BC Assembly of First Nations

Annual Report

2025
2026



British Columbia
Assembly of First Nations







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MESSAGE

REGIONAL CHIEF TERRY TEEGEE



Hadih Chiefs, Leaders, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, Youth, & Community members!

First, I would like to thank you for your continued confidence in me as Regional Chief. This fall, I was acclaimed as Regional Chief, and I'm honoured to continue to serve for a fourth term. I am humbled by this new mandate to lead BCAFN's advocacy work alongside our board and staff.

The political landscape continues to shift in BC and beyond. In December 2025, we launched an advocacy campaign in response to Premier David Eby's stated intention to amend the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA). I represented BCAFN at many meetings with Chiefs and the Province between December 2025 and April 2026, including several meetings with Premier Eby and Attorney General Niki Sharma. Our messaging along with the First Nations Leadership Council throughout the campaign was simple: First Nations around the province have made their position clear – attempts to unilaterally suspend or repeal DRIPA and the *Interpretation Act* will invite legal challenge.



We were successful this spring; Premier Eby decided against bringing DRIPA amendments to the legislative session, instead committing to work with the First Nations leadership to discuss concerns with DRIPA prior to the next legislative session. We continue to build support within government to ensure our relationship with the Province moves forward and not backwards.

In February 2026, I joined a Team Canada Trade Mission to Mexico. This mission was the largest in Canadian history, and one of the first to include official First Nations representation. While in Mexico, I worked to build relationships with Mexican Indigenous groups, explore opportunities for BC First Nations trade, and connect with Minister LeBlanc, Minister Miller, and the Global Affairs Canada team.



In June 2026, I led a week-long trade mission to Aotearoa/New Zealand in partnership with Global Affairs Canada. Our delegation brought together BC First Nations leaders, entrepreneurs, and businesses to strengthen relationships with Māori organizations and explore opportunities in sectors such as energy, forestry, agribusiness, tourism, education, and cultural industries. We were honoured to



be welcomed by our hosts in the Federation of Māori Authorities (FoMA) and to participate in the 2026 FoMA Economic Summit.

BCAFN's work also continues in other key areas including the Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project, the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation, National Fisheries Committee, Building Climate Resilience from Indigenous Perspectives Project, criminalization of residential school denialism, long term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services, an Action Plan on the Toxic Drug Crisis, National Indigenous Justice Strategy, emergency management, closing the BC infrastructure gap, National Youth Advocacy, and much more as you will see in the following report.

Mussi cho to the BCAFN team for their dedication and advocacy over the past year.

Terry Teegee has served as the elected Regional Chief of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) for the past 9 years and is currently finishing his third term in this position. His exceptional leadership and dedication have recently earned him another unanimous nomination and he will be serving a fourth term. Terry's ancestry includes Dakelh, Gitxsan, 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 on the BCAFN website here









ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
NATIONAL CHIEF CINDY WOODHOUSE NEPINAK



Qey/'Kwey, bonjour and greetings to all!

BCAFN's 2026 Annual General Meeting is taking place in a time of great economic change and uncertainty in B.C., in Canada and internationally.

Threats and disruption from the United States President have caused us all to think what do we need to do different, what do we need to do different to secure a safe, prosperous future for our children and the next seven generations.

Many important decisions and opportunities will come before each of your nations.

We also face new and old threats of separatist movements; and a big hurry by the Crown to build major projects while cutting corners on consultation and consent obligations.

First Nations are not deterred by any of these challenges. We are well armed with legal and political strategies to stand our ground to protect our people and our lands and waters. We will take that fight anywhere it needs to go - to Parliament, to First Ministers, to court, to international fora or the court of public opinion.

We will not be intimidated by those who choose to engage in residential school denialism. We stand with BC First Nations against all forms of racism and hate. We will continue our work together to finally eliminate the second-generational cut-off rule. We will keep fighting for clean drinking water as a human right and the requisite funding resources and to close the First Nations infrastructure gap.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee and National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak attend the National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (2026) in Kamloops, BC.

All of the work BCAFN leadership and your people have been carrying out to strengthen First Nations cultures, laws and protocols will strengthen your solidarity. This work and the guidance of Elders and Knowledge Keepers will guide you to make the best decisions possible.

The BC region has been notably successful in so many court cases. You have reshaped the legal landscape in Canada in ways that have helped First Nations all across the country. You have led with precedent setting agreements with the Crown as well as the private sector in so many areas. You have created groundbreaking First Nations institutions to restore the exercise of your inherent jurisdiction and serve your citizens better. The BC region has generously shared its expertise on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, on aboriginal title, reconciliation and First Nations justice, to name a few areas. That generosity is very much appreciated so I say megwetch for your solidarity and commitment.

The Assembly of First Nations wishes you well in your AGM deliberations. The dialogue generated by

BCAFN at the national level is important and valuable. We thank you for all of your work. Megwetch to the BCAFN leadership and the voices of Women, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Veterans Youth and Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+. First Nations across this country and across BC are stronger than ever because of you. We look forward to supporting every First Nation in British Columbia however we can.

Our rights are our rights. And this land is our land.

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 the AFN website here





(left photo) National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak and Prime Minister Mark Carney at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, December, 2025. (right photo) Regional Chief Terry Teegee address the Prime Minister from the floor.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee walks in the Grand Entry procession at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, December, 2025.



MESSAGE

CHIEF OF STAFF VANESSA WEST



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 2025.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Since I last reported in 2025, there has been a decrease in our staffing levels. This reduction is reflective of changes in funding allocations from both provincial and federal funding streams, the conclusion of project funding, and the transition of the BC Centre of Excellence in Economic Development into a separate entity.

The BCAFN staffing list is as follows:
ADMINISTRATION: Vanessa West, Chief of Staff; 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 Iliopulos, Associate Director; Matthew Norris, Associate Director; Laura Beaudry, In-House Legal Advisor .

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 Policy Analyst; Alyna De Guzman, Climate Change Policy Analyst; Alexa Kerr-Warner, Climate Change Policy Analyst.



POLICY – Economic Development: Hannah Cripps, Ec. Dev. Policy Analyst; Nikki Saadat, Ec Dev/Emergency Management Senior Policy Analyst.

POLICY – Social: Aiden McGrath - Policy Analyst (C&F/Policing/IRS/Justice); Mobi Atolagbe - Policy Analyst (Housing),.

FINANCIAL

We have witnessed that with new mandates being implemented both provincially and nationally, funding resources that had previously been accessible to BCAFN have decreased, which has affected our engagement strategies, portfolio support, and operations. As an organization that is dependent on funding acquisitions to support the work mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, staff have sought alternate funding opportunities from a variety of non-historical sources. At all times when funding opportunities are explored, the staff are cognizant to not seek funding that is earmarked for, or could potentially negatively affect funding allocation levels to, our BC First Nations.

In anticipation of funding deficiencies, Finance Manager Rayna Barter explored investment opportunities through the Royal Bank of Canada, who currently holds our account. Prior to March 2024, BCAFN held a non-interest-bearing account through RBC. Through consultations with bank officials, BCAFN began earning interest on the monthly balance of the account, which has provided financial resources to support impacted core activities and reduced project budgets.

Although the bank balance has resulted in interest income to date, there were investment options that would allow for a greater financial return with minimal liability risks. BCAFN negotiated a two-year redeemable GIC at a higher rate than RBC would normally offer, as we have been long term customers. However, if it is decided to cash the redeemable GIC prior to its maturity, BCAFN has the flexibility to do so, but the interest earned will be at a reduced rate as specified by RBC.

The interest income, along with the income generated by the GIC, will provide continued and future funding stability to BCAFN in light of funding reductions/deficiencies trends.

OPERATIONS

Our overarching focus continues to be on streamlining operations to maximize efficiencies. We are utilizing best practices 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 currently maintains our primary office in the Lheidli T'enneh community. With the recent acclamation of Regional Chief Teegee for an additional three-years, negotiations are currently underway to extend our existing lease with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. We are grateful for the opportunity to conduct our work within their traditional territory and community, and hope to remain in our current office space to 2029.

As previously reported in 2025, we have successfully closed our Vancouver Office as of March 31, 2026, that was located at the ASQ Building. BCAFN senior management will continue to seek long-term sustainable office space opportunities on either Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh(Squamish) or səl̓ilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) reserve lands as mandated through our governance documents, and as viable and sustainable commercial space becomes available.

Earlier this summer, BCAFN requested a legal opinion from Darren Haines of Aird & Berlis LLP regarding whether the labour relations of BCAFN are governed provincially or federally. Based upon their analysis, it was determined that the BCAFN functions primarily as an independent, membership-based advocacy and policy organization, which is consistent with other entities found to be provincially regulated. As a result of these findings, we will be undertaking a revamping of existing policies and procedures to ensure that they are compliant with provincial legislation.

BCAFN hosted our Special Chiefs Assembly earlier this year in Penticton, BC, within the SnPink'tn traditional territory. We are grateful to Penticton Indian Band Chief Greg Gabriel and his team for supporting the planning for the event, as we wanted to commemorate the 1982 National Indian Brotherhood Conference that took place in Penticton, which lead to the development of the AFN. The event was well attended and moving forward, we will explore hosting further in-person assemblies outside of the lower mainland, as costs are substantially lower.

CONCLUSION

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 (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.

To expand her knowledge and understanding around addictions and street- involved populations, she began working for the AIDS Prevention Program/Needle Exchange in Prince George from 2008 to 2013 as an after-hours Intake/Support Worker. During this time, Vanessa also volunteered as a Board Member for the Canadian AIDS Society and served two terms with this national organization.

Vanessa is the proud mother of three children, Jordan, Alexandria and John-Michael, and the proud grandmother to Koa and Nicholas. She currently lives in her community with her partner of seventeen years, Randy, and joined the BCAFN team in April 2018.

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.

ABOUT

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

First Nation Chiefs from coast to coast to coast direct the work of Assembly of First Nations (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 webite here to learn more.




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NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL

Children and Families

Long-Term Reform of First Nations Children & Family Services

The ongoing long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) remains a key priority for the BCAFN. Following the direction of 2025 CHRT 80, Canada, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) developed and submitted plans and proposed remedies to advance long-term, national reform of FNCFS.

In December 2025, two distinct plans were submitted to the Tribunal. Canada submitted its national plan, while the Caring Society, with support from the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) and the AFN, submitted the First Nations-led Loving Justice Plan. The Loving Justice Plan was developed through extensive engagement with First Nations leaders, Rights Holders, Elders, youth, and FNCFS experts, and advances a national framework grounded in First Nations rights, needs-based funding, First Nations-led governance, and enforceable accountability, while recognizing the importance of regional distinctions.

The work of the NCCC has been a critical support in the development and support for the Loving Justice Plan. BC Commissioners Deb Foxcroft and Helen Henderson continue to demonstrate exemplary leadership in advocating for the interests of B.C. First Nations at the NCCC level. Their contributions have been invaluable to the success of the Commission.

Throughout this process, the BCAFN has actively advocated for the distinct perspectives and priorities of First Nations in British Columbia to be reflected in long-term reform. The BCAFN has emphasized the importance of a strong First Nations-led national framework that accommodates meaningful regional distinctions, while rejecting approaches that rely on regionally negotiated agreements based on the previously rejected Final Settlement Agreement.

Support for the Loving Justice Plan has also continued to grow through regional First Nations leadership.



Deb Foxcroft, Co-Chair, National Children's Chiefs Commission; Regional Chief Terry Teegee & Kukpi7 Helen Henderson, BC Commissioner, National Children's Chiefs Commission

Resolutions have been advanced by First Nations organizations affirming support for the Plan and calling on Canada to address shortcomings identified in its proposed approach, including concerns regarding First Nations leadership, accountability, funding, and the relationship between regional arrangements and national reform.

At the June 2026 Union of BC Indian Chiefs Council (UBCIC) meeting, the UBCIC passed Resolution 2026-31 "Support for the Loving Justice Plan to End Canada's Discrimination in First Nations Child & Family Services" supporting the Loving Justice Plan as the preferred pathway to long-term reform of the First Nations Child & Family Services program and calling on Canada to provide funding for FNLC and the Our Children Our Way Society (OCOW), as the designated secretariat for the National Children's Chiefs Commission, to consult with B.C. First Nations on B.C.-specific regional variations under the Loving Justice plan. On June 25, 2026, the resolution was mirrored by the First Nations Summit (FNS) Chiefs-in-Assembly through Resolution 0626.07, and adopted by the BCAFN Board of Directors through Motion 2026.07.13.04. A similar resolution will be presented to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly for consideration at the 2026 BCAFN AGM in October of 2026.

In July of 2026, the AFN Annual General Assembly was held in Algonquin Anishinaabe territory, where several resolutions were brought forward by the NCCC regarding efforts to secure national

support for the Loving Justice Plan. AFN Resolution 11/2026, Minimum Standards for Ending Canada's Discrimination in First Nations Child and Family Services Outside Ontario, and Resolution 12/2026, Clarity, Accuracy, and Respect for First Nations in Communications on Long-Term Reform, were both passed by consensus by Chiefs and Leaders from across Canada. These resolutions will be submitted as critical pieces of evidence to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Support of these resolutions uplifts the work of the First Nations leaders and technical experts, in pursuit of seeking a better future for our First Nations children and families.

The BCAFN recognizes that the determination of the appropriate long-term reform framework ultimately rests with the CHRT through the ongoing proceedings. Resolutions supporting either plan do not, in themselves, determine the outcome of that process. The BCAFN will continue to advocate for reform that permanently ends discrimination against First Nations children and families, upholds First Nations rights and self-determination, and advances First Nations jurisdiction over children and families.

The BCAFN remains committed to working alongside the NCCC, FNLC partners, First Nations leadership, and rights holders to advance a future in which First Nations children and youth are supported through systems grounded in their rights, culture, language and Nations' inherent jurisdiction.

FNLC All-Chiefs Meeting on Children and Families
On September 9th and 10th, 2026, the FNLC jointly hosted an All-Chiefs Meeting on Children and Families at the Westin Wall Centre in Musqueam territory. The meeting brought together Chiefs, technical experts, provincial and federal representatives to advance dialogue on First Nations jurisdiction, children and family well-being and the transformation of child and family services. Key discussions included pathways and readiness for exercising jurisdiction, funding approaches, inter-Nation coordination, early learning and childcare, data governance, Jordan's Principle, and the long-term reform of FNCFS. With over 190 delegates, discussions from this meeting were captured to inform the five-year review of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families. FNLC technical staff are in the process of developing a What We Heard Report for submission to Indigenous Services Canada to inform the review of the legislation.

Aboriginal Operational Practice Standards Initiative
The BCAFN, FNS, UBCIC and the Our Children Our Way Society continue to support the Steering Committee in advancing the revitalization and re-envisioning of the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards Initiative (AOPSI). This work is grounded in the recognition that First Nations must have a meaningful role in shaping the standards, policies, and practices that affect First Nations children and families.

In 2026, the Steering Committee convened several times, approved its Terms of Reference, and developed a proposed work plan and budget to advance the redesign of AOPSI and establish a renewed, rights-based framework that reflects First Nations' priorities, perspectives, and inherent rights.

The proposed work plan and budget are currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Continued engagement and support from MCFD will be necessary to ensure that the Steering Committee has the resources required to advance this work. FNLC Technical staff remain actively engaged in supporting



Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada speaks to Chiefs and leaders at the BC Caucus during the AFN SCA, December, 2025.

the Steering Committee's discussions and planning, including identifying the resourcing, operational structures, and processes required to meaningfully update and re-envision AOPSI.

The revitalization of AOPSI represents an important opportunity to move beyond existing approaches and support standards that are grounded in First Nations rights, self-determination, culture, and the distinct realities of First Nations children and families in British Columbia. The BCAFN will continue to support First Nations leadership throughout this process and advocate for an approach that centres First Nations priorities and strengthens accountability for the well-being of First Nations children and families.The Steering Committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2026, in Stó:lō territory.

More information about the AOPSI Redesign Project is available here

Children and Youth in Care
In collaboration with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), the BCAFN continues to advance work at the joint table focused on the distinct needs of First Nations children and youth in care.

Through ongoing engagement with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and the Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC), the BCAFN continues to advocate for meaningful policy and legislative reform that centres the rights, needs, and well-being of First Nations children and youth in care. This includes advocating for adequate and sustainable funding and strengthened privacy protections to support culturally grounded, community-driven approaches that respond to the needs of First Nations children and families. The BCAFN remains committed to ensuring that reforms affecting First Nations children and youth are informed by First Nations priorities, uphold First Nations title and rights, and strengthen First Nations leadership in decisions concerning the care and well-being of their children and youth.

Tripartite Working Group
Engagement with provincial and federal governments continues through the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group (TWG). In collaboration with FNLC partners, the BCAFN continues to advocate for First Nations to be adequately supported in preparing for, transitioning to, and implementing their inherent jurisdiction over children and families. This includes ensuring that appropriate services, resources, and supports are available to First Nations communities that choose not to exercise jurisdiction at this time.

Recognizing the importance of sustained tripartite dialogue, the BCAFN has called for the revitalization of the Working Group to strengthen coordination and advance shared priorities related to First Nations children and families at both the provincial and federal levels. Over the summer of 2026, Minister Gull-Masty accepted the invitation to participate in the TWG, and FNLC technical staff are working to coordinate with all parties to convene the Working Group and support renewed engagement. Efforts are underway to bring the TWG together to address the range of priorities and ongoing concerns affecting First Nations children, youth, and families.

The BCAFN will ensure that tripartite engagement upholds First Nations jurisdiction, while advancing the resources and systemic changes necessary to uphold the rights and well-being of First Nations children and families.

Early Learning and Child Care
In collaboration with the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS), FNESC and our FNLC partners, the Early Learning and Child Care Tripartite MOU tables continue to meet regularly to advance First Nations self-determination and jurisdiction over early learning and childcare in BC. Through this work, the BCAFN continues to support First Nations leadership in shaping early learning and childcare systems that reflect the needs of BC First Nations.



Deb Foxcroft, Co-Chair, National Children's Chiefs Commission; Kukpi7 Helen Henderson, BC Commissioner, National Children's Chiefs Commission; Regional Chief Terry Teegee & Mary Teegee, Chief Administration Officer, Child and Family Services.

Citizenship/Membership

The BCAFN continues to call on Canada to respect First Nations rights to determine our own membership laws and to implement Bill S-2 as amended by the Senate and to end all sex-based discrimination within the *Indian Act* and remove the second-generation cut-off, in alignment with BCAFN Resolution 26/2025.

In the last year, Bill S-2, *An Act to amend the Indian Act (new registration entitlements)*, the bill has passed through the Senate with important amendments proposed by various First Nations, individuals, and advocacy bodies. Amendments include the application of a one-parent rule, which calls for amendments to Section 6(1) and 6(2) provisions. The amendments were reviewed, accepted and recommended by the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples.

Despite this, the Government of Canada has delayed removing sex and race-based discrimination from the Indian Act, citing the duty to consult and most recently – shifting focus away from Bill S-2 and its legal obligations to end Indian Act discrimination – onto the separate issues of membership and citizenship. This blatant violation of human rights contravenes Canada's obligations under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Act*, the Constitution, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Technical Advisory Note issued to Canada by the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the findings of the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples, and the testimony of countless expert witnesses and First Nations title and rights holders who appeared before both APPA and INAN.

In September 2025, BCAFN, together with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), launched a letter campaign calling for the end of sex-based discrimination in the *Indian Act* and the adoption of a single-parent rule and on December 12, 2025, and co-hosted a webinar to share information with BC First Nations members and impacted families. On May 7th, Regional Chief Teegee wrote a letter to the House of Commons Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, calling on the committee to immediately end sex-discrimination within the Act, to no longer delay First Nations' entitlements to Indian Registration and to ensure that the amendments proposed by the Senate are accepted and see Bill S-2's swift passage through the House of Commons. On September 8th, BCAFN and the FNLC released an open letter calling on Canada in the strongest of possible terms to stop the politics of delay and pass Bill S-2, as amended, to remove the second-generation cut-off once and for all, while further expressing concern as to the manner in which Canada is engaging and communicating the delay to First Nations.

BCAFN will continue to monitor Canada's response to the Senate amendments and advocate for the immediate removal of the second-generation cut-off and the ending of sex-discrimination in the *Indian Act*.



Climate Emergency

Summer 2026 in British Columbia was again marked by elevated wildfire activity intensified by the changing climate. More than 1,390 wildfires burned over 475,130 hectares, prompting more than nine First Nations to declare states of alert or issue evacuation orders. The recent Canada's Changing Climate Report 2026 presents a bleak summary of how climate change is already affecting Turtle Island. Rapid warming over the past 50 years has driven more extreme heat, longer fire seasons, earlier peak stream flow, shorter snow and ice cover seasons, thinning glaciers, thawing permafrost, warming oceans and rising sea level. Unfortunately, these changes are only set to accelerate as the planet heats up. The recent UN report, Limiting Overshoot, finds that global temperature rise is set to cross 1.5°C, the central long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

Neither the provincial nor the federal government is currently meeting its legislated emissions targets, while the economy and the expansion of major projects have been a strong focus, including fossil-fuel infrastructure such as LNG, oil and gas production, and natural-gas electricity generation. There is growing tension between meeting emissions-reduction targets, affordability, industrial competitiveness, and energy infrastructure development in both provincial and federal policy. It is clear that limiting further warming will require bold action and investment by Crown governments in partnership with First Nations.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee and the BCAFN remain steadfast in building partnerships, holding the government accountable and advocating for and supporting climate action that upholds First Nations' self-determination rights, governance and knowledge systems.

First Nations Climate Program Reform Project
The First Nations Climate Program Reform Project aims to advance systemic change in the design, implementation, and access of climate-related funding programs by First Nations in BC. Building on the direction provided through the BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda and the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan, the final report outlines recommendations to guide federal and provincial governments in reforming existing climate funding frameworks in collaboration with First Nations.

Developed collaboratively with the First Nations Health Authority, New Relationship Trust, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, and Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative, the report draws on a review of existing funding best practices, is informed by interviews with a diverse range of perspectives and has been strengthened through a rigorous peer review process. The final report will be available in November 2026.

BCRIP Project and International Engagement
BCAFN is currently implementing the Building Climate Resilience from Indigenous Perspectives Project (BCRIP) alongside our partner Save the Children. The BCRIP project is a four-year Indigenous-led initiative (2024–2028) focused on improving climate resilience of Indigenous Peoples in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, and Peru in partnership with Indigenous peoples in Canada. Currently, eleven partnership projects are being

Indigenous peoples from Colombia, Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru, Thailand and Nepal met with First Nations in Canada to participate in an Indigenous-led monitoring and evaluation workshop in Hamilton, ON, a day previous at the 4th Annual AFN Climate National Gathering.



implemented as part of the project, nine of which are with First Nations in BC. Due to a change in the coordinator of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas-South (ECMIA Sur) in early 2026, BCRIP is currently seeking a new Indigenous partner in Latin America. In response to these circumstances and in solidarity with our Southern Indigenous partners, BCAFN has expanded its capacity to provide closer support to all partners. We are excited that the initial phase of international Indigenous knowledge exchange and relationship-building has now begun, and we will continue to support all the First Nations and Indigenous Peoples participating over the coming 1.5 years.

FNLC Climate Work
In collaboration with the FNLC organizations, BCAFN is working to implement the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan. FNLC staff participate in monthly Technical Working Group (TWG) on Climate Change with the province. The TWG meets monthly to discuss and provide recommendations on provincial climate policies, laws, and programs that may affect First Nations' inherent rights, and to advocate for First Nations' participation in climate decision-making. The FNLC has recently engaged climate policy and legal expertise to enhance analysis and deepen involvement at this table on topics such as zero-emission vehicles, grid modernization, and the *UN Declaration* and climate action.

More recently, the BC-FNLC TWG finalized the terms of reference (TOR) for the Canada-British Columbia-First Nations Leadership Council Technical Trilateral Climate Table and participated in the first meeting on September 16. Over the past year, the FNLC has worked to advance the FNLC-PICS relationship protocol by forming a steering committee and completing a work plan, and has significantly advanced the First Nations Climate Capacity Assessment Report and Survey Report, the BC First Nations Climate Action Planning Guide, and the Climate Fund and Governance Model Discussion Paper.

Within the Capacity and Leadership pathway of the Strategy, Theme 2.6 focuses on a Commitment to Youth. The Uplifting Youth Climate Leaders Project was created to support First Nations youth in B.C. to come together, learn from each other and from Elders and Knowledge Keepers, engage in land-based learning, and share how they want to be involved in climate action and leadership. The FNLC hosted several virtual meetings, an in-person youth gathering at Musqueam First Nation in March, 2026, and prepared with the support of Urban Matters two final documents: a report to leadership from youth, and a guide to local climate action for youth by youth.

The FNLC is also coordinating two virtual All Chiefs meetings on the Climate Emergency scheduled for October 23 and November 13, 2026. Register and view the draft agenda here

Low-Carbon Transportation Project
The BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio continues to implement Phase 2 of the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project (2022 - 2027). This project is supported by the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions and aims to improve First Nations' access to safe, affordable, reliable, and accessible low-carbon transportation. BCAFN continues to advocate for the implementation of the 50 recommendations in the Transportation Assessment Report and Action Plan to improve policies, shared decision-making, and investments that advance a just, accessible, safe, affordable, and low-carbon transportation system for First Nations in BC.

BCAFN meets regularly with provincial, federal, and Crown Government staff to advance shared priorities and has engaged more than 19 organizations and ministries. To support Nations' own transportation priorities, BCAFN developed a Draft Advocacy Toolkit and hosted an online webinar on September 22, 2026.

BCAFN is continuing to support six Pilot Project Communities as part of Phase 2: Tsawwassen First Nation, Skidegate Band Council, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Nanoose First Nation, Chawathil First Nation, and Penticton Indian Band. The selected Nations are each receiving $65,000 to develop a self-determined Low-Carbon Transportation Plan and Gap and Opportunities Analysis Report. BCAFN has held five meetings with the Pilot Project Communities to date and conducted two community visits. An in-person gathering will be held in early 2027 with all Phase 1 and Phase 2 Pilot Project Communities to build relationships, share lessons learned, and support communities as they implement their Low-Carbon Transportation Plans.

Climate Portfolio Capacity
Strengthening our portfolio capacity is essential to achieving effective outcomes. In summer 2026, through the BC Indigenous Youth Internship Program, BCAFN was pleased to welcome Zachary Elliot as a climate intern. Working with the BCAFN climate team, Zachary explored the impacts of Artificial Intelligence and data centres on First Nations. This work will help inform future initiatives on the topic.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

The past year has been a period of significant disruption and uncertainty in the implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)* and the broader commitments established through the Commitment Document and Concrete Actions.

Some important work has continued. FNLC has remained engaged in consultation and cooperation on priority legislative and policy initiatives, including the review of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, modernization of the *Heritage Conservation Act*, implementation of infrastructure legislation, and other files with significant implications for First Nations title, rights and decision-making.

At the same time, the broader environment for *Declaration Act* implementation shifted considerably. Accelerated legislative timelines, reduced engagement funding and inconsistent approaches to consultation and cooperation have made meaningful participation more difficult. Long-standing work to make sections 6 and 7 decision-making and consent agreements more broadly available has also remained constrained by the Province's statute-by-statute approach, despite the importance of these agreements to translating the *Declaration Act* into practical changes in how decisions are made.

The most significant challenge followed the B.C. Court of Appeal's decision in Gitxaala-Ehattesaht. The Province initially considered amendments to the *Declaration Act* and *Interpretation Act*, and subsequently proposed suspending key provisions. First Nations passed resolutions strongly opposing unilateral changes to legislation that had itself been co-developed with First Nations. In April, the Province and FNLC jointly confirmed that amendments or suspension would not proceed in the spring legislative session and committed to further work on a path forward. Over the summer, that work has continued at the Political Advisory Table with Russell Brown and GC Steven Point, focused on identifying options to address the implementation challenges raised by Gitxaala-Ehattesaht decision while upholding the integrity of the *Declaration Act*.

FNLC's position throughout has been that the *Declaration Act* itself does not need to be dismantled in order to address challenges with implementation. There are real opportunities to make implementation more effective, predictable and accountable, including improving how priorities for alignment of laws are established, strengthening consultation and cooperation processes, creating accountability and dispute-resolution mechanisms, and addressing practical barriers to sections 6 and 7 agreements. FNLC has continued to advocate for solutions that strengthen implementation rather than weaken the *Declaration Act*, including implementation tools that could be developed without reopening the *Act* itself.

This work is taking place amid growing public and political resistance to First Nations title, rights and Indigenous human rights. FNLC has continued to emphasize the importance of standing together behind the *Declaration Act*, implementing longstanding commitments to anti-racism education, and improving the processes needed to turn those commitments into meaningful change on the ground.



BC Cabinet & First Nation Leaders' Gathering in Vancouver,BC, November, 2025

Economic Development

Throughout 2026, BCAFN continued to advance the economic development mandates established by the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly during a period of significant economic and policy change for First Nations in British Columbia. Major project development, uncertainty in international trade, ongoing pressures in the forestry sector, shifting provincial and federal priorities, and questions surrounding implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* continued to have direct implications for First Nations economic self-determination and long-term prosperity. BCAFN's work throughout the year focused on strengthening First Nations participation in these changing economic conditions while advocating for approaches grounded in First Nations rights, title, jurisdiction, and self-determination.

BCAFN Economic Development Forum
In March 2026, BCAFN hosted its annual Economic Development Forum, Interwoven Futures: Threads of Resilience in Sovereign Economies, on the traditional and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. The Forum brought together First Nations leadership, citizens, economic development professionals, businesses, industry partners, and economic leaders to share knowledge and discuss pathways toward economic sovereignty, sustainable partnerships, and emerging economic opportunities.

The forum also welcomed a six-person delegation as part of BCAFN's Fostering Reconciliation in Aotearoa initiative in partnership with the Federation of Māori Authorities (FOMA). Māori delegates participated in discussions with more than 100 First Nations participants on Māori economic development, Indigenous ownership, international trade, and Indigenous-to-Indigenous economic relationships. The incoming mission also created opportunities for Māori representatives to connect directly with First Nations businesses, economic development leaders, youth, and other partners in BC. These initial engagements helped establish the relationships and shared understanding that informed the outgoing BC First Nations trade mission later in the year.

BC First Nations Trade Mission to Aotearoa
From June 4-13, 2026, Regional Chief Terry Teegee led a BC First Nations business delegation to Aotearoa New Zealand. Eight First Nations business and economic development representatives participated alongside the Regional Chief and BCAFN technical staff, representing sectors including forestry, energy and mining, tourism, agriculture, industrial development, community economic development, and business support.

Throughout the mission, delegates travelled across the North Island and engaged directly with Māori trusts, businesses, economic leaders, and institutions. The delegation met with eight key Māori trusts and businesses and participated in the FOMA Economic Forum, providing opportunities to connect with more than 100 Māori economic development leaders and stakeholders. Delegates gained direct insight



Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Jacob Beaton, Tea Creek at the BCAFN Economic Development Forum, March 2026.



Traci Houpapa, Chair, Federation of Māori Authorities presenting Regional Chief Terry Teegee with a gift during the BC First Nations Trade Mission to Aotearoa.



Taylor Behn-Tsakoza, Regional Chief Terry Teegee, Dr. Tamara Krawchenko & Dr. Daniele Behn-Smith (Wellbeing as Economic Infrastructure) at the BCAFN Economic Development Forum, March 2026.

into Māori approaches to collective ownership, governance, asset management, international trade, renewable energy, land stewardship, investment, and intergenerational wealth creation. These exchanges demonstrated how Indigenous economies can participate successfully in domestic and international markets while remaining grounded in culture, community responsibility, and long-term benefit for future generations. They also created new relationships between First Nations in BC and Māori businesses and organizations that can support future knowledge exchange, trade, investment, and partnership opportunities.

One of the most significant outcomes of the mission was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BCAFN and FOMA. The MOU formalized the relationship between the two organizations and established a framework for continued cooperation on shared economic and trade interests. Following the mission, BCAFN and FOMA began developing a joint work plan intended to maintain the relationships established through the project and identify realistic opportunities for continued collaboration.

Building the Foundation for Future Economic Development Initiatives

Following these activities, BCAFN also focused on identifying new opportunities to strengthen its economic development work and build longer-term capacity for First Nations across British Columbia. BCAFN submitted multiple funding proposals seeking support for the first phase of a proposed BC First Nations Business Certification Program. If successful, this initial phase would support the foundational work needed to explore the development of a distinctions-based certification approach for First Nations businesses in BC and help determine how a future program could support greater visibility, procurement opportunities, and participation in the broader economy. BCAFN also submitted a proposal seeking support to advance economic leadership opportunities for First Nations women

Maori delegation at the BCAFN Economic Development Forum, March 2026, in Vancouver, BC.



and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in BC.In addition, BCAFN has continued to explore opportunities to advance a First Nations export market strategy. This work remains an emerging priority and, subject to available funding and capacity, could help identify barriers to international trade, strengthen export readiness, and create more direct pathways for First Nations businesses to access international markets and Indigenous-to-Indigenous trade opportunities.

These initiatives remain proposed areas of work and are dependent on securing the necessary funding and partnerships. Together, however, they reflect BCAFN's broader direction toward building sustainable economic infrastructure that supports First Nations businesses, strengthens Nations' economic leadership, and expands opportunities for participation in domestic and international markets.

Continued Economic Advocacy

Alongside these projects, BCAFN continued its economic development advocacy across a broad range of issues affecting First Nations in British Columbia. Priorities included forestry, food security, international trade and export development, cannabis, energy, mining, major projects, access to capital, sustainable revenue sharing, and First Nations data sovereignty.

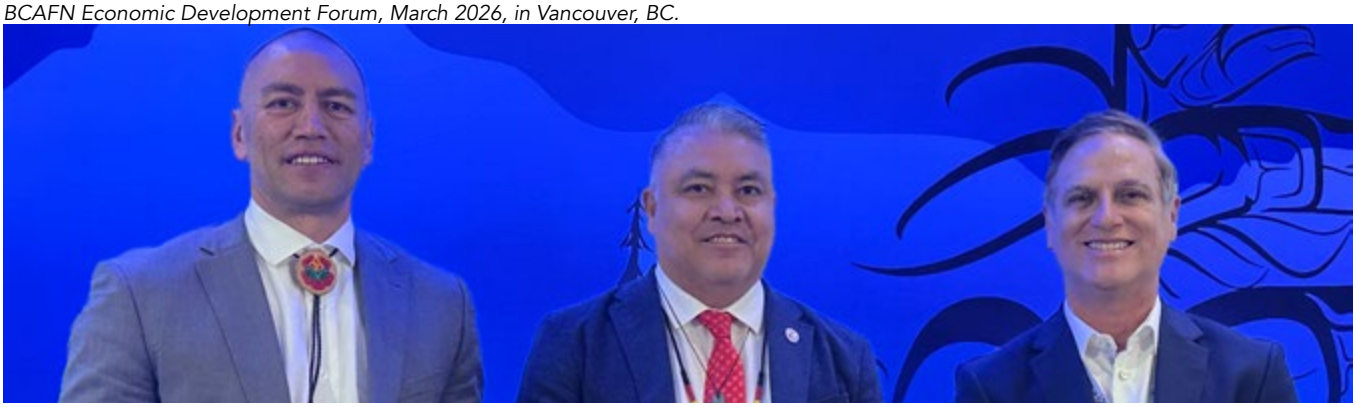
This work became increasingly important as both the provincial and federal governments moved forward with new approaches to major project development and economic growth. BCAFN continued to emphasize that meaningful First Nations participation requires more than access to capital or project-by-project consultation. First Nations must be involved throughout the project lifespan, have the capacity to assess risks and opportunities, participate meaningfully in decision-making, and be positioned to pursue ownership, partnerships, and lasting economic benefits where appropriate while respecting First Nations customs, traditions, and land stewardship principles.



Harold Calla, Executive Chair, First Nations Financial Management Board, keynote speaker at the BCAFN Economic Development Forum, March 2026, in Vancouver, BC.

BCAFN's ability to advance this work was also affected by the Province's decision to discontinue funding that had supported BCAFN's economic development work for approximately a decade. This has created significant capacity pressures at a time when First Nations economic interests are increasingly affected by major projects, international trade, resource development, and changing government economic strategies. Despite these challenges, BCAFN continued to pursue new funding opportunities, strengthen partnerships, develop targeted initiatives, and advocate for First Nations economic priorities throughout the year. BCAFN will continue working to ensure that First Nations in BC are meaningfully included in the decisions shaping the economy.

Tāne Waetford, Lead Adviser, Trade Policy Engagement and Implementation Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Keith Smith, High Commissioner for Canada in New Zealand at the BCAFN Economic Development Forum, March 2026, in Vancouver, BC.



Emergency Management

First Nations have endured yet another unprecedented wildfire and drought season across BC. The Province declared the state of provincial emergency on Aug. 8, 2026, due to wildfires burning throughout the province, including the Bald Range wildfire, with thousands evacuated from their homes across the province, and many homes lost in the Okanagan region. As of October, drought conditions persist across southern BC and Vancouver Island. One of the strongest El Niño on record is developing across BC and may have significant impact on climate and weather patterns in the fall and winter across the region.

The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), through the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), is continuing to work towards a rights-based multilateral emergency management agreement with Canada and British Columbia. Big River Analytics has been retained to conduct an economic costing assessment tool that supports First Nations full authority, jurisdiction, and consistent services and funding for long-term emergency management reform. This is expected to be completed in Fall/ Winter 2026 and will inform the next steps of the multilateral negotiations.

Engagement
In March 2026, FNLC hosted an Emergency Management Forum in Richmond, BC that brought together First Nations leadership, emergency management staff, service providers and technical partners to share updates on services, Phase 2 of the multilateral emergency management work, EDMA implementation, seasonal readiness and current support available to First Nations. The forum also provided space for regional information-sharing between First Nations leadership and technicians, including discussion on service gaps and funding pressures. A recap report is being finalized

In September 2026, the FNLC partnered with the First Nations Emergency Services Society to host a virtual All Chiefs Forum to provide space for FNESS to share their programs and experiences with First Nations. This forum was designed with the opportunity for BC Chiefs to share their experiences during the wildfire season to assist FNESS in the development of their workplan and project applications for the following year. A recap report will be shared with Chiefs and leadership in Fall 2026.



Robert Phillips, FNLC, Dawn Russell, FNLC & Tyrone McNeil, UBCIC speak at the Emergency Management Forum, March 2026.

Bilateral Extension
Indigenous Services Canada has been seeking the Multilateral Main Table's input and feedback on its proposed bilateral extension with Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) as the multilateral negotiations remain ongoing. The First Nations representatives (Tier 1) provided formal feedback in August 2026 and expressed concerns with the proposed extension that fails to meet the needs of First Nations emergency management planning, response and recovery. Moreover, the options presented were not co-developed with rights holders and First Nations have not had an opportunity to provide feedback beyond the multilateral table, which was expressed by Tier 1 representatives. The negotiation for the bilateral extension remain ongoing.

Federal Fast-tracking Agenda

The federal government continues to advance its fast-tracking agenda through the implementation of the *One Canadian Economy Act (and Building Canada Act)*, which received royal assent in June 2025. Significant changes and announcements have since occurred.

May Discussion Papers and Regulatory Changes
On May 8, 2026, Canada released two discussion papers outlining plans to further streamline major project reviews, modernize transportation and trade corridor legislation, and increase Canada's infrastructure and export capacity. Key proposals include:

1. Establishing a one-year timeline for federal impact assessments and permitting decisions, reduced from the previous two-year fast-tracking commitment in 2025;
2. Creating a centralized Crown Consultation Hub within the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, potentially conflating federal consultation and cooperation obligations through a federal arm of the Crown;
3. Increasing reliance on single federal regulators, such as the Canada Energy Regulator, while reducing the use of Joint Review Panels;
4. Amending major federal environmental laws including the *Fisheries Act*, *Species at Risk Act*, *Impact Assessment Act*, *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, and *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*;
5. Creating a National Trade Corridor, National Corridor Council and Transportations Projects Office to support strategic infrastructure development.

On September 21, 2026, the federal government introduced Bill C-39 *Building Canada Strong Act* (BCSA), into parliament. Outlined as an omnibus bill, it is intended to accelerate federal approval for major projects in alignment with the Discussion Papers released by Canada in May. The bill and cabinet directive propose over 50 amendments, most notably to the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), *Building Canada Act* (BCA), *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), and *Fisheries Act*. Below is a high-level non-exhaustive overview of key implications to the proposed amendments:

Regions of National Interest
The proposed changes would enable Regions of National Interest to be established under the BCA following an assessment through the IAA. Upon completion of a regional assessment, the Minister of One Canadian Economy would make a recommendation for RNI to the Governor in Council for listing consideration. If approved, these assessments would allow future projects in that identified region to be pre-approved. Canada notes that "additional projects not assessed as part of the regional assessment that could have environmental or other effects would require supplementary assessment and consultation." The scope of this exception remains unclear. This proposal clearly violates First Nations' free, prior and informed consent given the blanket pre-approval enabling framework identified.

Project Conditions
There are proposed amendments to the IAA, SARA and the *Fisheries Act* which requires the Minister to consider the technical, economic and practical feasibility of conditions attached to permits under these laws. This means that if the Minister deems the conditions related to the IAA, SARA and *Fisheries Act* too costly, they may be waived from a conditions document.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee taking questions from the media at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, December, 2025.



Impact Assessment Act
The proposed IAA amendments would centralize decision-making under the Minister of Environment and allow project work to proceed before a decision statement is finalized if the project is deemed to be in the "public interest". These changes could allow projects to proceed before consultation with rightsholders is complete.

IAA Exemptions
Any future interprovincial and international pipelines, including the proposed West Coast Oil Pipeline (WCOP) will no longer be required to undertake an impact assessment under the IAA. Instead, these assessments will be undertaken by a single federal assessment conducted by the CER under CERA. Overall, this change will mean that assessments will undergo shorter timelines, and if the assessment is subject to hearings, they are not required to be in person. Furthermore, the test for approval under the CER is focused on "public convenience and necessity" rather than environmental and social impacts.

Section 76-78 of CERA provides for collaborative processes and ministerial arrangements with Indigenous governing bodies to co-manage or delegate/exercise regulatory responsibilities. Section 114 of the IAA contains similar mechanisms, it is more explicit in recognizing jurisdictional authority of Indigenous governing bodies within the impact assessment process, which also includes some provisions for rights holders to undertake an Indigenous-led impact assessment.

Building Canada Act
The proposed amendments would remove the Act's five-year sunset clause, making it permanent, and give the Minister of One Canadian Economy greater authority to modify certain environmental conditions. Judicial review would also proceed directly to the Federal Court of Appeal, removing one level of review and potentially limiting opportunities to challenge decisions made under the BCA before seeking leave to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Fisheries Act
Proposed amendments to the Act would give the Minister greater authority over regulations governing fish and fish habitat authorizations and introduce new approaches to offsetting, including habitat-credit trading and fee-in-lieu payments for projects deemed to have "minor impacts". These changes could reguse the use of project-specific offsets and raise concerns about adequately addressing cumulative and ecological impacts. The amendments would also require consideration of the technical, economic and practical feasibility of conditions, potentially weakening conditions that are considered too costly or difficult to implement.



Minister Tom Hodgeson, Energy and Natural Resources speaks to Chiefs at the BC Caucus during the AFN Special Chiefs Assemlby, December, 2025.

West Coast Oil Pipeline Announcement
On July 2, 2026, the Alberta Government submitted a WCOP project to the MPO for recommendation for designation as a Project of National Interest under the Building Canada Act (BCA). On July 10, 2026, the MPO sent out a notification letter to 85 "potentially impacted" First Nations in BC, notifying them of the WCOP project under consideration for national interest project designation under the BCA.

On August 1, 2026, the federal government gave notice of its intention to list the WCOP as a project of national interest as required by the BCA to provide 30 days' notice before designation under Schedule 1 of the Act, and requested feedback by September 18, 2026. This is particularly important for Nations that were not identified as "potentially impacted."

The MPO affirms it is working "on behalf of the Minister responsible under the BCA" to initiate consultations and is seeking written feedback from

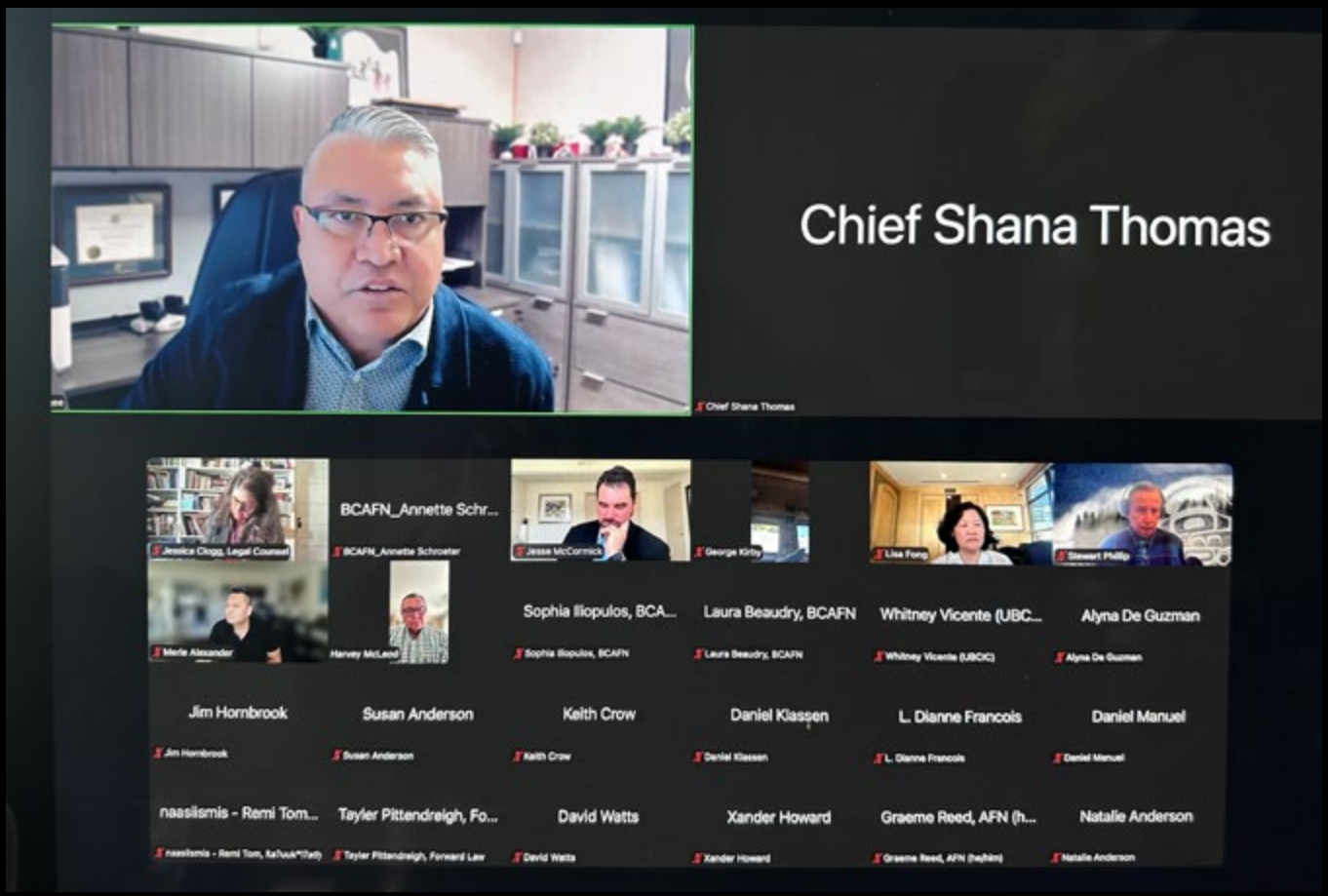
rights holders. In its letter to rights holders, the MPO describes a two-phased consultation period:

Phase 1: is for consideration of whether Canada should list the WCOP as a project of national interest. This decision was made final on October 1, 2026, despite calls from potentially impacted First Nations in BC calling on the MPO not to designate the proposed pipeline.

Phase 2: Should WCOP be listed as a project of national interest, rights holders would then be consulted on the contents of a Conditions Document. This document would identify project-specific conditions developed through a singular regulatory review led by the MPO and the Canada Energy Regulator. Due by September 2027, it is intended to replace all federal permits and authorizations as enabled under Schedule 2 of the BCA.

The FNLC hosted an All Chiefs Meeting on WCOP on September 17, 2026 to support Chiefs in their responses to the MPO, which included a legal panel, and several templates shared for Nations to optionally utilize in their responses to the MPO. Subsequently, the FNLC prepared its own submission to the MPO calling for WCOP not to be designated as a project of national interest, due to the compressed timelines and insufficient consultation with rights holders. BCAFN and the FNLC will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular updates to Chiefs and leadership during Phase 2 of the project.

Virtual FNLC All Chiefs' Meeting on the West Coast Oil Pipeline held on September 17, 2026.



Fisheries & Aquaculture

BCAFN and Regional Chief Terry Teegee continued to advocate for the protection and rebuilding of wild salmon, stronger First Nations participation in fisheries governance, and recognition of First Nations rights, laws, and jurisdiction in decisions affecting fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. Throughout the year, BCAFN worked with First Nations partners to advance regional and national fisheries priorities and raise key concerns directly with the federal government.

National Fisheries Leadership
Regional Chief Terry Teegee continued to serve as Pacific Region Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations National Fisheries Committee (NFC) alongside Regional Chief Andrea Paul, bringing BC First Nations priorities into national discussions on fisheries governance, salmon recovery, habitat protection, fisheries policy, and implementation of First Nations rights.

BCAFN remains committed to advancing healthy and abundant wild salmon, sustainable funding for First Nations fisheries and stewardship, and fisheries governance that recognizes and upholds First Nations rights, laws, knowledge, jurisdiction, and decision-making.



Federal Fisheries Advocacy
In August 2026, Regional Chief Teegee met with the Honourable Joanne Thompson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), alongside the First Nation Fisheries Council (FNFC) in Prince George to raise priority issues for BC First Nations. Discussions focused on DFO funding and program reductions, renewal of the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI), implementation of the Trilateral Salmon Accord, the Salmon Allocation Policy, and implementation of the United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan Measure 36.

Regional Chief Teegee emphasized that First Nations must be treated as partners in fisheries governance and involved early in decisions affecting their rights, fisheries programs, and stewardship responsibilities, rather than being engaged after decisions have been made.

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative and Fisheries Funding
Federal fisheries funding and capacity remained an important concern in 2026. BCAFN heard concerns from First Nations and Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Ocean Management (AAROM) organizations across BC regarding DFO funding, contracts, and monitoring agreements being reduced or cancelled with limited advance notice, affecting established monitoring and stewardship programs and First Nations capacity. Regional Chief Teegee raised these concerns directly with Minister Thompson and called for greater transparency, early notice, and meaningful discussion with affected First Nations before funding decisions are finalized.

BCAFN also welcomed the renewed federal investment of $412.9 million in the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative while emphasizing the importance of ensuring that funding reaches First Nations and AAROM organizations undertaking salmon recovery work on the ground. Regional Chief Teegee advocated for a defined target for PSSI funding to flow directly to First Nations and AAROMs and for greater use of direct, multi-year funding agreements.

Trilateral Salmon Accord
BCAFN continued to support implementation of the Trilateral Salmon Accord as an opportunity to strengthen shared governance between First Nations, British Columbia, and Canada on salmon recovery. In 2026, governance for the Accord was approved and work began on development of a Joint Action Plan.

Regional Chief Teegee called for stronger federal participation in implementing the Accord, including clear DFO priorities, resources, and meaningful participation in shared decision-making. BCAFN emphasized that the Accord should move beyond engagement toward a model in which governments collectively bring priorities, resources, and decision-making opportunities to the table.

Salmon Allocation Policy
The federal review of the Pacific Salmon Allocation Policy (SAP) remained a significant area of work in 2026 due to its implications for First Nations' fishing rights and access to salmon. The Salmon Allocation First Nations Working Group, supported administratively by FNFC, submitted joint recommendations to DFO in spring 2026. Regional Chief Teegee raised the SAP directly with Minister Thompson, seeking confirmation that the recommendations had been received and reviewed and requesting a clear timeline for a decision on the renewed policy.

Throughout the review, racist and anti-Indigenous rhetoric and misinformation surrounding First Nations' fishing rights and salmon allocation created delays to the SAP review. BCAFN continued to emphasize that discussions about salmon allocation must recognize constitutionally protected First Nations rights, uphold the 2018 Supreme Court Ahoustaht decision, and be grounded in accurate information rather than narratives that misrepresent or undermine those rights.

UN Declaration Action Plan and Fisheries Act Reform
Implementation of Action Plan Measure 36 under the *United Nations Declaration Act* remained an important fisheries governance priority. Meeting with Minister Thompson, Regional Chief Teegee raised concerns regarding the slow progress of reform to the 1993 Policy for the Management of Aboriginal Fishing and called for a fully resourced reform process with meaningful First Nations leadership.

Regional Chief Teegee also called for reform of the Fisheries Act to better support First Nations' self-determination and implementation of the *UN Declaration*. BCAFN and its partners requested that DFO commit to a co-developed process with First Nations to pursue necessary amendments to the *Fisheries Act*.

Aquaculture and Wild Salmon
The transition away from open net-pen salmon farming remained a key priority in 2026. At the 2026 BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a series of fisheries resolutions addressing aquaculture regulation and licensing, closed-containment technologies, the transition from open net-pen salmon farming, rebuilding wild salmon, and bottom trawling in Pacific coastal waters.

- 05(a)/2026 – Require Meaningful Consultation on Aquaculture Regulations, Licence Conditions, and Closed Containment Definitions;
- 05(b)/2026 – Reject the Use of "Semi-Open" Fish Farms as Acceptable Transition Technology;
- 05(c)/2026 – Demand Federal Release of "What We Heard Report" and Restart of the Open Net Pen Transition Planning Process;
- 05(d)/2026 – Rebuilding Wild Salmon as a Nation Building Project;
- 05(e)/2026 – Call to Ban Trawling in Pacific Coastal Waters;
- 05(f)/2026 – Immediate Removal of Open Pen Net Fish Farms from the Pacific Coast.

Guided by these resolutions, BCAFN continued to advocate for meaningful First Nations involvement in aquaculture decisions, greater transparency in federal transition planning, and approaches that prioritize the protection and rebuilding of wild salmon and the title and rights of First Nations.

Bob Chamberlain, Chair of the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance speaks at the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Penticton, March 2026.



Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project

The Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (JWGFNHC or JWG) is composed of representatives appointed by FNLC and BC and is co-chaired by Cloy-e-iis Dr. Judith Sayers and Ministry of Forests Assistant Deputy Minister Jillian Rousselle. The JWG has continued to work toward transforming BC's heritage legislation to align with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and recognize the rights of First Nations with respect to their cultural heritage. Broad policy directions for the amendments were approved by Cabinet in 2025 to include expanded definitions and principles recognizing First Nations rights and values with respect to their cultural heritage, enhanced opportunities for agreements with First Nations, and greater recognition of First Nations as decision-makers with respect to their ancestors and belongings.

Over the spring and summer of 2026, the JWGFNHC has been working to prepare the Request for Legislation (RFL), a more detailed set of legislative proposals that will go to Cabinet for a decision. If the RFL is approved, BC's legislative drafters then prepare the amendments for introduction in the House. In the spring, a consultation version of the proposals went to First Nations for feedback, which was generally positive. Stakeholder feedback has also been positive after BC conducted regional sessions with local governments.

With the recent calling of a provincial election in October, BC has advised that the JWG will not be meeting during the interregnum. FNLC representatives will continue to work on the RFL package during this period. Pending election results, the JWG as a whole will continue to work toward the RFL submission and introduction of the amendments in an upcoming legislative session. FNLC representatives continue to advocate strongly for First Nations' rights and interests with respect to their cultural heritage, including their ancestors, sacred places, and belongings, at the political and technical tables with BC.



Wooden mask on display at BC Cabinet & First Nations Leaders' Gathering Opening Reception, November, 2025.

Housing & Homelessness

Closing the BC Infrastructure Gap
Limited access to essential infrastructure in First Nations communities has resulted in long-standing intergenerational inequalities compared with the social infrastructure services that are regularly and consistently available to most Canadians. First Nations continue to be systematically deprived of essential infrastructure, including housing, clean water, schools, healthcare, and roads, available to most Canadians.

BCAFN has released a regional analysis of the Closing the Infrastructure Gap (CTIG) report, which estimates the cost of implementing major improvements to living conditions on reserve. Supported by extensive Assembly of First Nations (AFN) technical studies that draw on decades of national data, the report estimates that a **$92.3 billion** investment is needed to close the infrastructure gap in BC by 2040.

Housing and infrastructure are the largest categories, requiring $32.6 billion and $24.4 billion in capital and operational investments, respectively. Other categories include First Nations direct asks ($14.9 billion), climate adaptation ($10.8 billion), education ($5.2 billion), net-zero carbon ($2.1 billion), and clean water ($0.34 billion), among others.

Closing the First Nations infrastructure gap represents an incredible economic opportunity for Canada. It will strengthen the economy, create jobs, improve public services, and advance reconciliation. The Assembly of First Nations estimates that every $1 invested will generate $1.82 in economic benefits.

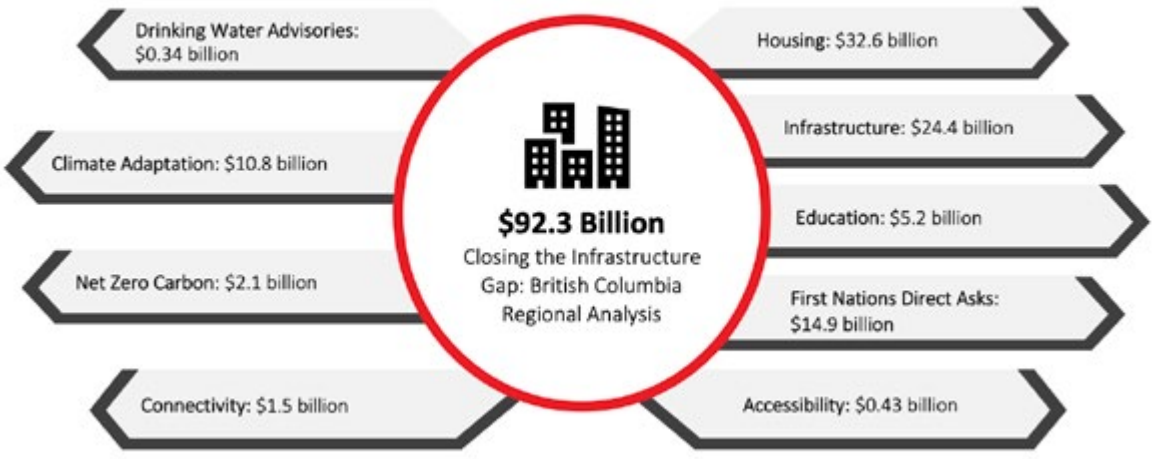
BCAFN will continue to use the data from this report in its advocacy and hopes to conduct future research to estimate the economic benefit of Closing the Infrastructure Gap for the BC region. We encourage Chiefs, Leaders, and technicians to use the CTIG report's estimates to demand action from federal and provincial policymakers and encourage investment in First Nations infrastructure. Find the report here

Housing and Homelessness
There has been no significant investment in First Nations housing in BC over the past year. Several provincial housing programs, including the Affordable Housing Fund, Community Housing Fund, and Indigenous Housing Funding, were scaled back in Budget 2026, with no replacements or alternatives announced to date.

At the same time, data from the latest provincewide homeless counts indicate that homelessness continues to rise across British Columbia. There was a 10% increase in unsheltered homelessness, and Indigenous people remain overrepresented, with First Nations accounting for 28% of respondents despite making up less than 3% of the BC population (BC Point in Time count, 2026). In Northern communities, First Nations people comprise up to 80% of those experiencing homelessness.

Housing is a fundamental human right and an essential part of holistic wellness, belonging, and identity. Regional Chief Terry Teegee continues to work alongside the First Nations Leadership Council

Figure 1: Closing the British Columbia Infrastructure Gap Cost Summary



to advance First Nations-led housing solutions and advocate for adequate and sustainable, distinctions-based programs, policies, and investments to improve housing conditions for First Nations in BC.

2025 Housing Forum and What We Heard Report
In March 2026, BCAFN completed the *What We Heard from the 2025 Housing Forum Report*. The report was unanimously passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly via BCAFN Resolution 08/2026 entitled Endorsement of the FNLC-FNHIC 2025 Housing Forum What We Heard Report, and it outlined 27 practical recommendations for First Nations, municipal, provincial, and federal action advanced by First Nations Chiefs, leaders, housing technicians, and community members at the FNLC-FNHIC Housing and Homelessness Forum, held in September 2025 on the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

The report calls on the federal government to honour the Crown's fiduciary obligations and move from short-term, proposal-based funding to predictable, long-term, investment style funding that supports First Nations-led initiatives, governance, and self-determination. It directs the provincial government to prioritize infrastructure readiness by making strategic investments in water, sewage, power, and internet connectivity to support housing development, particularly in northern and remote communities, and calls upon BC municipalities to incorporate the *Declaration Act* into local housing and land policies, processes, and bylaws and jointly advocate with neighboring First Nations for equitable access to municipal infrastructure. Regional Chief Teegee and BCAFN staff will continue working to advance First Nations' inherent rights, title, and self-determination over housing and infrastructure while supporting the implementation of the calls to action outlined within the report.

BC Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee
Over the past year, the BC Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee (CHIAC) has continued to fulfill its mandate to protect, maintain, and advance BC First Nations' Treaty and inherent rights and title over matters related to housing, homelessness, and related infrastructure. The Committee has been advising the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) on matters including governance and accountability to First Nations, housing and infrastructure jurisdiction, and service transfer.

One Chief or their proxy representative from the Salish region is invited to join the Committee to continue this important work. Please email ddahlin@fns.bc.ca or mobi.atolagbe@bcafn.ca for more information.

National Housing Portfolio
Over the past year, BCAFN has continued to advance First Nations housing priorities at the national level through participation in the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI) and the Housing Technicians Working Group.

The CCoHI provides technical advice and recommendations to the Chiefs-in-Assembly and AFN on matters related to housing and infrastructure for First Nations on and off reserve. In March 2026, Regional Chief Terry Teegee thanked Chief Dan Manuel from Upper Nicola Band for his outstanding contributions and dedicated work on behalf of BC over the years, and appointed CHIAC Chair, Councillor Christopher Alphonse from Cowichan Tribes as the new BC Chief Representative to the CCoHI. Since then, Councillor Alphonse has participated at several virtual and in-person meetings and provided advice and recommendations to ensure that BC First Nations perspectives, rights, title, and self-determination are recognized and respected in the housing and infrastructure advocacy and policy development matters discussed.

In July 2026, the CCoHI provided feedback on three housing resolutions that were subsequently passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly at the AFN Annual General Assembly, held on Algonquin Territory in Ottawa from July 14-16, 2026.

The Housing Technicians Working Group brings together regional representatives at the technical level to support the co-development of housing policies and strategies between First Nations and federal partners, including Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC), and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Recently, the group has provided feedback on updated national cost estimates for the Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 Report and ISC's Indigenous Housing Strategy, and has recommended amendments to Bill C-37, the *First Nations Clean Water Act*, Canada's newly proposed water legislation.

Existing mandates from BC Chiefs will continue to guide BCAFN's participation and work on these tables.

Hunting & Wildlife

Exercising the inherent right to hunt is fundamental to First Nations cultures, food security, governance, and responsibilities to steward lands, waters, and wildlife for future generations. In 2026, BCAFN continued to advocate for recognition of First Nations Rights, Title, Treaty Rights, laws, and traditional protocols related to hunting and wildlife, guided by BCAFN Resolution 11/2022 – BCAFN Mandate on Hunting and Wildlife. Climate change, habitat loss, industrial development, wildlife disease, and cumulative effects continue to place pressure on wildlife populations and First Nations' ability to exercise their rights.

Wildlife Management and Hunting
BCAFN continued to monitor provincial wildlife policy and regulatory developments in 2026, including ongoing implementation of the Province's Together for Wildlife Strategy, developments related to the Wildlife Act, and changes to the 2026-2028 Hunting and Trapping Regulations. These developments include changes related to hunting and trapping, wildlife management and conservation, access, and provincial commitments to greater collaboration and shared decision-making with First Nations. BCAFN continues to monitor these initiatives for potential implications for First Nations' rights and title, access to traditional foods, wildlife stewardship, and participation in wildlife management and decision-making.

Chronic Wasting Disease
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) remained a wildlife-health concern in 2026 following its first detection in British Columbia in 2024. The disease affects deer, elk, moose, and other cervids and presents potential implications for wildlife populations, harvesting, and First Nations food security.
Provincial surveillance and management efforts continued in southeastern BC during 2026. BCAFN continues to emphasize the importance of First Nations involvement in monitoring and management, testing and surveillance, transparent and culturally appropriate communication, and precautionary approaches to CWD and other wildlife disease threats.

Species at Risk and Caribou Recovery
Species-at-risk protection and recovery remained an important area of work, including Southern Mountain Caribou and Northern Spotted Owl. Through the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation (TFANC), BCAFN continued to support work to strengthen First Nations participation and leadership in species-at-risk conservation, habitat protection, restoration, and recovery.

BCAFN also participated in Anti-Indigenous Racism Discussion Sessions related to Southern Mountain Caribou recovery. These sessions focused on supporting First Nations communities in preparing for and responding to misinformation, disinformation, and anti-Indigenous racism associated with caribou conservation and recovery planning. BCAFN continued to monitor the federal amendment to the Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population as the federal review and engagement process progressed.

More broadly, the TFANC Annual Report highlighted continued First Nations-led work in wildlife monitoring, habitat restoration, and caribou recovery across BC, demonstrating the important role First Nations continue to play in species recovery and stewardship. Northern Spotted Owl recovery also remained an area of focus under TFANC, including habitat management, conservation breeding and release efforts, and federal recovery planning involving First Nations.

At the national level, Regional Chief Teegee's work as Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) supported discussions on wildlife, species at risk, and environmental health. Priorities identified through ACE included sustainable support for First Nations participation in species-at-risk processes, stronger protection of critical habitat and biodiversity corridors, and greater recognition of First Nations-defined measures of ecological, cultural, and community health.

BCAFN remains committed to advocating for First Nations-led wildlife stewardship, healthy and abundant wildlife populations, strong habitat and species protections, and wildlife governance that recognizes First Nations rights, laws, knowledge, and responsibilities.

Justice & Policing

BCAFN continues to advocate for the reform of the justice and policing systems to address the ongoing criminalization, overrepresentation, and systemic racism experienced by First Nations across BC and Canada. This work is grounded in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the National and BC First Nations Justice Strategies, mandates from First Nations chiefs and leaders, as reflected in resolutions at both the provincial and national levels, and the inherent rights, title, and jurisdiction of First Nations.

Justice and Policing Reform
Regionally, and in his capacity as co-chair of the National AFN Chiefs Committee on Justice (CCOJ), alongside Regional Chief Abram Benedict of Ontario and Regional Chief Francis Verreault-Paul of Quebec, Regional Chief Terry Teegee has continued to advocate for the implementation of the National Indigenous Justice Strategy, the designation of First Nations policing as an essential service, a national inquiry into systemic racism in policing and First Nations deaths by the hands of police forces, as well as the criminalization of residential school denialism.

In May 2026, Regional Chief Terry Teegee met with the New Zealand Police Commissioner, alongside his CCOJ co-chairs, to learn about New Zealand's policing landscape and Indigenous approaches to policing in Māori communities. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge on culturally grounded policing models, as First Nations in Canada continue to advocate for policing and public safety reform, and the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over justice and policing.

FPT on Justice and Public Safety
In October 2025, BCAFN Board Member, Chief Jerry Jack from Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, who also serves as the BC Representative on the AFN CCOJ and Policing Taskforce, attended the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety, in Kananaskis, Alberta. At the meeting, Chief Jack called for reform of the law enforcement and justice system to ensure that First Nations are no longer racially profiled, violently apprehended, and criminalized by officers. Drawing on his decades-long career in law enforcement, Chief Jack provided personal context for the ongoing calls for advancements in justice reform and the transformation of the justice system from BCAFN and the AFN, which were well received by the Ministers in attendance.

Bail and Sentencing Reform
First Nations continue to be violently mistreated, underserved, and overpoliced by law enforcement in Canada. Although Indigenous peoples make up approximately 5% of Canada's adult population, they account for one-third of federally incarcerated individuals, and more than 50% of all federally incarcerated women are Indigenous.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee testified before the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Justice on October 21, 2025, on proposed amendments to Bill C-14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the National Defence Act, where he reminded Canada of its' obligations to ensure the legislation is consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)*.

The proposed amendments aim to introduce stricter bail laws for violent and repeat offending and tougher sentencing for serious and violent crimes. Acknowledging the history of longstanding and systemic racism experienced by First Nations within Canada's policing and justice systems, Regional Chief Teegee highlighted the need for bail and sentencing for First Nations offenders to align with the National First Nations Justice Strategy and echoed previous calls for Canada to commit to implementing this framework.

National and BC First Nations Justice Strategy
At the BCAFN Annual General Assembly in October 2025, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 30/2025, Support for the Implementation of the National First Nations Justice Strategy. The National First Nations Justice Strategy is a distinctions-based strategy within the larger National Indigenous Justice Strategy, which aims to address long-standing issues in the justice system through two main paths: revitalizing First Nations laws and legal systems and reforming the Canadian criminal justice system.

Since its release in July 2025, Canada has not broadly acknowledged or committed to implementing or funding the National First Nations Justice Strategy. Regional Chief Teegee sent a letter to Canada in February 2026, calling for the strategy's urgent implementation and demanding First Nations-led reforms.

In British Columbia, the BCAFN continues to work with the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC)

and provincial and federal partners to support the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy (BCFNJS), to promote its utility as a crucial resource for justice reform across Canada. BCFNJC hosted a dialogue session at the AFN SCA in July 2026, where they provided an update on the implementation of the BCFNJS and on ongoing work to support Canada in identifying funding priorities for implementing its National Indigenous Justice Strategy.

The BCAFN will continue to provide updates to the Chiefs-in-Assembly on the status of this important work.

Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative
The Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative (PPSM) is a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG), the FNLC, and the BCFNJC, intended to advance transformative reform of the Police Act in alignment with the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCORPA), and the Declaration Act Action Plan. Together with its FNLC counterparts, BCAFN shares the mandate to advance this Initiative and has been working for several years with provincial and BCFNJC staff to co-develop policy proposals and provide recommendations for review and modernization of the Police Act.

However, in March 2026, PSSG staff informed the FNLC and the BCFNJC that the Province would no longer proceed with modernizing the Act or funding the technical working group but would instead focus on minor policy reforms. This led the FNLC to withdraw from the working group and raise serious concerns about BC's commitment to addressing systemic anti-First Nations racism embedded in the current justice system, its commitment to implementing the Declaration Act Action Plan and the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, and the process outlined in the SCORPA report.

In June 2026, the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly passed Resolution 2026-35, Provincial Retreat from Police Act Reform and Public Safety Modernization Commitments, which urged BC to immediately recommit to meaningful Police Act reform and policing modernization aligned with the UN Declaration and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) and called for sustainable and adequate funding for First Nations participation, technical capacity, engagement, and co-development and in accordance with the original intent of the PPSM working group. BCAFN continues to advocate for meaningful reform of the Canadian policing and justice system and will put forward a mirrored resolution for Chiefs' support at the upcoming October 2026 BCAFN Annual General Meeting.

RCMP Surveillance
In March 2026, BCAFN was deeply disturbed to learn of the surveillance of First Nations political organizations through a racist RCMP initiative known as the Native Extremism Program. In a press release on April 16, 2026, Regional Chief Terry Teegee urged Canada to take action to address the colonial nature of the RCMP and condemned the actions as a clear abuse of power, a violation of First Nations rights, and a complete undermining of First Nations sovereignty and self-determination.

Through BCAFN Resolution 07/2025, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly had previously called on Canada to convene a national inquiry into systemic racism in policing and the high rates of First Nations deaths at the hands of police officers. BCAFN will continue to work with the BCFNJC and the national AFN to call for justice system reform in line with the First Nations Justice Strategy and for adequate, effective, and meaningful First Nations jurisdiction over justice and policing in BC and across Canada.



Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Regional Chief Terry Teegee in Ottawa.

Languages

The BCAFN continues to engage at the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) and Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL). Currently, Kukpi7 Fred Robbins of Esk'etmec First Nation serves as the primary representation at the CCOL alongside technical appointed representatives, Tracey Herbert and Dr. Suzanne Gessner from the First Peoples Cultural Council.

On March 17 and 18, 2026, the CCOL convened in Mi'kmaq territory to advance key priorities related to First Nations languages. Across the regions, First Nations continue to advance language initiatives despite constrained capacity and funding limitations, with a strong emphasis on immersion, planning and community-driven approaches. The CCOL reaffirmed its position that amendments to the Indigenous Languages Program (ILP) Terms and Conditions are insufficient, and instead called for the development of a distinctions-based framework that reflects the unique rights, needs and priorities of First Nations. The CCOL underscored the need for a comprehensive review of the current funding model and called for this work to be undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Heritage Canada, which administers the regional funding.

Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (OCIL)
The OCIL is currently subject to an internal special examination initiated by the Department of Canadian Heritage following allegations raised by former employees concerning financial and resource management, conflicts of interest, workplace conditions and fulfilment of the Office's mandate. Since that time, a temporary Commissioner 90-day appointment was made by the Minister. Effective July 13, Candace St Aubin has been placed in this temporary role while the investigation is underway. The minister has not yet confirmed how long the investigation is anticipated to take.

5-Year Review of the *Indigenous Languages Act*
A five-year independent review of the *Indigenous Languages Act* is also underway. Section 49 of the Act requires the Minister to initiate an independent review every five years, including an examination of the Act, its administration and operation, agreements made under the Act, and the activities of the OCIL. The review body must consult with Indigenous governments, governing bodies, and organizations and make recommendations regarding the Act's objectives and potential legislative changes. In September 2025, Canadian Heritage initiated work to establish an independent review body to evaluate the *Indigenous Languages Act*. This initiative is being conducted in close collaboration with the Joint Implementation Steering Committee, which includes representatives from the AFN, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council.



Legal Update

Chief Gold Commissioner of BC, et al. v Sm'ooygit Nees Hiwaas, also known as Matthew Hill, on behalf of the Smgyigyetm Gitxaala, and Gitxaala Nation, et al.
In December 2025, the BC Court of Appeal affirmed that the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) incorporates UNDRIP into the positive laws of BC with immediate legal effect. The court also states that DRIPA imposes a statutory duty on the Crown to consult and cooperate with Indigenous peoples to address unresolved inconsistencies between UNDRIP and the laws of BC.

In February 2026, the Government of BC appealed that decision to the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC). In their appeal to the SCC, BC's main argument is that the intention of the "alignment of laws" provision in DRIPA, Section 3, is not justiciable (incapable of being brought to court to enforce alignment of a BC law). If the SCC agreed, it would prevent First Nations from going to court for unjust issues in BC's laws. The First Nations Leadership Council has applied to intervene, with Joelle Walker of Miller Titerle providing pro bono legal representation. No court dates have been set.

***Wesley v British Columbia*, 2026 BCSC 422**
In March 2026, the Supreme Court of BC granted certification of a class action lawsuit against BC, the Attorney General of Canada, and Dr. T.C. McKenzie for their parts in the operation of the Willingdon School for Girls in Vancouver (1914-1973), where abuses such as forced sterilization, sexual, physical and mental abuse, medical negligence, solitary confinement, and forced sterilization occurred. The class action includes an Indigenous subclass, with the claimants pointing to historical documents that showed the school had a deliberate role in "efforts… made to separate [Indian] youngsters from their homes and communities." BC has decided to appeal the certification. The intervention deadline is October 13, 2026, with a possibility of extending to November 6, 2026.

***Tsetsaut Skii Km Lax Ha Nation v British Columbia (Environment and Parks)*, 2026 BCSC 1042**
This case concerns an environmental assessment certificate issued to KSM Mining LLC for the Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell Project (KSM Project) on Tsetsaut Skii Km Lax Ha Nation's territory in northwestern BC. The Tsetsaut sought judicial review of the Chief Executive Assessment Officer's (CEAO) decision to extend the certificate under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA), thereby leaving the certificate in force indefinitely. The CEAO made this decision to extend the life of the certificate because it had "substantially started," which is part of the enabling provision of Section 31(7) of the EAA.

Tsetsaut claimed that BC failed to adequately consult them by failing to conduct an assessment of the strength of claim of the Nation's Aboriginal rights and title claim, BC failed to meet the duty of procedural fairness to the Nation, and the CEAO's decision was unreasonable. Since 2004, BC has recognized that the Tsetsaut have a strong prima facie claim to their asserted territory, and that the entire mining project takes place on their asserted territory, so they are owed a deep and meaningful duty to consult. In issuing the certification, the court found that the CEAO failed to rely on the previous recognition of asserted Aboriginal rights and title, which was inconsistent with the honour of the Crown.

The court ordered that the "Substantially Started Designation" be remitted back to the Minister of Environment for reconsideration. Before then, the Crown will consult with the Tsetsaut and provide 90 days' notice for written submissions.

Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association v British Columbia
The Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association (PHARA) filed a petition in the BC Supreme Court against BC in September 2024. PHARA members fundamentally disagreed with the shishálh Foundation Agreement, a Section 7 agreement that set out a shared decision-making process between BC and the shishálh Nation and would apply to dock tenures at Pender Harbour. PHARA claims its members have been adversely affected, including uncertainty about the use and enjoyment of their real property. This petition was dismissed after shishálh and BC ended the agreement.

In February 2026, PHARA re-launched its petition to the BC Supreme Court. PHARA sought declarations that DRIPA is unconstitutional and inconsistent with Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and therefore of no force or effect. It also argued that DRIPA is unconstitutional as it relates to the separation of powers and authority over Indians and Indian lands under Section 91(24) of the Constitution, or alternatively that Section 7 is unconstitutional because it violates Section 3 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. PHARA also asked for an interim and

interlocutory injunction against BC to prevent it from entering into Section 7 agreements, and a declaration that Section 3 of DRIPA violates the principle of parliamentary supremacy.

The case has been set for a 16-day trial starting on November 22, 2027, in the BC Supreme Court.

***J.D. Irving, Limited et al. v Wolastoqey Nation*, 2025 NBCA 129**

Although not a BC case, it addresses issues similar to those in Cowichan Tribes (2025), primarily private property and Aboriginal title. In 2021, six Wolastoqey Nations (phonetically, wool-ah-sto-gway) filed a claim for Aboriginal title of more than half of New Brunswick based on the Peace and Friendship Treaties made with the Crown between 1725 and 1778. They made this claim against the Crown as well as 7 pulp and timber companies. In the lower court, the claim succeeded, but at the Court of Appeal, the court held that a declaration of Aboriginal title against the pulp and timber companies had no prospect of reasonable success, and that a declaration of Aboriginal title over privately owned fee simple lands was "unsustainable." The Wolastoqey appealed to the SCC, but it was dismissed, thereby upholding this court's decision.



Nature, Biodiversity & Tripartite Nature Framework Agreement

The BCAFN continued to support First Nations leadership in the stewardship and protection of biodiversity across British Columbia. This year also brought significant uncertainty following the sunsetting of several federal nature funding programs on March 31, 2026. The loss of these funding streams created a difficult landscape for maintaining capacity and advancing ongoing conservation work. Despite these challenges, BCAFN has remained committed and adaptive, continuing to advance First Nations-led conservation priorities while advocating for stable, long-term investments in nature and biodiversity.

AFN National Conservation Gathering
In October 2025, BCAFN attended the Assembly of First Nations National Conservation Gathering in Membertou, Nova Scotia. Over the week, BCAFN participated in discussions, learning sessions, and networking focused on First Nations-led conservation, biodiversity, stewardship, and related nature priorities. The gathering provided an important opportunity to learn from First Nations and conservation practitioners from across the country, build relationships, and advocate for BC First Nations' priorities in national conversations on conservation and biodiversity.

Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation
The Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation (TFANC) entered its third year of implementation in 2026. The Agreement continues to bring together the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and the Ministry of Water Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) to advance shared priorities related to habitat conservation and restoration, species at risk, and First Nations-led stewardship.

In Spring 2026, the partners released the Second Annual Report on TFANC, highlighting work undertaken during the Agreement's second year and the transition into Year Three. However, the sunsetting of federal nature funding created uncertainty early in 2026. BCAFN and the FNLC have continued to advocate for the resources necessary to meaningfully advance the Agreement.

During the latter part of 2026, BCAFN and its FNLC partners have also focused on strengthening the connection between TFANC and First Nations across BC. This includes exploring how Nations can engage more directly with the Framework, how their priorities can better inform tripartite discussions, and how TFANC can more effectively support First Nations-led conservation and stewardship occurring within their territories.

Glaciers, Snowpack and Water Security
A significant new area of work in 2026 has been the development of the First Nations-led Glaciers, Snowpack, and Water Security Initiative. This has come from BCAFN Resolution 02/2026 – Support for First Nations-led Glacier, Snowpack, and Water Security Initiative. The initiative responds to the rapid loss of glaciers and changing snowpack conditions across BC and the resulting implications for water security, ecosystems, and First Nations communities.

BCAFN has secured initial funding and begun developing a place-based initiative that will work directly with Partner Nations. Initial work will focus on understanding glacier, snowpack, watershed, and water-security vulnerabilities within participating Nations' territories, identifying information and monitoring gaps, and supporting future Nation-led stewardship and adaptation planning. The initiative will help build a stronger foundation for First Nations leadership in responding to the long-term impacts of changing glaciers, snowpack, and water systems. BCAFN will launch an Expression of Interest (EOI) late September 2026 to select two Partner Nations to participate in the initiative. Selected Nations will receive funding to support their participation in Phase 1 and help shape the priorities and future direction of the work. EOI submissions will be accepted for a one month timeline.

National and Provincial Advocacy and Emerging Nature Policy
Regional Chief Terry Teegee continued to serve as Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations Advisory Committee on Climate Action and Environment (ACE), helping ensure BC First Nations' perspectives are reflected in national discussions on biodiversity conservation, climate change, nature funding, and major project development. In 2026, work through ACE focused on strengthening First Nations influence in federal environmental decision-making, with priorities including First Nations-led biodiversity conservation, freshwater protection, impact

assessment and major project development, and sustainable capacity and funding for First Nations environmental stewardship.

BCAFN also continued to monitor federal and provincial efforts to accelerate major project approvals and their potential implications for biodiversity, species at risk, and First Nations rights. BCAFN has emphasized that efforts to streamline decision-making must maintain strong environmental protections, align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), and ensure First Nations rights and title remain central to decisions affecting lands and waters.

Through the FNLC BCAFN is also monitoring the Province's ongoing five-year review of the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) through its participation on a working group led through the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment OfficeGuided by BCAFN Resolution 06/2026 – Renewed Commitment to Reforming the Environmental Assessment Act, the FNLC continues to advocate for reforms that uphold First Nations rights and title, and respect free, prior and informed consent in environmental assessment processes.

Looking Forward

Despite the significant uncertainty, BCAFN remains committed to advancing First Nations-led conservation and stewardship. Moving forward, BCAFN will continue working with its FNLC partners to strengthen connections between TFANC and First Nations, advocate for stable long-term nature funding, advance the Glaciers, Snowpack, and Water Security Initiative, and ensure First Nations leadership remains central to biodiversity and nature policy in British Columbia.



Residential Schools & Unmarked Graves

The BCAFN remains deeply concerned by the continued spread and amplification of residential school denialism, anti-First Nations racism, and hate by elected officials and other public figures in British Columbia. The use of denialism to advance political agendas distorts the truths shared by First Nations, and undermines the lived experiences of Survivors and their families, and contributes to division and harm within British Columbia. The BCAFN continues to call for accountability and unequivocally rejects the use of residential school denialism and anti-First Nations rhetoric within public and political institutions.

Since early 2025, the BCAFN has held a clear mandate from the Chiefs-in-Assembly to advocate for the criminalization of residential school denialism and for public institutions to address the dissemination of misinformation and anti-First Nations racism. This mandate informed the BCAFN's advocacy throughout late 2025 and 2026 in relation to Bill C-9, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places). Through discussions with the Department of Justice, the BCAFN advocated for amendments to recognize residential school denialism within the legislation, protect legitimate First Nations protest, and ensure that the definition of cultural places appropriately recognizes First Nations sacred sites. Despite consistent advocacy from First Nations organizations, these proposed amendments were not incorporated into the legislation.

In December 2025, the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a resolution calling for the criminalization of residential school denialism and specifically calling for amendments to Bill C-9. As the legislation proceeded through parliamentary review, the BCAFN and AFN were provided an opportunity to appear before the committee; however, this opportunity was subsequently cancelled as consideration of the Bill proceeded to the Senate. In response, Regional Chief Teegee issued an urgent letter to the Senate Committee on Human Rights calling for an amendment to recognize residential school denialism. In April 2026, RC Teegee and other First Nations leadership appeared before the Committee and reiterated this call. Following the testimony, Senator Nancy Karetak-Lindell, herself a residential school Survivor, introduced an amendment to recognize residential school denialism within the legislation. The amendment was defeated in the Senate by a vote of 41–32, after which Bill C-9 continued through the parliamentary process without further opportunity to advance an amendment addressing denialism.

The BCAFN strongly condemns the defeat of the amendment and the failure of Canada to respond to the clear direction expressed by First Nations leadership. The exclusion of residential school denialism from Bill C-9 reflects ongoing concerns regarding the meaningful participation of First Nations in federal law-making processes and the gap between engagement and substantive co-

National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak and Regional Chief Terry Teegee calling for residential school denialism to be included in federal hate legislation at a press conference at the AFN AGA in Ottawa, 2026.



development. Meaningful reconciliation requires Canada to uphold the truth of the residential school system, listen to Survivors and First Nations rights holders, and take concrete action to confront denialism and anti-First Nations hate. The BCAFN continues to call on Canada to advance legislative and institutional reforms that uphold First Nations rights and are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Throughout 2026, concerns regarding the amplification of residential school denialism and anti-First Nations hate have also intensified in British Columbia. Events associated with OneBC and MLA Dallas Brodie were held at several post-secondary institutions, including Thompson Rivers University, the University of Victoria, the University of the Fraser Valley, and the University of British Columbia. These events were met with counterprotests involving students, staff, and community members who expressed support for residential school Survivors and First Nations. BCAFN commends the peaceful actions of those who stood in solidarity with Survivors and First Nations communities in the face of misinformation and hate.

On January 23, 2026, the BCAFN called on UBC and post-secondary institutions across British Columbia to take a strong position against residential school denialism and to consider the impacts of providing platforms for the dissemination of misinformation and anti-First Nations hate. Given the continued underrepresentation of First Nations within post-secondary institutions, these institutions have a responsibility to ensure that their campuses are places where First Nations students and faculty can participate safely and without being subjected to racist and harmful narratives that deny the lived experiences of Survivors.

At the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly in March of 2026, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 10/2026, Call for Essential Services Designation for Health and Cultural Services for Residential School Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors. The resolution calls on all levels of government to recognize health and cultural services for Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors as essential services and ensure their permanent availability. It further calls on Canada to review its obligations arising from residential school, day school, and Indian hospital settlements and directs the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to advocate for equitable, sustainable, and permanent funding, including capital infrastructure funding, for First Nations organizations delivering these critical services. BCAFN technical staff continue working to implement the calls to action noted in the resolution.

The BCAFN continues to advance the mandate provided by the Chiefs-in-Assembly to confront residential school denialism and anti-First Nations hate. Regional Chief Teegee continues to call for accountability, including the resignation of MLA Dallas Brodie. The BCAFN is also working alongside the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit to challenge the growing presence of anti-Indigenous rhetoric and hate in British Columbia and will continue to advocate for accountability from elected officials and public institutions, uphold the truth and lived experiences of residential school Survivors, and advance legislative and institutional change that respects First Nations title and rights.



Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir calling for residential school denialism to be included in federal hate legislation at a press conference at the AFN AGA in Ottawa, 2026.

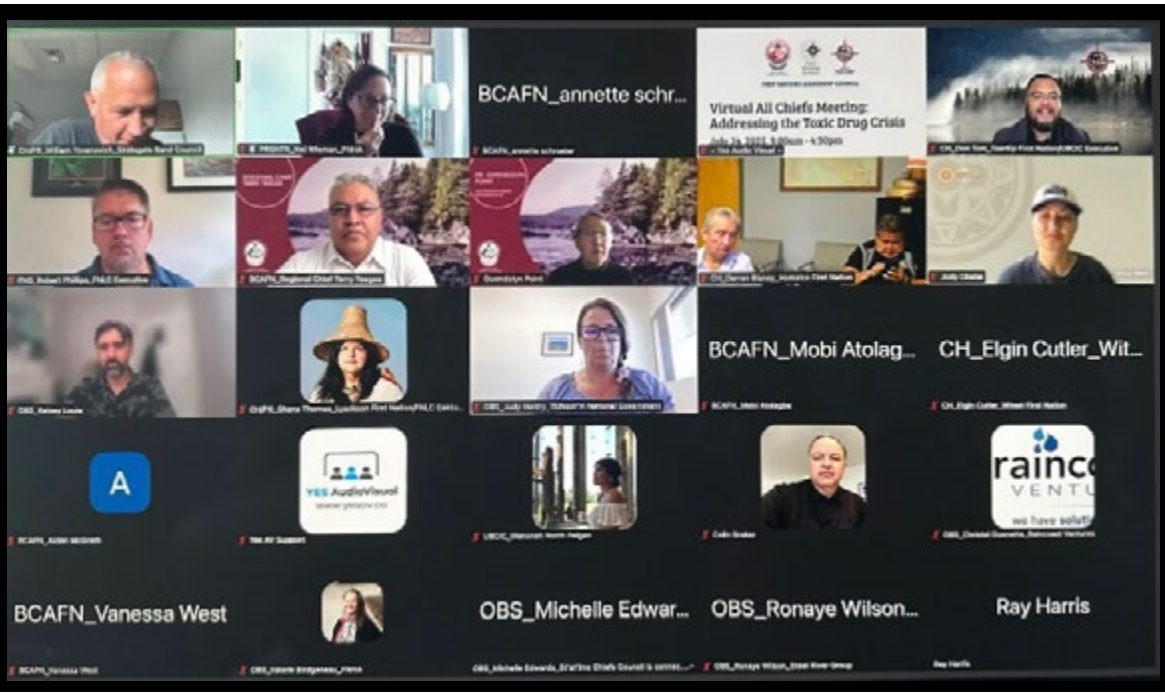
Toxic Drug Crisis

BCAFN continues to push for provincial and federal action to address the disproportionate impacts of the toxic drug crisis on First Nations people, while intersectional issues, including ongoing systemic racism in education, health, and the justice system, further exacerbate the crisis. 2026 marks the 10-year anniversary of the province of BC declaring a public health emergency in response to this crisis. According to the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), 2,953 First Nations people have lost their lives to toxic drug poisonings, highlighting the need for culturally safe approaches that confront anti-First Nations racism and systemic inequity built into Canada's health system. More work is needed to reduce avoidable fatalities and drug-related harms, and to ensure the recognition and respect of First Nations' rights to culturally appropriate healthcare, free from discrimination and racism.

BC Chiefs-in-Assembly previously passed Resolution 39/2024, Call for Immediate Action to Address the Toxic Drug Poisoning Crisis, and in July 2025, the FNLC hosted a virtual All-Chiefs Meeting to foster dialogue on a First Nations-led approach to addressing the root causes of the Toxic Drug Crisis. Staff developed a What We Heard Report summarizing key recommendations and calls to action from participants, including expanding Indigenous-led treatment and aftercare centres, investing in transitional housing, second-phase recovery, and youth-specific prevention programs, and emphasizing the importance of wraparound supports in breaking cycles of harm. Chiefs rejected fragmented jurisdictional responses, called for direct, flexible funding that flows to communities without intermediaries, and endorsed the development of a comprehensive First Nations-led strategy grounded in self-determination, cultural safety, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).

As directed by Chiefs, FNLC staff have completed the first draft of the First Nations Action Plan on the Toxic Drug Crisis. Over the next year, staff will work to establish the Chiefs' Task Force on the Toxic Drug Crisis and seek approval and endorsement of the draft Action Plan. BCAFN will continue to work with the FNLC, federal and provincial counterparts, FNHA, and the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance drug policy reforms that centre First Nations' health and wellness through First Nations-led decision-making, service delivery, and policy implementation. BCAFN will continue to advocate for adequate, long-term, sustainable resourcing to uphold First Nations' inherent right, title, and jurisdiction and to improve physical and mental health and wellness outcomes for First Nations in BC and across Canada.

FNLC Virtual All Chiefs Meeting: Addressing the Toxic Drug Crisis held July 24, 2025



United Nations Declaration Act

In 2025 and 2026, Canada failed to make notable progress in implementing the *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA) and has failed to follow its own legislation to co-develop key acts with First Nations, including C-5, C-9, S-2, C-37 and now C-39. Canada's failure to take substantive action raises serious concerns about this government's political will to uphold its international commitments and to observe its own legislation.

In addition, Canada has failed to ensure the timely implementation of UNDA's National Action Plan. The Action Plan contains 181 measures to substantively advance the act.

To date, implementation of the action plan has been ad hoc, lacking transparency, accountability, First Nations participation, capacity funding and a cohesive whole-of-government approach, including comprehensive guidance to ensure the standards of the *UN Declaration* are applied correctly and consistently across federal departments.

On August 19, 2026, the Department of Justice released its fifth Annual Report on progress to implement the UNDA and the associated Action Plan. Indigenous nations, communities, governments and organizations were invited to share their priorities, perspectives, experiences and recommendations related to the implementation of the UNDA Action Plan and Canada's progress in aligning its laws with the *UN Declaration*.

At the time of release, 71 Indigenous partners had provided input to the report. Demonstrating the need for additional capacity funding and engagement with First Nations across Canada on UNDA implementation.

As a member of the FNLC, the BCAFN prepared a submission noting our ongoing concerns with the implementation of the *Act*, and the notable lack of political will, resourcing and expertise required to ensure the advancement of the *Act* and its associated action plan. The report demonstrates that limited real progress has been made in the past year, as the Carney government has refocused departmental capacity on its Major Projects Initiatives. The report highlights the creation of minimal progress on issue-specific initiatives without demonstrating progress on systemic implementation priorities.

In 2023, the FNLC struck a joint table with the Attorney General of Canada and Minister of Justice on a BC-Specific approach to implementing the UNDA.

Last February, the political table identified five mandated areas for joint work that are critical to the success of this *Act*, these being:

- Alignment of Laws processes and mechanisms;
- Accountability mechanisms;
- First Nations capacity funding mechanisms;
- Legislative alignment and action plan prioritization processes;
- Whole-of-Government approach.

Despite significant delays, the table has produced a work plan that seeks to develop recommendations to address the first two mandated areas, with the final three pending engagement with other federal departments and agencies.

The FNLC has developed internal concept papers to help guide discussions with the DOJ, and we hope to begin engaging nations in the Winter/Spring of 2027 to develop policy and legislative solutions to guide implementation of the UNDA.

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.

AFN Chiefs Committee on UNDA Implementation
On December 5th, 2023, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed resolution no. 78/2023 to 1) transition the Ad-Hoc Chiefs' Committee to become a standing Chiefs' Committee on the U*nited Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and 2) direct the AFN Executive Committee to appoint, and in some cases reappoint, existing members as needed, to the Chiefs' Committee on the UNDA, in accordance with Article 7 (3) of the AFN Charter, to provide advice and direction on matters relating to the implementation of the *UN Declaration*.

The CCUNDA drafted a TOR and which was approved by the AFN Executive this summer. The CC-UNDA is currently preparing a work plan to help guide AFN's re-engagement with DOJ.

BCAFN Regional Chief Terry Teegee holds the portfolio lead for the UNDA file, while Chief Shana Thomas has been appointed as the representative for the BC region on the Chiefs Committee.

Water

At the BCAFN Annual General Assembly in 2025, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supported and endorsed Resolution 33/2025 which endorses BCAFN's Position Paper entitled, *Legislating the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water for First Nations*, which calls on the Federal Government to:

1. Formally enshrine the human right to safe and clean drinking water as a binding legal obligation;
2. Recognize and affirm First Nations' jurisdiction over water and water/wastewater infrastructure;
3. Embed free, prior and informed consent and shared decision-making within the legislative framework; and,
4. Guarantee long-term, sustainable, and equitable funding for water and wastewater systems.

Since then, Regional Chief Terry Teegee has been advocating to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to uphold First Nations' right to water in replacement legislation for the former Bill C-61. BCAFN also released a Right to Water Communications Campaign which sought a sign on calling on Canada to fulfil its right to water promise.

Subsequently, on June 16, 2026, ISC Minister Mandy Gull-Masty introduced Bill C-37, *First Nations Clean Water Act* which is intended to establish a legal federal framework for First Nations clean drinking water, wastewater treatment and source water protection on First Nations lands as part of the First Nations Clean Drinking Water Settlement Agreement signed in 2021.

This bill is an weakened iteration of the former Bill C-61, which died on the order paper in 2025 due to government calling an election. The Bill is anticipated to proceed to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs in Fall/Winter 2026.

Analysis

Based on preliminary analysis, Bill C-37 includes key elements including:

1. Recognition of First Nations jurisdiction and rights over lands and waters, limited to First Nations reserve lands;
2. Provisions to establish protection zones for source water adjacent to First Nations reserve lands subject to the agreement of the federal government and province or territory where the protection zone is located;
3. National standard requirements for water and wastewater services;
4. The development of a funding framework that is to be developed in consultation and cooperation with First Nations;
5. Liability protections for water system operators;
6. The establishment of a First Nations Water Commission;
7. Mandatory review of the legislation within five years of enactment.

While there are similarities between C-37 and former C-61, substantive changes have been made that weaken federal obligations to rights holders there are significant concerns with the draft bill, which was amended without consultation and cooperation with rights and title holders. As currently written, the bill fails to align with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and *United Nations Declaration Act* and it does not provide legal recognition for water as a human right despite platform commitments from Prime Minister Carney during his election campaign.

Moreover, wording in several provisions have weakened federal obligations and accountability which rely on "best efforts" rather than enforceable requirement and previous co-development requirements in Bill C-61, including the development of a funding framework, have been removed.

Next Steps

BCAFN will continue to review and analyze the legislation in preparation for it to proceed to study with the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs in the fall. Chiefs who may be interested in preparing an oral or written submission to the Committee that requires support or would like further information shared with their council and community, please reach out to Sophia.Iliopulos@bcafn.ca.



Women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ & MMIWG2S

Since the beginning of 2026, BCAFN has worked to advance several gender equity files.

In particular, the Women's Representative and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative have been busy standing up either of their respective Councils. Both Councils' Terms of Reference documents will be going to a governance committee for review and endorsement over the next 6 months. The Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan was updated in response to the endorsed recommendations from the Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session Report and input from the Councils. New items in the Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan include a focus on impacts from major natural resource extraction projects considering federal and provincial economic priorities, advancing food sovereignty in response to the cost-of-living crisis and securing more addictions and mental health treatment facilities for First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to address the ongoing toxic drug supply crisis.

The MMIWG2S+ Legislative Working Group wrapped up its environmental scan and gaps analysis of federal and provincial policy and legislation that addresses missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada. BCAFN is furthering this file by seeking funding to advocate for MMIWG2S+ specific legislation, host dialogue sessions, develop policy and to continue to collaborate with partners. The Women and 2SLBTQQIA+ Representatives continue to work with their respective AFN Councils to remain briefed on federal gender equity files and bring forth BC-specific priorities and perspectives while learning from regional colleagues.



Co-chair Annita McPhee and BCAFN representatives at the Women Chiefs and Leaders Caucus Meeting in Kelowna, BC, March 2026.

The Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session brought together many representatives from across the Province to discuss gender equity issues impacting the wellbeing of First Nations Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The Dialogue Session resulted in over 100 recommendations for action or advocacy, which have been incorporated into the Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan. Women Chiefs and Leaders Caucus Meeting took place in March 2026. It featured collaborative dialogue on presentations from various levels of government, and interactive plenary sessions with the purpose to integrate the voices, experiences, and leadership of First Nations Women Chiefs and Leaders into resource development processes to ensure that safety, equity, and rights are upheld — especially in the context of implementing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ (MMIWG2S+) National Action Plan.

BCAFN Women Chiefs and Leaders Caucus Meeting (hybrid: in-person and online via Zoom) in Kelowna, BC, March 2026.





People

PEOPLE OF THE BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

REGIONAL CHIEF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REPRESENTATIVES

EMPLOYEES



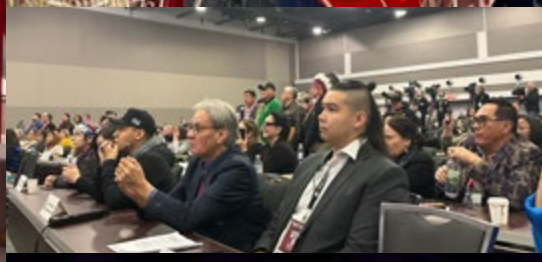








Let it Snow











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
?Akisqnuk First Nation

UPDATE

Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, Youth, First Nation members and honoured guests!

The BCAFN Board of Directors is pleased to present the Annual Report for 2025/2026 to the 23rd 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 31, 2026, for the election of the Regional Chief, three (3) seats on the BCAFN Board of Directors, one (1) Female Youth Representative and one (1) Male Youth Representative position.

The Board would like to congratulate Regional Chief Terry Teegee for his unprecedented acclamation to a fourth term. The Board of Directors looks forward to the continued leadership of Regional Chief Teegee and to working in collaboration to oversee BCAFN and advance initiatives for the benefit of our First Nations in BC and across Canada.

One completed nomination package was received for the position of Male Youth Representative. The Board would like to acknowledge and welcome the acclamation of Christian Harpe of the Tl'azt'en Nation. The Board would like to thank outgoing Male Youth representative, Peyal Laceese, for his hard work and commitment to BCAFN.

The Board wishes the best of luck to the Directors and Female Youth Representative candidates.

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 with government officials and demand change.

Since we last met in 2025 at the Annual General Meeting, we have continued to witness an ever-changing political landscape affecting our BC First Nations. In response to international economic threats and actions, both the provincial and federal governments are moving on a path that does not account for First Nations' inherent rights, title, and jurisdiction. We understand the need to evolve to meet this new economic reality, but not at the expense of our First Nations. We must remain firm that the application of laws under DRIPA (provincial) and UNDA (federal) remains a foundation for intergovernmental negotiation and collaboration. Our primary focus is to ensure this issue can be discussed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, while BCAFN continues to advocate that the Inherent Rights and Title of our BC First Nations remain at the forefront and are not ignored in the advancement of government mandates.

As our relationships with government parties have become strained, and Residentials School denialism has been left unchecked, racism and anti-Indigenous rhetoric, both within political parties and from the general public has increased. Through these difficult times, we remain strong in who we are as Indigenous people of this province, and are thankful for those allies who stand by our side as we face this ignorance.

Over the past year, we have seen the devastation caused by wildfires in our communities. We have seen communities lost and many of their members displaced from their homes and territories. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all First Nations that have been affected. We support the continued work being undertaken in relation to emergency management to ensure our communities can be supported and resourced when faced with the effects of wildfire and drought. The immediate need will always be to support our affected First Nations, but we need to remain cognizant that this devastation is connected to long-term neglect associated to the climate crisis. Environment and Climate Change is being discussed and strategically informs First Nations response and readiness.

As previously reported, we are at a time in history where our communities continue to experience high losses from the opioid crisis and the displacement of their members due to housing insecurity, both within and outside of their communities. It is frustrating that governments have pushed these issues aside to focus on economic development expansion, but we remain steadfast that these issues need to be brought to the forefront in all discussions. We need our communities to be healthy and supported, and these can not be set aside any longer.

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.








Knowledge Keepers



Dr. Gwendolyn Point
Sto:lo Nation

Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales
2SLGBTQQIA+ representative
Squamish Nation

Harvey McLeod
Upper Nicola Band





UPDATE

Dear Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, Youth and honoured 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/Chiefs' Committees.

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.











Women's Representative



Cheryl Rule
Cold Water Indian Band







UPDATE

I am proud to advocate for the priorities and needs of First Nations Women in BC as the BCAFN Women's Representative, including safety, human rights, climate justice, and the rights of Indigenous people. This past year has seen growing political uncertainty, especially for First Nations in BC. Given this current reality, the establishment of the Women's Council and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council could not have been more timely. These advisory bodies will be indispensable in bringing forth regional perspectives and advice from around the province, ensuring that my messaging and advocacy are grounded in the reality of women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in community.

As the co-host of the Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session, we brought together many representatives from across the Province to discuss gender equity issues impacting the wellbeing of First Nations Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The Dialogue Session resulted in over 100 recommendations for action or advocacy, which have been incorporated into the Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan. Building on this work, the Women Chiefs and Leaders Caucus Meeting took place in March 2026. It featured collaborative dialogue on presentations from various levels of government, and interactive plenary sessions with the purpose to integrate the voices, experiences, and leadership of First Nations Women Chiefs and Leaders into resource development processes to ensure that safety, equity, and rights are upheld, especially in the context of implementing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ (MMIWG2S+) National Action Plan.

The Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan was updated in response to the endorsed recommendations from the Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session Report and input from the Councils. New items in the Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan include a focus on impacts from major natural resource extraction projects considering federal and provincial economic priorities, advancing food sovereignty in response to the cost-of-living crisis and securing more addictions and mental health treatment facilities for First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to address the ongoing toxic drug supply crisis.

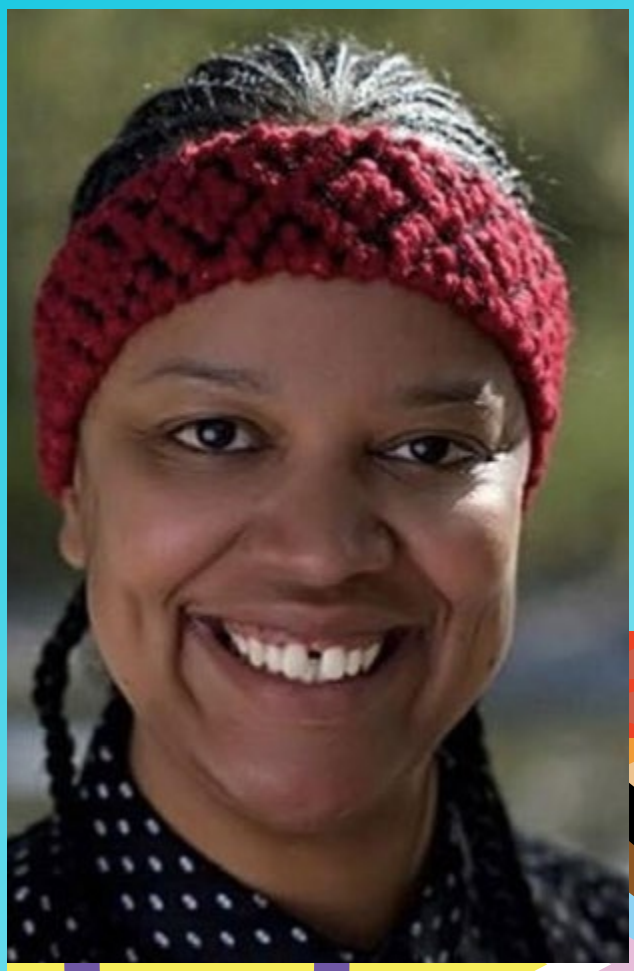
The MMIWG2S+ Legislative Working Group wrapped up its environmental scan and gaps analysis of federal and provincial policy and legislation that addresses missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada. We are furthering this file by seeking funding to advocate for MMIWG2S+ specific legislation, host dialogue sessions, develop policy and to continue to collaborate with partners.

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 am pleased to take on housing and justice files as a part of this work. I have also had the privilege to attend the AFN Annual General Assembly in person to witness and advance the good work ongoing at this venue.





2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative



Orene Askew
Squamish Nation

British Columbia
Assembly of First Nations



UPDATE

I am grateful to have been elected for a second term as the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative and to continue to be a voice for 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nations people in BC. In our own communities and in broader society, 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nations people face higher barriers and more insecurity than other groups in the province and in the country. Being able to advocate to change this reality and improve the wellbeing of 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is a true honour.

This year, we stood up the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council- an advisory body that will reinforce BCAFN's gender equity work by providing regionally diverse perspectives, experiences and priorities from 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nations people across the province. A governance committee will be struck in order to solidify the function, governance and operations of the Council and I look forward to continuing this important work and providing a further update next year.

Additionally, we were able to wrap up the MMIWG2S+ Policy and Legislation Environmental Scan which has the provided BCAFN with recommendations going forward on potential MMIWG2S+ Legislation to address this ongoing crisis, which we are actively seeking funding for. Alongside the Women's Representative, we hosted the Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session. Several days of discussion from participations from around the province resulted in over 100 recommendations for action, many that augment and reinforce the work that is already underway. The Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan, which is an evergreen policy document, was updated in response to what we heard at the Dialogue Session. New items in the Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan underscore the importance of food sovereignty, access to culturally safe addictions and mental health treatment and using a gender-based lens in the arena of natural resource projects.

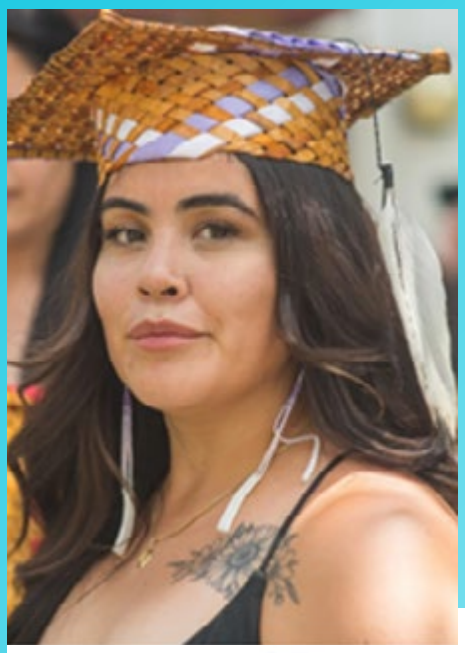




Furthermore, I am honoured to be the regional representative for BC on the AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council. Currently, the council is focused on addressing legislation that does not serve the health and well-being of First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. I am thankful to have been involved in the work to develop 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. 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.

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.

Youth Representatives



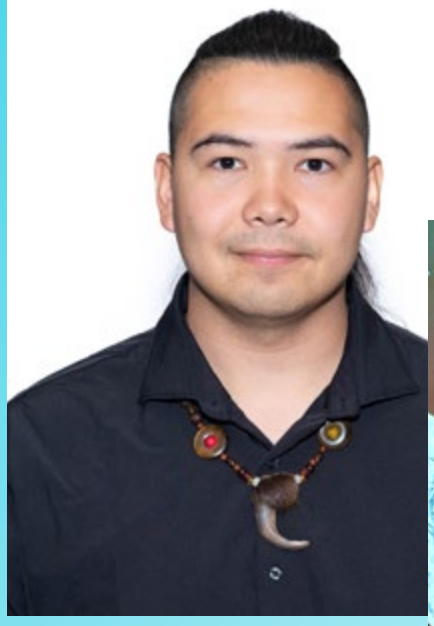
British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
YOUTH

Interim Female Youth Representative
Tyra Point
Sts'ailes First Nation

Christian Harpe
Tl'azt'en Nation

Past Interim Male Youth Representative
Peyal Laceese
Tsilhqot'in Nation

Past Female Youth Representative
Crystal Starr-Lewis
Squamish Nation











UPDATE



Throughout 2026, the BCAFN Youth Representatives, with the support of Regional Chief Terry Teegee and BCAFN, continued to advocate for First Nations youth across British Columbia (BC) and work to ensure that youth perspectives are meaningfully reflected in decision-making and policy development. A significant focus of this work was creating more sustainable opportunities for First Nations youth to participate in BCAFN and building the foundation for the establishment of a BCAFN Youth Council.

BCAFN Youth Forum



On March 17, 2026, BCAFN hosted the BCAFN Youth Forum at the Fairmont Waterfront in Vancouver, BC, on the traditional and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. The Forum provided First Nations youth from across BC with an opportunity to connect with their peers, share their experiences, and identify priorities to help inform BCAFN's policy and advocacy work. Youth participated in discussions on key areas including environment, justice, and economic development policy, providing an opportunity for youth perspectives to directly inform BCAFN's work.

Participants also heard from First Nations youth about their experiences in political advocacy and leadership and participated in cultural connection through beading with fishbones. The forum demonstrated the importance of creating dedicated spaces for First Nations youth to build relationships, exchange knowledge, and participate in discussions affecting their communities and futures. BCAFN will continue to advocate for sustainable funding to support the Youth Forum as an annual gathering and ensure First Nations youth continue to have opportunities to connect directly with one another and BCAFN leadership.

Progress Toward Establishing the BCAFN Youth Council

Throughout the spring and summer, substantial progress was also made toward implementing BCAFN Resolution 33/2023: Support to Establish A BCAFN Youth Council. With support from a Youth Advisory Circle consisting of six First Nations youth from across the province, the BCAFN Youth Representatives completed a strategic plan and developed draft Terms of Reference for consideration and adoption by the future BCAFN Youth Council. This foundational work was designed to establish a clear framework for the Council while reducing barriers that can prevent youth from participating in regional advocacy. The strategic plan provides direction for the future Council's purpose, priorities, structure, and activities, while the draft Terms of Reference will support future Council members in determining how they want the Council to operate.

Supporting Emerging First Nations Leaders

BCAFN also continued to create opportunities for First Nations youth to gain direct experience in policy development and advocacy. Through the Indigenous Youth Internship Program, BCAFN welcomed Zachary Elliott and Darien Smallboy-Ermineskin for three-month internship placements with BCAFN's Environment and Economic Development teams. During their placements, Zachary and Darien gained exposure to policy analysis, advocacy, and organizational work while contributing to projects supporting First Nations priorities across the province. These placements provided emerging First Nations leaders with experience in regional First Nations advocacy while providing BCAFN teams with the benefit of youth perspectives, knowledge, and experience.

National Youth Advocacy

BCAFN's Youth Representatives also continued to bring the priorities and perspectives of BC First Nations youth to the national level through participation in the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council. Participation at the national level provides an important opportunity to ensure that the experiences and priorities of First Nations youth in BC are represented within broader First Nations policy discussions. The BCAFN Youth

Representatives attended the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Meeting in July, ensuring that First Nations youth in BC are represented at a national level.

BCAFN Youth Representatives

BCAFN's Youth Representative positions also experienced important transitions throughout 2026. Earlier in the year, BCAFN welcomed Tyra Point of Sts'ailes First Nation as the Interim BCAFN Female Youth Representative. Tyra brought previous experience as a youth representative and as a Council member for her Nation, as well as a strong interest in advocacy for Indigenous peoples within the justice system. Tyra will continue to serve as Interim Female Youth Representative until the election for the position at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting in October 2026. Christian Harpe, Tl'azt'en Nation, has been acclaimed as the new BCAFN Male Youth Representative and will assume the role effective at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting in October 2026. BCAFN looks forward to welcoming Christian into the role and supporting his advocacy on behalf of First Nations youth across BC. BCAFN thanks Peyal Laceese, Tsilhqot'in Nation, for his dedication in his role as the Interim BCAFN Male Youth Representative and wishes him the very best in his future endeavours. BCAFN also looks forward to welcoming the new BCAFN Female Youth Representative following the election at the October 2026 Annual General Meeting and supporting both Youth Representatives as they begin their work together.



Youth Representatives Crystal Starr-Lewis and Peyal Laceese speak during the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly on March 4, 2026 in Pentiction, BC.

Continuing Advocacy for First Nations Youth Leadership

Looking forward, Regional Chief Terry Teegee, the BCAFN Youth Representatives, and BCAFN will continue to advocate for First Nations youth across British Columbia and create opportunities for youth voices to meaningfully influence regional, national, and international discussions. A key priority will be securing sustainable funding to support implementation of the BCAFN Youth Council, reduce barriers to youth participation, and support the continuation of the annual BCAFN Youth Forum. BCAFN will also continue to identify opportunities for First Nations youth to participate directly in policy development, advocacy, leadership, and other initiatives affecting their communities.

BCAFN Youth Forum on March 17, 2026 held at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel.



Employees

Administration



Victoria Austin
Executive Assistant to the Regional Chief

Rayna Barter
Finance Manager

Annette Schroeter
Communications Officer

Ada Madam
Executive Assistant - Administration & Records Management







Policy - Senior Management









Maureen Buchan
Senior Policy Director

Sophia Iliopulos
Associate Director

Matthew Norris
Associate Director

Laura Beaudry
In-House Legal Counsel





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 Policy Analyst

Alyna De Guzman
Climate Change Policy Analyst

Alexa Kerr-Warner
Climate Change Policy Analyst





Policy



Mobi Atolagbe
Policy Analyst

Hannah Cripps
Economic Development Policy Analyst

Aiden McGrath
Policy Analyst

Nikki Saadat
Emergency Management Policy Analyst











Financial Statements of

British Columbia Assembly of First Nations

Year ended March 31, 2026

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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

Chief of Staff

KPMG LLP
177 Victoria Street, Suite 400
Prince George, BC V2L 5R8
Canada
Telephone 250 563 7151
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations

Opinion

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

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026
- 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, 2026 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.

KPMG LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership and member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.

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.

- 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.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Prince George, Canada

July 31, 2026

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Financial assets:		
Cash	$ 3,928,751	$ 4,038,371
Accounts receivable (note 2)	2,895,782	3,996,362
	6,824,533	8,034,733
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 3)	1,844,819	812,650
Deferred revenue (note 4)	4,340,029	6,503,476
	6,184,848	7,316,126
Net financial assets	639,685	718,607
Non-financial assets:		
Tangible capital assets (note 5)	135,869	148,328
Prepaid expenses	19,877	19,528
	155,746	167,856
Accumulated surplus (note 6)	$ 795,431	$ 886,463

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026 Budget	2026 Actual	2025 Actual
Revenue (note 7):			
Assembly of First Nations (AFN)	$ 586,000	$ 601,000	$ 1,017,399
Department of Justice	1,508,123	724,567	890,025
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	680,000	680,000	1,020,000
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)	4,049,551	3,022,667	2,004,431
Interest income	-	152,001	234,314
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)	1,698,755	1,133,080	1,572,915
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon (MEMLC)	1,280,665	446,814	231,341
Ministry of Housing	150,000	150,000	-
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (MJEDI)	98,000	824,862	684,324
Ministry of Public Safety (MPSS)	33,113	33,113	167,160
Other Income	878,876	820,426	487,684
Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC)	350,414	255,863	64,016
Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)	277,175	277,175	93,058
	11,590,672	9,121,568	8,466,667
Expenses (note 7):			
Administration	2,001,202	2,165,063	1,587,871
Cultural events	788,593	310,605	144,790
Legislation	3,363,752	1,894,842	2,690,718
Policy development	6,090,293	3,999,398	3,719,958
Service delivery	-	842,692	-
	12,243,840	9,212,600	8,143,337
Annual (deficit) surplus	(653,168)	(91,032)	323,330
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	886,463	886,463	563,133
Accumulated surplus, end of year	$ 233,295	$ 795,431	$ 886,463

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	Budget	2026	2025
Annual (deficit) surplus	$ (653,168)	$ (91,032)	$ 323,330
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	-	(8,395)	-
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	20,854	38,177
	-	12,459	38,177
Use of prepaid expenses and deposits	-	19,528	29,095
Purchase of prepaid expenses and deposits	-	(19,877)	(19,528)
	-	(349)	9,567
Change in net financial assets	(653,168)	(78,922)	371,074
Net financial assets, beginning of year	718,607	718,607	347,533
Net financial assets, end of year	$ 65,439	$ 639,685	$ 718,607

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities:		
Annual (deficit) surplus	$ (91,032)	$ 323,330
Item not involving cash:		
Amortization	20,854	38,177
	(70,178)	361,507
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	1,100,580	(2,274,313)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,032,169	(329,529)
Deferred revenue	(2,163,447)	697,955
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(349)	9,567
	(101,225)	(1,534,813)
Capital activities:		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(8,395)	-
	(8,395)	-
Financing activities:		
Repayment of long-term debt	-	(3,593)
Decrease in cash	(109,620)	(1,538,406)
Cash, beginning of year	4,038,371	5,576,777
Cash, end of year	$ 3,928,751	$ 4,038,371

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

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 are incurred.

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 are 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.

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.

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, 2026, 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.

(iii) PS3251, Employee Benefits, will replace the current sections PS 3250 and PS 3255. The proposed section is currently undergoing discussions where further changes are expected as a result of the re-exposure comments. The effective date is currently not determined.

2. Accounts receivable:

	2026	2025
AFN	$ 138,700	$ 582,355
Canada Water Agency	-	165,200
ECCC	680,000	680,000
First Nations Summit Society	70,000	50,000
Foreign Affairs Canada	51,373	277,950
ISC	-	823,506
MEMLC	-	960,000
MIRR	725,750	-
MPSSG	-	50,000
Natural Resources Canada	-	25,000
Pacific Economic Development Canada	200,000	-
Province of British Columbia	-	6,000
Takla Lake First Nation	-	68,000
UBCIC	550,758	-
Vancouver Foundation	100,000	-
WAGE	129,682	-
GST rebate receivable	201,613	281,545
Interest receivable	15,085	-
Other	32,682	26,204
Due from employees	139	602
	$ 2,895,782	$ 3,996,362

3. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

	2026	2025
Trades payable	$ 1,430,688	$ 293,145
Accrued payables	34,650	129,198
Government remittances payable	55,939	70,018
Wages and benefits	323,542	320,289
	$ 1,844,819	$ 812,650

4. Deferred revenue:

	Opening balance	Contributions received in the year	Contributions recognized in revenue	Ending balance
Department of Justice	$ 1,108,123	$ 400,000	$ (724,567)	$ 783,556
First Nations Summit	94,949	114,000	(143,041)	65,908
Foreign Affairs Canada	272,324	-	(86,392)	185,932
Global Affairs Canada	21,759	401,257	(181,051)	241,965
ISC	2,487,444	963,412	(2,228,472)	1,222,384
Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions	25,000	-	(25,000)	-
Ministry of Environment and Parks	-	82,000	(12,000)	70,000
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship	-	166,667	-	166,667
MEMLC	1,280,665	53,833	(467,314)	867,184
Ministry of Housing	150,000	-	(150,000)	-
MIRR	398,342	884,400	(1,133,080)	149,662
MJEDI	98,000	933,000	(824,862)	206,138
MPSS	33,113	-	(33,113)	-
Other	52,087	26,667	(17,435)	61,319
UBCIC	334,177	221,000	(235,863)	319,314
WAGE	147,493	129,682	(277,175)	-
	$ 6,503,476	$ 4,375,918	$ (6,539,365)	$ 4,340,029

5. Tangible capital assets:

2026	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
Additions	-	8,395	-	-	8,395
Balance, end of year	70,546	75,521	249,474	191,251	586,792
Accumulated amortization:					
Balance, beginning of year	$ 54,123	$ 54,652	$ 225,140	$ 96,154	$ 430,069
Amortization	3,284	2,524	5,536	9,510	20,854
Balance, end of year	57,407	57,176	230,676	105,664	450,923
Net book value	$ 13,139	$ 18,345	$ 18,798	$ 85,587	$ 135,869

2025	Leasehold improvement	Furniture & equipment	Computer equipment	Building	Total
Cost:					
Balance, beginning 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

6. Accumulated surplus:

	2026	2025
Unrestricted surplus	$ 659,562	$ 738,135
Invested in tangible capital assets	135,869	148,328
	$ 795,431	$ 886,463

7. 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 under 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 events 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 tools to inform the BC First Nations Leadership of pending and current legislation relating to specific policies such as Children and Families, Cannabis, Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

7. 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.

v. Service Delivery:

Service delivery focuses on supporting BC First Nations through a project support lens, as they internally define and assess their economic development potential and viability to participate in income generating opportunities.

7. Segmented information (continued):

2026	Administration	Cultural Events	Legislation	Policy Development	Service Delivery	Total
Revenues:						
AFN	$ 286,000	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 215,000	$ -	$ 601,000
Department of Justice	-	-	724,567	-	-	724,567
ECCC	-	-	680,000	-	-	680,000
Interest Income	152,001	-	-	-	-	152,001
ISC	811,715	80,466	285,558	1,844,928	-	3,022,667
MEMLC	-	-	-	446,814	-	446,814
Ministry of Housing	-	-	-	150,000	-	150,000
MIRR	241,200	66,441	150,439	675,000	-	1,133,080
MJEDI	-	-	-	98,000	726,862	824,862
MPSS	-	-	33,113	-	-	33,113
Other Income	9,823	181,051	12,085	417,467	200,000	820,426
UBCIC	-	-	-	255,863	-	255,863
WAGE	-	-	-	277,175	-	277,175
Total revenues	1,500,739	327,958	1,985,762	4,380,247	926,862	9,121,568
Expenses:						
Salaries, benefits and consultants	792,038	140,573	739,327	1,248,906	512,545	3,433,389
Advisory, technical and professional fees	285,573	82,311	1,088,680	1,101,653	24,426	2,582,643
Office	350,744	6,800	5,897	135,546	265,861	764,848
Travel	204,581	38,921	44,497	403,269	37,790	729,058
Amortization	20,854	-	-	-	-	20,854
Meetings and assemblies	511,273	42,000	16,441	1,110,024	2,070	1,681,808
Total expenses	2,165,063	310,605	1,894,842	3,999,398	842,692	9,212,600
Transfers	(579,713)	23,774	90,920	380,849	84,170	-
Annual surplus (deficit)	$ (84,611)	$ (6,421)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (91,032)

7. Segmented information (continued):

2025	Administration	Cultural Events	Legislation	Policy Development	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

8. 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 $143,170 (2025 - $119,224).

9. Employee remuneration:

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, BCAFN paid total remuneration including taxable benefits of $2,523,587 to twenty-four employees, each of whom received total annual remuneration including taxable benefits of $75,000 or greater.

10. 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, 2026.

11. 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.

12. 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 approximates their carrying value.

13. Comparative information:

Certain comparative information have been reclassified from those previously presented to conform to the presentation of the 2026 financial statements. The changes had no impact on prior year annual surplus.

King Charles III Coronation Medal Recipients (October, 2025)



















Upcoming Events

FNLC All Chiefs Meeting on the Climate Emergency
October 23 & November 13, 2026
8:30AM - 12:30 PM
Go to here for details and registration

First Nations Ministers' Meeting 2026
October 26, 2026
Ottawa, ON
Go to here for more information

POSTPONED - BC Cabinet & First Nations Leaders' Gathering
Vancouver, BC
Vancouver Convention Centre
Go to here for updates.

AFN 3rd Annual National Natural Resources Forum
February 1 - 4, 2027
Montreal, Quebec

AFN Special Chiefs Assemby
December 8 - 10, 2026
Hybrid: In-person - Ottawa, ON/virtual
Go to here for more information

BCAFN 22nd Annual Special Chiefs Assembly held March 4 & 5, 2026 in Penticton, BC.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

