in our continued work for justice and healing.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee speaking at the Prince George Red Dress Day (National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2-Spirit and Gender Diverse People) event.



BC Assembly of First Nations Honours Residential School Survivors on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2025



**British Columbia
Assembly of First Nations**



The People of the BC Assembly of First Nations

REGIONAL CHIEF

BOARD MEMBERS

REPRESENTATIVES

EMPLOYEES



Board of Directors



Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir

Tk'emlups te Secwepe'mc



Brian Assu Sr.

We Wai Kai Nation



Chief Jerry Jack

Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation



Chief Maureen Luggi

Wet'suwet'en First Nation



Chief Donald Sam

?Akisqnuq First Nation

Board of Directors

Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, Youth, First Nation members and honored guests:

The BCAFN Board of Directors are pleased to present the Annual Report for 2024/2025 to the 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Chiefs-in-Assembly, who will join in-person and virtually.

The Board of Directors continues to ensure that the resolutions and mandates provided by our membership from our previous AGM and latest Special Chiefs Assemblies are carried out in alignment with the Regional Chief's mandate and the vision, mission and values of our society.

Per our governance requirements, a Nomination Notice was distributed on July 7, 2025, for the election of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative. As of the deadline date of August 11, 2025, there were two nominations for the position: Orene Askew and Wilf Junior Plasway. The Board would like to wish the best of luck to the two 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative candidates.

Since we last met at the Special Chiefs Assembly in February 2025, we have seen the political economic climate, both provincially and federally, change in response to international threats as a result of the leadership change of our neighbor to the south. The new approaches taken and legislative bills enacted, have been an issue of concern for many First Nations. We know that this has led to difficult discussions and created a division among nations. Our primary focus is to ensure that this issue is able to be discussed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and all information is provided for our First Nations, while BCAFN continues to advocate that Inherent Rights and Title of our BC First Nations are at the forefront and not ignored for the advancement of government mandates.

BCAFN continues to work with our provincial partners of the First Nations Leadership Council, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, to address issues to government officials and demand change.

We are at a time in history where our communities continue to experience high losses from the opioid crisis, and displacement of their members due to housing insecurity, both within and outside of their communities. We acknowledge the work of the FNLC in discussing these issues with our membership through the recent virtual All Chiefs Meeting on the Toxic Drug Crisis and the hybrid FNLC-FNHIC Housing Forum. Collectively, we can find pathways grounded in our ways of being and traditional values, best practices shared by our First Nations for positive change, and sustained advocacy from leadership to address these issues.

Thank you to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for providing us with the opportunity to work on your behalf with Regional Chief Teegee and the staff at the BCAFN. We remain committed to addressing the difficult issues facing our communities and will work to ensure issues are brought to the forefront to initiate positive change for our communities and members. Read more about the board of directors at bcafn.ca



Representatives

Knowledge Keepers



Dr. Gwendolyn Point

Sto:lo Nation



Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales

*Squamish Nation
2SLGBTQQIA+
representative*

Knowledge Keepers

Dear Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, Youth and honored guests,

We are honoured to support BCAFN as Knowledge Keepers. We take the sacred duty bestowed upon us to guide the organization very seriously and are committed to supporting Regional Chief Teegee, the Board of Directors, Representatives, staff, and our First Nations in working through the many issues impacting our people and communities.

As the BCAFN Knowledge Keepers, we attend the monthly Board of Directors Meetings to provide spiritual support and guidance. We also participate at the national level and attend the following AFN assemblies: Annual General Assembly and Special Chiefs Assembly. We participate in the AFN

Knowledge Keepers Council and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council and provide support to a number of AFN portfolios/Chief's Committees.

Over the past year, we have supported many BCAFN initiatives and events. We are committed to our role as Knowledge Keepers, both for BCAFN and through the national Assembly of First Nations office. Moving forward, we know that there will be more obstacles, more loss and grief, and more challenges for our First Nations and our First Nations people. We also know that we are a strong and resilient people and our First Nations will endure and move forward. Our strength may be challenged but will never be diminished. Read more about the Knowledge Keepers at bcafn.ca

Women's Representative



Cheryl Rule

Nstla'tko, Coldwater Indian Band

UPDATE

Women's Representative

I continue to provide a trustworthy, transparent, and strong voice for human rights, universal dignity, environmental justice, compassion, and the rights of Indigenous people. In my first term as the BCAFN Women's Representative, I am grateful to have completed various milestones from my first report out to Chiefs during the Special Chiefs Assembly last February, to contributing during technical meeting with other members of the Joint

First Nations Government Collaborative Table, to implementing the Calls for Justice and priority MMIWG2S+ actions and needs and finally to participate in planning and implementation of the BCAFN First Nations Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session. While being actively engaged in this work, I have learned so much, and I am honoured to have the opportunity to advocate for the immediate implementation of the calls for justice with like-minded organizations and to advance internal advocacy by ensuring that the voices of MMIWG2S+ survivors and family members are uplifted in the work. At the BCAFN First Nations Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session, the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA Representative and I, completed a preliminary engagement with BC First Nation community members on the new initiative for the Establishment of the BCAFN Women's Council and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council. During this engagement, we heard and collected feedback that will help shape the foundation for the creation of two new advisory bodies within the BC Assembly of First Nations. Both Councils will play a vital role in not only guiding inclusive, equitable policies and practices that

reflect the diverse experiences and needs of First Nation Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, but will also increase representation in the work we do.

As BCAFN Women's Representative, I am a member of the AFN Women's Council and attend monthly meetings to stay up to date on news and a number of initiatives across Turtle Island, as well as connecting with like-minded organizations to advocate for an increase of funding for initiatives that support the well-being and uplift First Nation Women in BC. I have also had the privilege to attend the AFN Annual General Assembly in traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Anisininew, Dakota, Lakota, and Dene peoples. This was a busy time as there were many important resolutions related to the health and well-being of First Nation Communities. I will continue to be committed to listening, understanding, and responding to the needs and concerns of First Nation Women in BC, and I am looking forward to continuing this good work at the federal level and within our First Nation Communities. Read more about the Women's Representative at bcafn.ca

2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative



Orene Askew
Squamish Nation

UPDATE

2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative

Elected in 2022 as the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, I will be completing my first term and seeking re-election for a second term as the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting on October 28-30, 2025, on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the X^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam Nation). This role acts as a regional representative for the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council, which was established in 2021, after the Special Chiefs' Assembly carried AFN Resolution 15/2021 mandating the creation of its first 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council. I am 1 of 2 self-identifying females on The National Council.

Since then, I have worked to maintain and build relationships with regional 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations and advocated for issues regarding the lack of funding for 2SLGBTQQIA+ initiatives

and programming in BC First Nations, as well as for the creation and maintenance of safe spaces for 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples within First Nation communities. Throughout my tenure, I have also had the privilege to report out to Chiefs on my work during several annual events such as the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assemblies, Annual General Meeting, Women Chiefs Caucus Meetings, and most recently at the Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Session. I am also attending events hosted by other Indigenous and 2SLGBTQQIA+ societies and organizations such as the National Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial Roundtable on MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples and the Annual February 14th Women's Memorial March to advocate, build connections, and learn. During each of these events I have learned something new and gained further understanding and insight into the collective, yet diverse priorities of First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

I have also been involved in various BCAFN initiatives related to the completion and implementation of BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan and the BCAFN First Nations Gender Based Analysis plus Toolkit, as well as continued advocacy for a MMIWG2S+ Legislation. One initiative, I am most proud of is the selection of the Artist, Carrielynn Victor who designed and completed the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA Flag. I believe that we undertook this initiative with the aim to co-develop a flag that uplifts the identities and voices of BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people as the flag not only signifies the inclusion in BCAFN but also for the flag to represent gender diversity within BC First Nations. The flag will be honored during this year's BCAFN Annual General Meeting alongside the artist who shared their gift with us.

Furthermore, I am honored to have been the regional representative for BC on the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council. The council is focused on addressing legislation that does not serve the health and well-being of First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. I am thankful to have been involved in the work to develop an 2SLGBTQQIA+ Strategic Action Plan and reaffirm a few areas of priorities that are important to the council that was mandated through AFN Resolution 07/2024 Support for the Assembly of First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council Mandate and Funding, which was moved and seconded by Chiefs in Assembly at the AFN 45th Annual General Assembly in July of 2024. This was important work for me to be involved in as the well-being of First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples continues to be harmed within community and at the national level through legislation. The resolution empowers the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council to advocate on these issues and to seek sustainable funding for council activities.

As a member of the council, I am also fortunate to attend AFN meetings and gatherings. Most notably, I attended the National Wellness Gathering for Indian Residential School Survivors, hosted by the Assembly of First Nations and First Peoples Wellness Circle, for healing and the promotion of wellness for all Indian Residential School Survivors, as well as the AFN National MMIWG2S+ Gathering, to listen to family members and survivors and share about some of BCAFN's work. These were impactful experiences. As a council we not only meet monthly but also meet with the external entities to build relationships with ministers from the Government of Canada and organizations like Egale or the RCMP.

I would like to express gratitude and the importance of proactively taking advantage of opportunities to create systemic change that intentionally impacts First Nations women, Two Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender and sexually diverse people, and championing existing initiatives and successes. I am honoured to have worked alongside the BCAFN Women's Representative to contribute to current and future work. Moving forward, I acknowledge that there is still work to be done. Good luck to all 2025-2026 candidates! Read more about the 2SLGBTQQIA+ representative at bcafn.ca

Youth Representatives



Kyle Alec

Syilx (Okanagan) Nation



Crystal Starr-Lewis

*Squamish Nation-
Swxwú7mesh Úxwumixw*



UPDATE

Youth Representatives

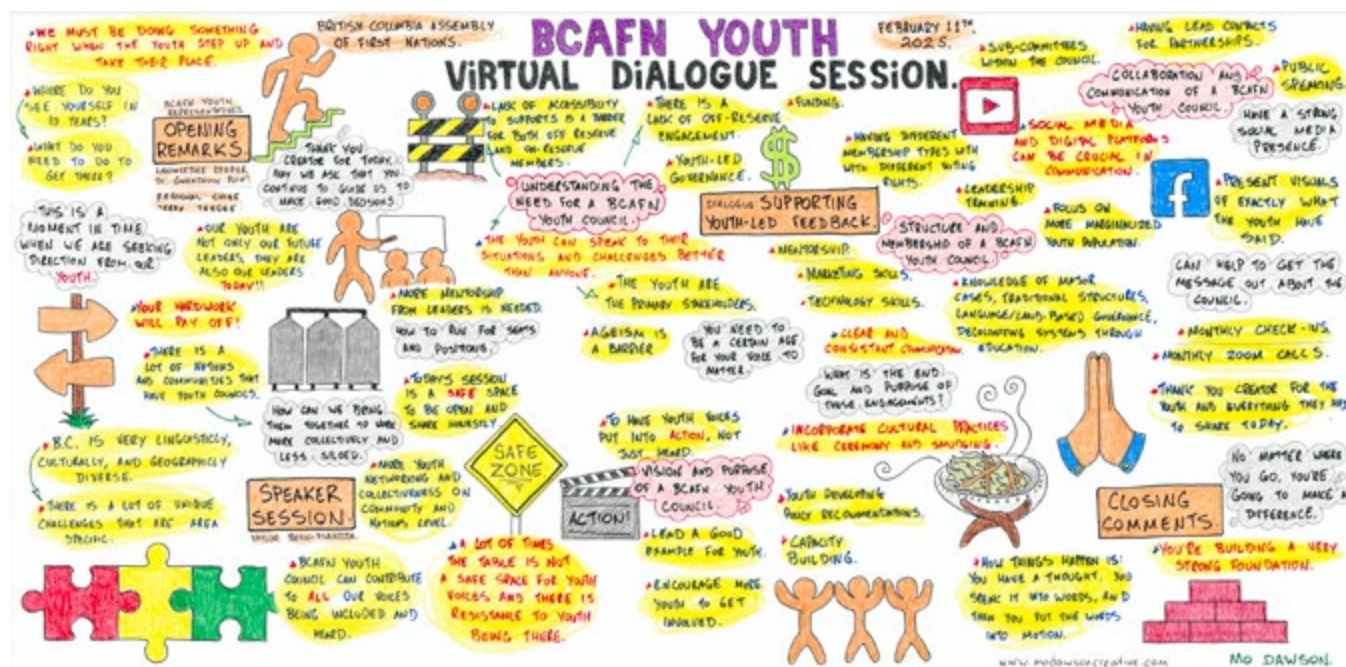
BCAFN Youth Representatives Crystal Starr-Lewis and Kyle Alec, through the support of Regional Chief Terry Teegee, continue to advocate for First Nations youth across British Columbia, amplifying their voices and reducing barriers to participation and opportunities.

Over the year, the BCAFN Youth representatives have been acting on mandates from the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly, particularly Resolution 33/2023. They have been working to support the development of a BCAFN Youth Council, which will give space to First Nations Youth to discuss sociopolitical challenges and opportunities that impact them. Concrete steps have been taken to support the development of the BCAFN Youth Council, such as hosting a Youth Virtual Dialogue Session via Zoom on February 11, 2025. The session was convened to receive youth-led feedback on the need and vision of the BCAFN Youth Council and was pivotal in supporting the next steps of development. The

feedback from the sessions will inspire the construction of a BCAFN Youth Council Strategic Plan over the coming year, as well utilizing the feedback to seek funding in order to support sustainable and equitable participation within the Council.

In addition, funding was allocated to support First Nations Youth across the province to participate in conferences and forums, strengthening youth presence and influence in decision-making settings that impact them and their communities. Recognizing the positive impact of meaningful inclusion in discussions and decision making, the BCAFN Youth Representatives sought to extend these opportunities to First Nations Youth. Through this initiative, First Nations Youth throughout the province had the opportunity to attend events of their choosing without the added burden of financial or systemic barriers to participation.

Crystal and Kyle's advocacy also operates at the national level through their roles on the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council (AFN NYC). There, they hold a national portfolio, providing leadership on their corresponding priority files and collaborating with youth representatives from other regions. Through NYC meetings, AFN assemblies, and working groups, they advance policy positions, contribute to recommendations, and engage national partners. Their participation ensures that the priorities of First Nations youth in British Columbia are reflected in national discussions, and that updates, opportunities, and decisions are brought back to BC First Nation communities. Learn more about the BCAFN Youth representative at bcafn.ca







Administration



Rayna Barter
Finance Manager



Victoria Austen
*Executive Assistant
to the Regional Chief*



Annette Schroeter
Communications Officer



Ada Madam
*Executive
Assistant -
Administration
& Records
Management*

Policy - Senior Management



Maureen Buchan
Senior Policy Director



Sophia Iliopoulos
Associate Director



Matthew Norris
Associate Director



Laura Beaudry
*In-House Legal
Counsel*

Policy - Economic Development



Sarah Behn

Economic Development Manager



Hannah Cripps

Economic Development Junior Policy Analyst

Policy - Climate Change/Environment



Patricia Rojas

Regional Climate Change Coordinator/Policy Analyst



Kristi Denby

*Climate Change
Environment Policy
Analyst*



Aaron Wood-Lyons

Regional Nature Coordinator



Charlotte Bull

*Climate Change Junior
Policy Analyst*



Alyna De Guzman

Climate Change Junior Policy Analyst



**Alexa Kerr-
Warner**

*Climate Change Junior
Policy Analyst*

Policy



Rochelle King
Policy Analyst



Aiden McGrath
Policy Analyst



Mobi Atolagbe
Housing Policy Analyst



Landon Wagner
*Children & Families
Policy Analyst*

Centre of Excellence in Economic Development



Harlan Schilling
Chief Executive Officer



Katie Robertson
Director of Strategy and Operations



Gordon Campbell
Chief Financial Officer

Learn more about BCAFN staff at bcafn.ca

Financial Statements of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations

Year ended March 31, 2025

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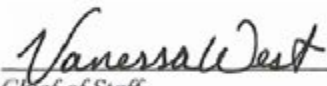
MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations ("BCAFN") are the responsibility of management and have been prepared in compliance with legislation, and in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for local governments established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of The Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. A summary of the significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgment, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The BCAFN's management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by management.

The BC Regional Chief and Board members meet with management and the external auditors to review the financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been audited by KPMG LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the BCAFN. The accompanying Auditor's Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the BCAFN's financial statements.


B.C. Regional Chief
Vanessa West
Chief of Staff



KPMG LLP
177 Victoria Street, Suite 400
Prince George, BC V2L 5R8
Canada
Telephone 250 563 7151
Fax 250 563 5693

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations ("BCAFN"), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025
- the statement of operations and accumulated surplus for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net financial assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the BCAFN as at March 31, 2025 and its results of operations, its changes in net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the ***"Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements"*** section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the BCAFN in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards., and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the BCAFN's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the BCAFN or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the BCAFN's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the BCAFN's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the BCAFN's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the BCAFN to cease to continue as a going concern.



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- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting financial statements in accordance with the Canadian public sector accounting standards have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Prince George, Canada

August 5, 2025

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

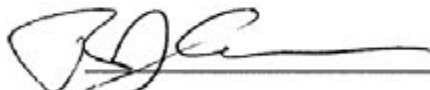
Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

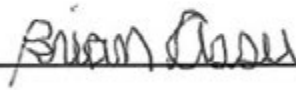
	2025	2024
Financial assets		
Cash	\$ 4,038,371	\$ 5,576,777
Accounts receivable (note 2)	3,996,362	1,722,049
	8,034,733	7,298,826
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 3)	\$ 812,650	\$ 1,142,179
Deferred revenue (note 4)	6,503,476	5,805,521
Long-term debt (note 5)	-	3,593
	7,316,126	6,951,293
Net financial assets	718,607	347,533
Non-financial assets:		
Tangible capital assets (note 6)	148,328	186,505
Prepaid expenses and deposits	19,528	29,095
	167,856	215,600
Accumulated surplus (note 7)	\$ 886,463	\$ 563,133

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:


Kookpit Rosanne Casimir

Director


Brian Oso

Director

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2024 Actual
Revenue (note 8):			
Assembly of First Nations (AFN)	\$ 1,017,399	\$ 1,017,399	\$ 898,919
Department of Justice	1,000,000	890,025	1,852
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	1,020,000	1,020,000	111,124
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)	5,490,063	2,004,431	2,359,500
Interest income	-	234,314	15,846
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)	1,380,683	1,572,915	2,083,107
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon (MEMLC)	150,000	231,341	453,908
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (MJEDI)	782,324	684,324	408,037
Ministry of Public Safety (MPSS)	200,272	167,160	172,655
Other Income	683,256	487,684	277,351
Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC)	988,767	64,016	150,862
Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)	240,551	93,058	335,616
	12,953,315	8,466,667	7,268,777
Expenses (note 8):			
Administration	1,228,486	1,587,871	1,293,595
Cultural events	195,604	144,790	237,526
Legislation	4,978,120	2,690,718	2,237,659
Policy development	6,990,284	3,719,958	3,318,214
	13,392,494	8,143,337	7,086,994
Annual surplus	(439,179)	323,330	181,783
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	563,133	563,133	381,350
Accumulated surplus, end of year	\$ 123,954	\$ 886,463	\$ 563,133

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	Budget	2025	2024
Annual surplus	\$ (439,179)	\$ 323,330	\$ 181,783
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	-	-	(8,691)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	38,177	39,140
	-	38,177	30,449
Use of prepaid expenses and deposits	-	29,095	15,101
Purchase of prepaid expenses and deposits	-	(19,528)	(29,095)
	-	9,567	(13,994)
Change in net financial assets	(439,179)	371,074	198,238
Net financial assets, beginning of year	347,533	347,533	149,295
Net financial assets, end of year	\$ (91,646)	\$ 718,607	\$ 347,533

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities		
Annual surplus	\$ 323,330	\$ 181,783
Item not involving cash		
Amortization	38,177	39,140
	361,507	220,923
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(2,274,313)	853,406
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(329,529)	418,087
Deferred revenue	697,955	1,381,138
Prepaid expenses and deposits	9,567	(13,994)
	(1,534,813)	2,859,560
Capital activities:		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	-	(8,691)
	-	(8,691)
Financing activities:		
Repayment of long term debt	(3,593)	(39,903)
(Decrease) increase in cash	(1,538,406)	2,810,966
Cash, beginning of year	5,576,777	2,765,811
Cash, end of year	\$ 4,038,371	\$ 5,576,777

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2025

Nature of operations:

British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (the "Entity") was incorporated as a non-reporting society under the Society Act (British Columbia) on April 2, 2003 and is a Political Territorial Organization that represents the 204 First Nations in British Columbia.

1. Basis of presentation and significant accounting policies:

These financial statements include the assets, liabilities and results of operations of BCAFN. The financial statements of the BCAFN are prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for governments as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB") of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, which encompasses the following principles:

(a) Revenue recognition:

Revenue is recognized as it becomes receivable under the terms of applicable funding agreements and contracts. Funding received under the funding arrangements which relates to a subsequent fiscal period is reflected as deferred revenue in the year of receipt and classified as such on the summary statement of financial position.

Government transfers are recognized as revenues in the period in which events giving rise to the transfers occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria is met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made. If the transfer contains stipulations that create a liability, the transfer is recognized as revenue in the period in which the liability is extinguished.

Donations and other revenue are recognized when the cash is received.

(b) Deferred revenue:

Deferred revenue represents grants and other fees which have been collected, but for which the related expenses or services have yet to be incurred or performed. These amounts will be recognized as revenues in the fiscal year the services are performed or related expenses incurred.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

1. Basis of presentation and significant accounting policies (continued):

(c) Tangible capital assets:

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. Contributed tangible capital assets are recorded at fair value at the time of the donation with a corresponding amount recorded as revenue. Expenses for repairs and maintenance that do not materially add to the useful life or service potential of the asset are not capitalized, but expensed as incurred. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets, excluding land, are amortized over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Building	Straight-line	10 years
Furniture and equipment	Straight-line	5 years
Computer equipment	Straight-line	3 years
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	5 years

Additions during the year have been amortized using the above annual rates prorated for the month of purchase. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use. When a tangible capital asset no longer contributes to BCAFN's ability to provide services, its carrying amount is written down to its residual value.

(d) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period.

Items subject to such estimates include the carrying amount of accounts receivable, tangible capital assets, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(e) Pension plans:

BCAFN contributes to a private defined contribution pension plan. Contributions are expensed as incurred.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

1. Basis of presentation and significant accounting policies (continued):

(f) Asset retirement obligations:

An asset retirement obligation is recognized when, as at the financial reporting date, all of the following criteria are met:

- There is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs in relation to a tangible capital asset;
- The past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred;
- It is expected that future economic benefits will be given up; and
- A reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

The recognition of a liability results in an accompanying increase to the respective tangible capital assets. The increase to the tangible capital assets is amortized in accordance with the amortization policies outlined in note 1(c).

(g) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. BCAFN has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the effective interest rate method.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, BCAFN determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount BCAFN expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future year, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

1. Basis of presentation and significant accounting policies (continued):

(h) Future accounting pronouncements:

These standards and amendments were not effective for the year ended March 31, 2025, and have therefore not been applied in preparing these financial statements. Management is currently assessing the impact of the following accounting standards updates on the future financial statements.

- (i) Concepts Underlying Financial Performance. The revised conceptual framework will replace the existing conceptual framework, which consists of Section PS 1000, Financial Statement Concepts, and Section PS 1100, Financial Statement Objectives. The conceptual framework is to be adopted prospectively. This revised conceptual framework is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2026.
- (ii) PS 1202, Financial Statement Presentation, will replace the current section PS 1201. BCAFN is currently assessing the impact of this standard on the future financial statements. Prior period amounts would need to be restated to conform to the presentation requirements for comparative financial information. This standard is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2026.

2. Accounts receivable:

	2025	2024
AFN	\$ 582,355	\$ 306,138
Canada Water Agency	165,200	-
ISC	823,506	435,106
ECCC	680,000	61,114
First Nations Summit Society	50,000	-
Foreign Affairs Canada	277,950	-
MEMLC	960,000	125,000
MFLNRORD	-	208,000
MPSSG	50,000	-
Natural Resources Canada	25,000	-
Province of British Columbia	6,000	6,000
Takla Lake First Nation	68,000	68,000
UBCIC	-	224,056
WAGE	-	16,740
GST rebate receivable	281,545	237,194
Other	26,204	33,347
Due from employees	602	1,354
	\$ 3,996,362	\$ 1,722,049

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

3. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

	2025	2024
Trades payable	\$ 384,639	\$ 815,111
Accrued payables	129,198	30,000
Funding recovery payable	-	50,000
Government remittances payable	1,047	23,938
Wages and benefits	297,766	223,130
	\$ 812,650	\$ 1,142,179

4. Deferred revenue:

	Opening balance	Contributions received in the year	Contributions recognized in revenue	Ending balance
AFN	\$ 432,037	\$ 120,000	\$ 552,037	\$ -
Department of Justice	998,148	1,000,000	890,025	1,108,123
ECCC	339,990	680,010	1,020,000	-
First Nations Summit	50,000	50,000	5,051	94,949
Foreign Affairs Canada	-	277,950	5,626	272,324
ISC	1,876,994	1,823,490	1,213,040	2,487,444
Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions	-	25,000	-	25,000
MEMLC	312,006	1,200,000	231,341	1,280,665
Ministry of Housing	-	150,000	-	150,000
MIRR	856,948	1,379,900	1,704,743	532,105
MJEDI	782,324	-	684,324	98,000
MPSS	61,125	50,000	78,012	33,113
Other	54,907	160,603	141,665	73,846
UBCIC	-	225,000	24,586	200,414
WAGE	41,042	199,510	93,058	147,493
	\$ 5,805,521	\$ 7,341,463	\$ 6,643,508	\$ 6,503,476

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

5. Long-term debt:

	2025	2024
Royal Bank of Canada term loan, repaid in the year.	\$ -	\$ 3,593
	\$ -	\$ 3,593

6. Tangible capital assets:

2025	Leasehold improvement	Furniture & equipment	Computer equipment	Building	Total
Cost:					
Balance, beginning and end of year	\$ 70,546	\$ 67,126	\$ 249,474	\$ 191,251	\$ 578,397
Accumulated amortization:					
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 48,648	\$ 50,446	\$ 208,532	\$ 84,266	\$ 391,892
Amortization	5,475	4,206	16,608	11,888	38,177
Balance, end of year	54,123	54,652	225,140	96,154	430,069
Net book value	\$ 16,423	\$ 12,474	\$ 24,334	\$ 95,097	\$ 148,328
2024	Leasehold improvement	Furniture & equipment	Computer equipment	Building	Total
Cost:					
Balance beginning of year	\$ 70,546	\$ 67,126	\$ 240,783	\$ 191,251	\$ 569,706
Additions	-	-	8,691	-	8,691
Balance, end of year	70,546	67,126	249,474	191,251	578,397
Accumulated amortization:					
Balance beginning of year	\$ 43,174	\$ 46,240	\$ 190,959	\$ 72,379	\$ 352,752
Amortization	5,474	4,206	17,573	11,887	39,140
Balance, end of year	48,648	50,446	208,532	84,266	391,892
Net book value	\$ 21,898	\$ 16,680	\$ 40,942	\$ 106,985	\$ 186,505

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

7. Accumulated surplus:

	2025	2024
Unrestricted surplus	\$ 738,135	\$ 376,628
Invested in tangible capital assets	148,328	186,505
	<u>\$ 886,463</u>	<u>\$ 563,133</u>

8. Segmented information:

Segmented information has been identified based upon lines of service provided by the BCAFN. BCAFN services are provided by departments and their activities are reported by functional area in the body of the financial statements. Certain lines of service that have been separately disclosed in the segmented information, along with the services they provide, are as follows:

i. Administration:

Administration provides the functions of corporate administration, finance, human resources, legislative services, and any other functions not categorized to a specific department that are required for carrying out the BCAFN's mandate and supports our adherence to the BC Societies Act.

ii. Cultural Events:

Cultural focuses on the integration of funding initiatives that incorporate Indigenous knowledge and its role in the support of legislative and policy development. This takes a reconciliatory approach in melding Indigenous concepts into present-day systems for the betterment of all parties.

iii. Legislation:

Legislation is responsible for policy analysis, advice, engagement and development of required information tool to inform the BC First Nations Leadership of pending and current legislation relating to specified policy such as Children and Families, Cannabis, Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

8. Segmented information (continued):

iv. Policy Development:

Policy is responsible for policy analysis, advice, engagement and development of required information tools to inform the BC First Nations Leadership on issues currently facing BC First Nations requiring the revision or advancement of regional, provincial or federal policy. This has included policy review relating to: Housing, Economic Development, Climate Change, Governance, and Youth.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

8. Segmented information (continued):

2025	Administration	Cultural Events	Legislation	Development	Policy	Total
Revenues:						
AFN	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ 183,333	\$ 709,066	\$ -	\$ 1,017,399
Department of Justice	-	-	890,025	-	-	890,025
ECCC	-	-	1,020,000	-	-	1,020,000
Interest Income	234,314	-	-	-	-	234,314
ISC	811,716	-	50,000	1,142,715	-	2,004,431
MEMLC	-	-	-	231,341	-	231,341
MIRR	177,794	42,844	330,291	1,021,986	-	1,572,915
MJEDI	-	-	-	684,324	-	684,324
MPSS	-	-	167,160	-	-	167,160
Other Income	136,566	106,345	167,514	77,259	-	487,684
UBCIC	-	-	-	64,016	-	64,016
WAGE	-	-	-	93,058	-	93,058
Total revenues	1,485,390	149,189	2,808,323	4,023,765	-	8,466,667
Expenses:						
Salaries, Benefits and consultants	651,170	92,986	721,177	1,617,925	-	3,083,258
Advisory, technical and professional fees	254,829	3,022	1,758,844	738,857	-	2,755,552
Office	260,409	8,209	34,053	279,484	-	582,155
Travel	189,263	22,745	55,997	317,315	-	585,320
Amortization	38,177	-	-	-	-	38,177
Meetings and assemblies	194,023	17,828	120,647	766,377	-	1,098,875
Total expenses	1,587,871	144,790	2,690,718	3,719,958	-	8,143,337
Transfers	(442,432)	10,350	119,543	312,539	-	-
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ 339,951	\$ (5,951)	\$ (1,938)	\$ (8,732)	\$ -	\$ 323,330

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

8. Segmented information (continued):

2024	Administration	Cultural Events	Legislation	Policy Development	Total
Revenues:					
AFN	\$ 296,000	\$ -	\$ 154,346	\$ 448,573	\$ 898,919
Department of Justice	-	-	1,852	-	1,852
ECCC	-	-	111,124	-	111,124
Interest income	15,846	-	-	-	15,846
ISC	811,716	-	641,679	906,105	2,359,500
MEMLC	-	-	243,588	210,320	453,908
MIRR	79,497	53,604	943,566	1,006,440	2,083,107
MJEDI	-	-	-	408,037	408,037
MPSS	-	-	114,441	58,214	172,655
Other Income	17,930	17,500	102,443	139,478	277,351
UBCIC	-	-	99,056	51,806	150,862
WAGE	-	-	-	335,616	335,616
Total revenues	1,220,989	71,104	2,412,095	3,564,589	7,268,777
Expenses:					
Salaries, Benefits and consultants	623,434	19,902	702,969	1,085,250	2,431,555
Advisory, technical and professional fees	107,859	4,229	1,448,104	894,667	2,454,859
Office	180,666	12,967	22,974	299,782	516,389
Travel	131,265	49,472	30,576	326,109	537,422
Amortization	39,141	-	-	-	39,141
Meetings and assemblies	211,230	150,956	33,036	712,406	1,107,628
Total expenses	1,293,595	237,526	2,237,659	3,318,214	7,086,994
Transfers	(422,087)	-	176,701	245,386	-
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ 349,481	\$ (166,422)	\$ (2,265)	\$ 989	\$ 181,783

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2025

9. Pension:

BCAFN provides a defined contribution plan for eligible members of its staff. Members are required to contribute 6% of their basic salary. BCAFN contributes 6% and the contributions are directed to the member's contribution account. During the year, BCAFN contributed \$119,224 (2024 - \$94,075).

10. Employee remuneration:

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, BCAFN paid total remuneration including taxable benefits of \$627,392 to eight employees, each of whom received total annual remuneration including taxable benefits of \$75,000 or greater.

11. Credit facility:

Under its credit facility agreement with the Royal Bank of Canada dated February 2, 2016, BCAFN has an authorized revolving demand facility in the amount of \$25,000. The revolving demand facility is due on demand and bears interest at the bank's commercial prime lending rate plus 2.0%. The credit facility was not utilized as at March 31, 2025.

12. Contingent liabilities:

BCAFN has entered into contribution agreements with various government agencies. Funding received under these contribution agreements is subject to repayment if BCAFN fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreements.

13. Financial risks:

BCAFN's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. It is management's opinion that BCAFN is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency liquidity or credit risks arising from these financial instruments and that the fair value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying value.

14. Comparative information:

Certain comparative information have been reclassified from those previously presented to conform to the presentation of the 2025 financial statements.



BC Caucus at the AFN Annual General Meeting in Montreal, QC, July, 2024.





Upcoming Events

BCAFN EVENTS

BCAFN 22nd Annual Special Chiefs Assembly

Save the Date

March 4 & 5, 2026

Go to events.bcafn.ca for updates

OTHER EVENTS

BC Cabinet & First Nations Leaders' Gathering

Vancouver, BC

November 4 & 5, 2025

Vancouver Convention Centre

Go to fnlg.gov.bc.ca to register

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly

December 2 - 4, 2025

Ottawa, ON

Go to afn.ca for more information



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS