

BCAFN NEWS

BC Assembly of First Nations Spring/Summer 2026



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



REGIONAL CHIEF

TERRY TEEGEE

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

Hadih and greetings from Lheidli T'enneh territory. It has been an eventful few months for the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) as we continued to advocate for First Nations across the province, nationally, and internationally. From defending BC's historic *Declaration Act* to creating Indigenous-led economic opportunities abroad, our work has been guided by Chiefs and our shared commitment to advancing First Nations rights, interests, and priorities. Mussi Cho, for your continued leadership and trust.

Much of our recent advocacy has focused on protecting the *Declaration Act*. Following the Gitxaala-Ehattesaht decision, the Province decided they could outflank the Conservative push to repeal the *Declaration Act* and undermine the minimum human rights standards at the core of the *UN Declaration*. However, after sustained opposition from First Nations leaders and Chiefs, Premier Eby yielded to pressure and postponed any amendments or suspension of the *Declaration Act* until the fall legislative session.

Together with the FNLC, we played a central role in correcting the Province on their proposed suspension or amendment, ensuring that First Nations' voices were heard on the issue. During several high-level meetings with the Province, Chiefs made it clear that any unilateral suspension or weakening of the *Declaration Act* would undermine years of trust, damaging the relationship between First Nations and the Province of BC. We also drafted an open letter to MLAs to ensure our position was understood. The message was simple: Attempts to unilaterally suspend or repeal DRIPA and the *Interpretation Act* will invite legal challenge. Through a parallel letter-writing campaign, we mobilized nearly 3,000 British Columbians to join us in calling on the Province to uphold its commitments to human rights and reconciliation.

Recent political rhetoric surrounding the Cowichan Tribes decision has also sought to create unnecessary fear and confusion by suggesting that the recognition of First Nations rights threatens private property ownership. These false claims deliberately misrepresent both the decision and the purpose of the *Declaration Act*. BCAFN remains committed to ensuring that public discussion is grounded in truth and in the principles of reconciliation, rather than divisive misinformation that undermines constructive relationships between First Nations, governments, and BC residents.

On the federal side, I met with Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, many times over the last six months to push for continued implementation of the *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA).

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The federal government has been slow to align legislation with UNDA, a trend especially evident in Bill C-5, the *One Canadian Economy Act*, and Bill C-9, an *Act to Amend the Criminal Code*. I provided testimony to the Senate Committee regarding Bill C-9 to include residential school denialism in anti-hate legislation, which was added as an amendment. Unfortunately, this amendment was voted down by the committee,

showing the government's lack of commitment to sharing the truth about the residential school system.

We have also been advocating for the long-awaited reintroduction of safe drinking water legislation, which was introduced in the last week of the spring parliamentary session. We continue to call on the government to work with First Nations on improving this legislation to ensure it upholds clean drinking water as a human right.

In early June, I had the privilege of leading a week-long trade mission to Aotearoa/New Zealand in partnership with Global Affairs Canada. The 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. It was inspiring to witness firsthand how Indigenous values continue to drive economic success for the Māori people, who boast one of the world's most significant Indigenous economies, worth \$30 billion annually.

These are just a few examples of the critical work underway on behalf of First Nations in BC. Throughout this newsletter, you will find updates on priority areas, including economic development, climate change, UNDRIP, housing and homelessness, and more, along with highlights of BCAFN's recent advocacy, partnerships, and initiatives. In solidarity and with gratitude.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee speaking at the BC First Nations Forestry Conference, May 2026 (photo by Jordan Louie).

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Long-Term Reform of First Nations Children and Family Services

The ongoing Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) remains a key priority for the BCAFN. On August 20, 2025, the CHRT issued Decision 2025 CHRT 80, directing Canada, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to submit plans and proposed remedies to advance long-term, national reform of FNCFS, either jointly or independently. In December 2025, Canada submitted a 22-page plan without engagement, consultation or collaboration with First Nations. At the same time, the National Children's Chief Commission (NCCC), the Caring Society and the AFN jointly developed a comprehensive 109-page plan titled Loving Justice, grounded in direct engagement with direct input from title and rights holders. Throughout the development, the BCAFN actively advocated to ensure that the distinct perspectives of First Nations in BC were reflected, emphasizing the importance of incorporating regional distinctions within a strong First Nations-led national framework and rejecting approaches that rely on regionally negotiated agreements based on the previously rejected Final Settlement Agreement.

Despite the ongoing CHRT proceedings, Canada has decided to begin rolling out their plan for the long-term reform of FNCFS, by promoting the negotiation of regional agreements with First Nations across Canada. This is concerning, as Canada has effectively ignored the Loving Justice plan and the process set forth by the CHRT. In response to these actions, several regional organizations have expressed their support for the Loving Justice plan through resolutions brought forward by their respective Chiefs' Assemblies. Most recently, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit have affirmed support for the Loving Justice plan through resolutions at their recent meetings.

Several resolutions have been submitted to the AFN for consideration by the Chiefs-in-Assembly that affirm support for the Loving Justice plan in the national context and call on Canada to address the shortcomings of their current plan, including the lack of consideration for the ongoing CHRT proceedings. The BCAFN's existing mandate positions the organization to support the Loving Justice plan, alongside our FNLC partners. At this time, support for the Loving Justice plan by the Chiefs-in-Assembly provides critical evidence for the CHRT's consideration during the evaluation of the plans for the long-term reform of FNCFS. It must be noted that support for either plan through a resolution does not identify the path forward, as the CHRT will determine which plan adequately addresses Canada's discrimination against First Nations children. The BCAFN will continue to support the NCCC in the pursuit of reforming FNCFS to strive for a better future for our children and youth, by ensuring this reform is free from discrimination, while continuing to advocate for First Nations jurisdiction over children and families.

Children and Youth in Care and ELCC

Pursuant to BCAFN Resolution 28/2025, the BCAFN has continued to advance engagement at the joint table focused on addressing the distinct needs of First Nations children and youth in care, in collaboration with our FNLC partners, First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and the Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC). At this table, the BCAFN remains committed to driving systemic policy and legislative reform to ensure the rights, needs and well-being of First Nations children and youth in care are fully upheld. This includes advocating for sustainable and adequate funding, as well as robust privacy protections, to support culturally grounded, community-driven approaches that effectively serve First Nations.

Aboriginal Operational Practice Standards Initiative

The BCAFN and our FNLC partners continue to support the Steering Committee members tasked with revitalizing the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards Initiative (AOPSI). With the support of the Our Children Our Way Society, the Steering Committee is in the process of

establishing a proposed work plan and budget for future initiatives. Technical staff are regularly engaged in discussions as this work progresses, to ensure the necessary resourcing and planning are operationalized for updating and reenvisioning AOPSI into a rights-based framework.



Deb Foxcroft, Co-Chair, National Children's Chiefs Commission & Kukpi7 Helen Henderson, BC Commissioner, National Children's Chiefs Commission providing an update on their work at the BCAFN 22nd Annual Special Chiefs Assembly, March 2026.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Summer, the summer solstice, and National Indigenous Peoples Day mark an important season of abundance, celebration, and connection for First Nations across British Columbia. The return of the warmer weather sees people spending more time on the lands and waters, growing and harvesting traditional foods, gathering in ceremonies, passing down ways of knowing, celebrating culture, and exercising stewardship and responsibilities to the land.

Summer, in recent decades, has also come to mark a new reality shaped by climate change. This year, the province is urging people throughout BC to prepare for another abnormally hot and dry summer and the elevated risks of flooding, wildfire, and drought. Despite growing climate impacts, Crown government policies continue to widen the gap between addressing the climate

crisis and advancing economic growth, while weakening their obligations and reconciliation processes meant to recognize, uphold, and protect First Nations rights in decisions affecting their lands, waters, and territories.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee and the BCAFN continue to advocate for and support climate action that includes First Nations' governance systems, inherent rights, laws, and priorities. This summer, BCAFN also welcomed a new Climate Intern, Zachary Elliott, through the support of the Indigenous Youth Internship Program, Zachary will support the Climate portfolio by contributing to research and the advancement of ongoing initiatives, strengthening BCAFN's efforts to support First Nations climate resilience and leadership across the Province.

Program Delivery Project

The First Nations Climate Program Reform Project aims to advance systemic change in how climate-related funding programs are designed, implemented, and accessed by First Nations in BC. Building on the direction set by the [BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda and the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan](#), and in collaboration with First Nations organizations through a Technical Working Group (TWG), the project will develop recommendations to help guide federal and provincial governments in reforming existing climate funding frameworks. TWG members include the First Nations Health Authority, New Relationship Trust, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), the First Nations Summit (FNS), and Coastal First Nations (CFN). Since February 2026, three Technical Working Group meetings have taken place, facilitated by Pinna Sustainability, to define the scope and objectives of our work. Two additional Working Group meetings, interviews, and a peer review process are planned for Summer 2026 to complete the report, which will be presented at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting in October 2026.

FNLC Climate Strategy and Action Plan Update

BCAFN continues to work under the umbrella of the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to implement the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (FNSCAP). BCAFN technical staff sit on the FNLC-BC Technical Working Group on Climate (TWG) and provide input on climate policy and legislation in alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)*. The FNLC has recently engaged external climate policy and legal expertise to enhance analysis and deepen its involvement at this table. The FNLC is hosting a virtual All Chiefs Meeting on Climate Change in Fall 2026, focused on leveraging the UN Declaration in Climate Advocacy, advancing climate priorities at the provincial level, implementing the FNSCAP, including discussions on climate governance, and building First Nations climate capacity in BC.

The FNLC is working with Coastal First Nations - Great Bear Initiative (CFN-GBI) to finalize a province-wide Climate Change Capacity Assessment Report (Theme 2.1, Action A) that assesses the disparities between First Nations in their capacity to respond to the climate crisis and identify the needs, barriers and challenges that limit self-determined climate action and participation in provincial climate change decision-making. In addition, the FNLC is working with the CFN-GBI and a Technical Advisory Committee, which includes Elders and youth, to develop a BC First Nations Climate Action Planning Guide (Themes 2.2 and 4.4). This Guide will support First Nations in developing self-determined climate action plans, including guidelines for engagement; traditional laws, data and science; climate risk and resilience; implementation; and monitoring and measurement. This resource is undergoing graphic design and will be shared widely in the coming months.

Finally, in May 2026, the FNLC wrapped up the Uplifting First Nations Youth Climate Leaders Project (Theme 2.6), which focused on building climate capacity and uplifting First Nations youth climate action. The project was guided by a Youth and Elders Climate Advisory Circle, with representation from BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC. The project brought together existing and aspiring BC First Nations youth climate leaders from across the province, both virtually and in person.

BCRIP Project and International Engagement

The [Building Climate Resilience from an Indigenous Perspective \(BCRIP\) Project](#) has entered its third year with nearly all Partnership Projects having signed their contribution agreements. To date, nine (9) First Nations in BC have partnered with Indigenous peoples in Colombia, Guatemala, Peru and Bolivia. Together, they have launched projects that focus on strengthening climate resilience through shared learning, collaboration and the respectful exchange of sacred knowledge and lived experiences, while amplifying Indigenous

leadership through joint advocacy.

In the coming weeks, BCAFN, alongside our BCRIP partners, will issue a public announcement highlighting these projects and recognizing these First Nations in BC and their Indigenous partners who have come together in the north and south hemispheres to address climate change within an evolving local, national, and international landscape. Within the global climate emergency, Indigenous peoples remain at the frontlines, adapting, protecting what matters most, and advocating for real climate solutions grounded in Indigenous knowledge and rights.

Low-Carbon Transportation Project

BCAFN continues to implement Phase 2 of the [First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project](#) (2022 - 2027). A project supported by the BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (MECS) aimed to improve First Nations' access to safe, affordable, reliable, accessible low-carbon transportation. BCAFN continues to advocate for the recommendations in the [Transportation Assessment Report and Action Plan](#) (endorsed by Chiefs via [Resolution 35/2025](#) in October 2025).

After finalizing an implementation plan, BCAFN sent letters to two provincial ministries and five federal ministries, requesting their full support for implementing the recommendations in partnership with First Nations. These letters

and BCAFN advocacy have resulted in technical meetings with Indigenous Services Canada, Transport Canada, BC MECS, BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit, BC Ministry of Citizen Services, and BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, with political meetings planned in the coming months. BCAFN has also shared the report with 19 other organizations and ministries, including BC Transit, ICBC, and First Nations Health Authority, and has met with interested parties to present the report and its findings. BCAFN is developing an advocacy toolkit based on the report's findings for Nations and organizations to use according to their interests and priorities. The toolkit will be showcased in a webinar on September 22, 2026.

Additionally, BCAFN continues to support six Pilot Project Communities in developing their self-determined transportation plans as part of Phase 2 of the project. All Nations have begun their engagement and planning processes, and BCAFN continues to provide support and facilitate relationship building. Through an iterative process, BCAFN is working closely with the Pilot Project Communities to refine the [First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Planning Guide](#). The final graphic-designed guide will be presented by BCAFN in a webinar on November 18, 2026. Go to events.bcafn.ca for updates.



Chief Don Sam, ?Akisqnuq First Nation providing an update to Chiefs at the BCAFN SCA, March 2026, on BCAFN's delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) held in Brazil 2025.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Outlook

Regional Chief Terry Teegee and the BCAFN Economic Development team continue to advance the mandates set by the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly during a time of significant economic and policy change for First Nations in British Columbia. Across the province, First Nations economies are being shaped by major project pressures, trade uncertainty, forestry-sector challenges, shifting government commitments, and ongoing questions about how the Province intends to implement the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA). Together, these issues have had direct implications for First Nations' economic self-determination, jurisdiction, and sustainable prosperity.

This changing landscape is also being shaped by the Province's Look West Strategy, which focuses on major project development, expanded market opportunities, and broader economic growth. At the federal level, efforts to accelerate major projects are also moving forward. While these initiatives may create new opportunities, including through tools such as the First Nations Equity Financing Program, they also raise important questions about how First Nations will be included in decision-making, ownership, benefit-sharing, and long-term planning.

BCAFN will continue to advocate that economic growth in British Columbia must be sustainable and grounded in the rights and interests of First Nations. Meaningful participation requires more than access to capital or project-by-project consultation. First Nations must be involved from the outset, supported with the capacity needed to assess risks and opportunities, and positioned to secure long-term benefits for their communities.

As these economic shifts continue, the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth has withdrawn its commitment to continue funding BCAFN's economic development work, ending a decade of support for this critical area. This decision has

impacted BCAFN's staffing capacity to carry out economic development advocacy on behalf of First Nations across the province. Despite this challenge, BCAFN remains committed to strengthening its advocacy through innovative approaches, targeted economic policy initiatives, and projects that support First Nations economic development across British Columbia. Ensuring First Nations are meaningfully included in economic growth is essential to building a stronger and more resilient economy.



BC First Nations Trade Mission to Aotearoa

Regional Chief Terry Teegee led a B.C. First Nations business delegation to Aotearoa New Zealand in June 2026, marking an important step in strengthening Indigenous-to-Indigenous trade relationships and economic partnerships.

Throughout the trade mission, the delegation met with Māori trusts and businesses to learn from their governance models, asset management

strategies, investment approaches, and long-term commitments to reinvesting economic success back into their people and iwi. These exchanges created valuable opportunities for First Nations and Māori leaders to share cultural and business knowledge, while gaining deeper insight into how Indigenous economies can create prosperity, support self-determination, and build lasting opportunities for future generations.

A key outcome of the trade mission was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between BCAFN and the Federation of Māori Authorities (FoMA) and a commitment to develop a shared work plan to continue building these relationships and advancing new leadership, partnership, and economic opportunities between Māori and First Nations in BC.

BCAFN Economic Development Forum

BCAFN hosted its annual Economic Development Forum, *Interwoven Futures: Threads of Resilience in Sovereign Economies*, from March 18-19, 2026, at the Fairmont Waterfront in Vancouver, BC, on the traditional and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

The forum brought together First Nations leadership, citizens, industry partners, and business innovators for meaningful dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on pathways toward economic reconciliation and self-determination. Discussions focused on actionable strategies to advance economic sovereignty, strengthen sustainable partnerships, and identify emerging opportunities across key sectors.

BCAFN sincerely thanks all sponsors for helping make the annual Economic Development Forum a success. We uplift their commitment to supporting First Nations economic development across British Columbia.

Continued Advocacy

BCAFN's economic development advocacy

will continue to focus on advancing economic reconciliation, sovereignty, and long-term prosperity for First Nations across British Columbia. This work is grounded in the mandates set by the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly and guided by the need to ensure First Nations are meaningfully included in the policies, investments, and decisions shaping BC's economy.

Key priorities include strengthening First Nations food security, expanding national and global trade and export opportunities, advancing forestry opportunities, supporting First Nations participation in the cannabis sector, and ensuring equitable involvement in energy, mining, and major project development. BCAFN will also continue to advocate for First Nations data sovereignty, improved access to capital, sustainable revenue-sharing models, and economic policies that uphold First Nations rights, title, jurisdiction, and self-determination.

As governments and industry move forward with economic growth strategies, BCAFN will continue to advocate for approaches that create lasting benefits for First Nations communities. This includes supporting First Nations-led economic development, strengthening partnerships, building capacity, and ensuring that prosperity is shared in ways that are equitable, sustainable, and grounded in the rights and interests of First Nations.



Honourable Ravi Parmar, BC Minister of Forests, Councillor David Marchand, Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Lennard Joe, CEO of the First Nations Forestry Council (photo: Okanagan Nation Alliance)



BCAFN Economic Development Forum, March 2026. Top photo: Keynote panel - Sovereign Economies in Action: Māori Leadership in Global Trade Anaru Smiler, Ngaria Rolleston and Traci Houpapa Middle photo: Session: Wellbeing as Economic Infrastructure Dr. Danièle Behn-Smith and Dr. Tamara Krawchenko Bottom photo: Session: Emerging Leaders: Elected Youth in BC Christian Harpe, Regional Chief Terry Teegee, Katisha Paul, Crystal Starr-Lewis and Peyal Laceese.



First Nations delegation, including Regional Chief Terry Teegee, from British Columbia on tour during the Trade Mission in Aotearoa/New Zealand.



FIRST NATIONS Centre of Excellence

For information about the FNCOE please visit their website at fncoe.ca

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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, represented by Indigenous Services Canada, and British Columbia, represented by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. Phase 1 wrapped in January 2025 and focused on immediate improvements, including new emergency program coordinator roles

for First Nations, a risk-based preparedness funding model, increased structural mitigation investments, and improvements to emergency response claims. Phase 2 is currently focused on building a rights-based multilateral framework and an economic assessment tool that supports First Nations full authority, jurisdiction, and consistent services and funding for long-term emergency management reform. An economic costing assessment tool is being designed so First Nations can adapt it to reflect their own

priorities, jurisdiction, and authority in their territories to support long term structural reform. There is also ongoing work to extend the existing bilateral emergency management agreement to avoid any service gaps while the multilateral is being negotiated. This work is informed by First Nations leadership mandate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and related provincial and federal legislation, and BC's Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA).

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 summary report is being developed and will be shared later this summer.

In seasonal readiness, provincial partners provided a briefing for BC First Nation Chiefs and Emergency Program Coordinators on June 24th, 2026. There was a reported increased response level, with the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre at Level 2. Forest fire conditions were increasing, but current impacts from fire and extreme heat were assessed as



Panel participants at the FNLC Emergency Management Forum: From Determination to Action in Richmond, March 2026.

low to moderate. This followed the June 18th fire near Lytton Village and Lytton First Nation where homes were lost, but quick local response and cooling temperatures lessened broader impacts. Flood and landslide conditions were also improving with no flood advisories in effect during the time of the briefing. More information can be found in the [BC Wildfire Summer 2026 Seasonal Outlook](#).

Drought and water scarcity are an increasing concern due to lower snowmelt runoff and dry weather. This has expanded drought areas across BC with record low flows reported for this time of year in many southern and coastal watersheds. Moderate water scarcity levels were reported in the following rivers, including the Upper Nicola, Lower Nicola, Coldwater, Koksilah, Tsolum, French Creek and Chemainus. On Vancouver Island, stream temperatures are also rising which has increased risks to fish and aquatic life. Communities are encouraged to review their emergency plans, update contact lists and communication pathways, as well as to identify their priority seasonal readiness needs, including evacuation routes, cooling spaces, water supply, generators, fire risk, and share reliable public information with community members, such as [Prepared BC extreme heat resources](#) and [Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide](#), [EmergencyInfoBC](#), [EmergencyMapBC](#), [BC Wildfire Service Updates](#), [River Forecast Centre advisories](#), [drought information](#) and [Drought and Water Scarcity Map](#), and [Drive BC](#) for road conditions. A [Canada-wide Fire weather outlook](#) is also developed every Tuesday during the fire season.

BCAFN will continue working with FNLC partners, regional emergency management coordinators, Canada, and BC to advance a multilateral agreement to support First Nations full authority and jurisdiction for sustainable emergency management for First Nation communities.

For further information, please contact nikki.saadat@bcfn.ca.

FEDERAL FAST-TRACKING MANDATES ON MAJOR PROJECTS

The federal government is rapidly moving forward with a series of proposed legislative and regulatory reforms aimed at accelerating major project approvals related to the *One Canadian Economy Act*, including the *Building Canada Act* which received Royal Assent in June 2025 without the free, prior and informed consent of rightsholders. Additional proposed changes could have significant implications for First Nations' rights, environmental backstops, and resource development projects in BC.

Overview of Discussion Papers

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

Analysis

Despite Prime Minister Carney and key representatives from the Major Projects Office committing to upholding the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *United Nations Declaration Act* in the implementation of fast-tracking mandates, there are significant concerns with the proposed changes contained within the Discussion Papers which were developed without rights holder input including:

- Compressed review timelines that may further limit federal consultation and cooperation obligations that align with the *UN Declaration Act*.

— SAVE THE DATE —

BC Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering

November 3 - 4, 2026

In partnership, the Province of British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council have reserved November 3 - 4, 2026, to host the 11th B.C. Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering at the Vancouver Convention Centre West on the territories of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

Formal invitation will follow.

For more information, please visit:
fnlg.gov.bc.ca

We look forward to welcoming you at the Gathering

- Provisions that could allow projects to proceed on First Nations lands before regulatory reviews are completed
- Reduced independent oversight and increased risks of cumulative environmental impacts
- Proposed weakening of protections for fish habitat, species at risk, and ecologically sensitive areas
- Inadequate and limited recognition of First Nations laws, legal orders, environmental assessment processes and governance systems within federal decision-making
- No clear requirements for obtaining impacted First Nations' free, prior and informed consent.
- Projects could be declared in the national public interest before regulatory reviews have been completed

Alberta-Canada Pipeline Agreement

On May 15, 2026, Canada and Alberta announced an Implementation Agreement under the existing Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in late 2025 to advance a new oil pipeline from Alberta to the west coast of BC. A project application is expected as early as July 2026 to advance a pipeline proposal, with targeted

construction for 2027 and operations projected for 2033-2034.

The agreement includes commitments related to pipeline development, electricity transmission projects, carbon capture and storage initiatives, accelerating permitting processes and regulatory streamlining measures.

Next Steps

The federal government extended their 30-day engagement deadline to July 22, 2026 and is providing up to \$15,000 in funding for First Nations and First Nations organizations to review and respond to the discussion papers. Inquiries and submissions can be sent to: engagement@pco-bcp.gc.ca. BCAFN prepared and sent a submission in June 2026. To receive a copy, please contact laura.beaudry@bcfn.ca or sophia.iliopulos@bcfn.ca.

BCAFN will continue to monitor the federal government's next steps on regulatory and legislative reform closely. Additional analysis is being prepared for First Nations leadership related to the overarching federal and provincial fast-tracking regulatory and legislative changes to date. BCAFN will share this report as soon as it is finalized.



FIRST NATIONS CITIZENSHIP/MEMBERSHIP

In September 2025, the BCAFN submitted a letter to the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples in support of ending sex discrimination in the *Indian Act*, including revisions to remove Section 6(2) of the *Indian Act* and to address the effects of the second-generation cut-off originally enforced by Bill C-31 in 1985. Since then, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed Resolution 26/2025, Ending Sex Discrimination In The Indian Act And Implementing The UN Declaration, calling for Canada to reject the reduction in funding to Indigenous Services Canada, which will result in further delays in obtaining Indian Status, and to end all legislative and sex-based discrimination, reinstate all women and their descendants affected by enfranchisement, remove the no-liability clauses in Bill S-2 and all previous amendments, eliminate s.6(2) Indian Status and the second-generation cut-off, and amend the membership provisions of the *Indian Act* to ensure consistency with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).

Following our last update on 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, but Minister Mandy Gull-Masty remains opposed, stating that the bill should proceed without amendments. The bill has passed Second Reading at the House of Commons, and is now with the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs. Government is now on break, so the bill will hopefully be seen again in the fall.

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.

Failure to pass Bill S-2 as amended is a continued violation of the *UN Declaration*, particularly Article 8, which guarantees Indigenous Peoples and individuals, including women and children, the right not to be forcibly assimilated. Canada's legislative acceptance of the *UN Declaration* through the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* is more than a gesture of reconciliation; it is a legal and ethical obligation to Indigenous human rights and to greater equality with all Canadians. In March 2026, the United Nations Human Rights Committee recommended that Canada "eliminate the remaining discriminatory effects of the *Indian Act* on Indigenous women and their descendants" by "adopting proposed amendments [in Bill S-2] concerning the second-generation cut-off rule." The international community is watching, and Canada must follow through.

Any further delays perpetuates violence against Indigenous peoples, violates their human rights, and has already caused irreparable damage by severing their ties to their bands and communities for several generations now. I look forward to seeing this bill, with the Senate's amendments, enacted into law this year.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HCATP)

The Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (JWGFNHC), co-chaired by Cloy-e-iis Dr. Judith Sayers and Assistant Deputy Minister Jillian Rousselle, 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, enhanced opportunities for agreements with First Nations, and greater recognition of First Nations as decision-makers with respect to their ancestors and heritage belongings.

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. BC's legislative drafters then prepare the amendments for introduction in the House. The HCATP continues to have a mandate from the province, and feedback from First Nations on the proposals for the legislation has generally been positive. Stakeholder feedback has also been positive after BC conducted regional sessions with local governments.

The JWGFNHC will continue to work toward the RFL submission and introduction of the legislation. FNLC representatives continue to advocate strongly for First Nations' rights and interests at the political and technical tables with BC.



Carved mask on display at the BC Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering opening reception, November 2025.

FNLC First Nations
Leadership Council

For information about the First Nations Leadership Council visit their website at fnlc.ca

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

What We Heard From The 2025 Housing Forum

BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) has continued its advocacy to address the disproportionate impact of the housing and homelessness crisis on First Nations in BC. In March 2026, Chiefs-in-Assembly unanimously passed BCAFN Resolution 08/2026, endorsing the practical recommendations for First Nations, municipal, provincial, and federal action from the 2025 First Nations Housing and Homelessness Forum. Hosted by BCAFN alongside the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) on the territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, the forum brought together over 350 participants to advance First Nations-led solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis.

The resolution calls for the alignment of housing and infrastructure delivery with First Nations rights, titles, and sovereignty. It calls for provincial reform of legislation, including the *Local Government Act*, to uphold First Nations decision-making authority, and for urgent investments to secure equitable access to clean water, sewage, and housing infrastructure. The resolution further calls for the reform of federal housing programs to enable First Nations access to equity for on-reserve housing, and for the development of integrated support frameworks to address First Nations homelessness.

BCAFN has sent advocacy letters, accompanied by the What We Heard Report to municipal, provincial and federal stakeholders, and will continue to advocate for these priorities in partnership with the FNLC and the FNHIC. Please read [Resolution 08/2026](#) and the full What We Heard Report [here](#).

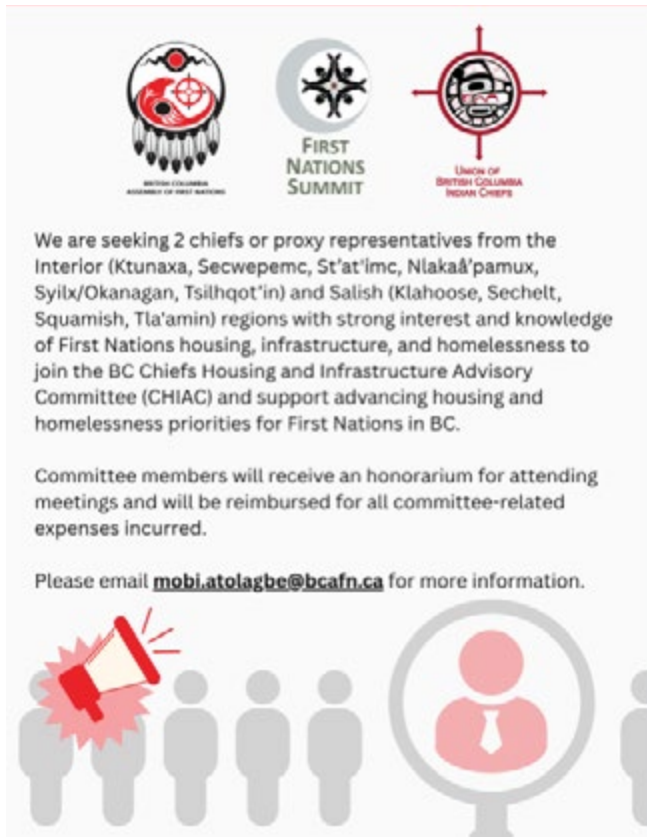
BC Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee

Since June 2025, the BC Chiefs Housing and



Infrastructure Advisory Committee (CHIAC), mandated by BCAFN Resolution 08/2024, FNS Resolution #1124.12, UBCIC Resolution 2024-53, has been operational and fulfilling 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 provides strategic advice and recommendations to First Nations technical and political bodies, including the FNLC organizations and the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) Board of Directors.

Regional Chief Teegee, alongside the FNLC and the CHIAC continue to work together to protect and advance First Nations' housing and infrastructure priorities. Over the past few months, they met with federal and provincial housing staff and are providing guidance to the FNHIC on several matters including First Nations



We are seeking 2 chiefs or proxy representatives from the Interior (Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, St'at'imc, Nlakaá'pamux, Syilx/Okanagan, Tsilhqot'in) and Salish (Klahoose, Sechelt, Squamish, Tla'amin) regions with strong interest and knowledge of First Nations housing, infrastructure, and homelessness to join the BC Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee (CHIAC) and support advancing housing and homelessness priorities for First Nations in BC.

Committee members will receive an honorarium for attending meetings and will be reimbursed for all committee-related expenses incurred.

Please email mobi.atolagbe@bcafn.ca for more information.

governance and accountability, housing and infrastructure jurisdiction, and service transfer. Chiefs from the Interior and Salish regions are invited to join the Committee to continue this important work.

Closing the Infrastructure Gap

With the 2030 deadline rapidly approaching, the AFN has updated the cost estimate for its

Closing the Infrastructure Gap Report (CTIG), a comprehensive cost report released in 2023 that quantified the capital and operating investments required to close the First Nations infrastructure gap and ensure First Nations live a comparable quality of life to the rest of the Canadian population. The updated analysis found that, despite an estimated \$33.4 billion in federal government investment since 2020, the gap has grown from \$349.2 billion to \$376.1 billion. Meanwhile, the real cost of closing the gap still likely exceeds this estimate.

Closing the infrastructure gap is vital to improving First Nations' socio-economic outcomes and advancing reconciliation. It will require a whole-of-government approach, a removal of barriers that slow and prevent First Nation construction, and a process that supports First Nations governance, self-determination and decision-making. BCAFN is completing a regional analysis of the CTIG to extract BC-specific capital and operating estimates for all infrastructure types up to 2040 and will keep chiefs and leadership updated on the progress of this important advocacy work.

FISHERIES

This spring, the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) continued to advance First Nations-led fisheries priorities through advocacy, political engagement, and collaboration with First Nations across British Columbia and Canada. Guided by the direction of Chiefs-in-Assembly, BCAFN has focused on protecting and rebuilding wild salmon, strengthening First Nations leadership in fisheries governance, and ensuring First Nations'

rights remain central to federal fisheries policy and decision-making.

Chiefs-in-Assembly Advance Fisheries Priorities

At the 2026 BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed five fisheries-related resolutions that provide clear political direction on protecting wild salmon and advancing First Nations-led fisheries governance. These include:

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

Since the Assembly, BCAFN has begun engaging with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to advance the direction provided by Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Supporting Wild Salmon Recovery

BCAFN continues to support First Nations-led efforts to restore wild salmon and salmon habitat across British Columbia. This includes supporting the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance’s vision for wild salmon restoration as a Nation-Building initiative that recognizes the cultural, ecological, economic, and food security importance of healthy salmon populations. BCAFN continues to work with First Nations and partner organizations to advance collaborative approaches to salmon recovery, strengthen watershed stewardship, and ensure First Nations leadership remains central to long-term restoration efforts.

Salmon Allocation Policy Review

BCAFN continues to monitor and engage with Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the ongoing review of the Pacific Salmon Allocation Policy (SAP). The review represents an important opportunity to modernize a policy that has guided the allocation of Pacific salmon since 1999 and to better reflect First Nations’ constitutionally protected rights, evolving case law, and the realities facing declining salmon populations. As public discussion around the review has intensified, BCAFN continues to advocate for

respectful, informed dialogue that is grounded in facts, First Nations’ rights, and the shared goal of rebuilding wild salmon.

Supporting the Transition Away from Open Net-Pen Fish Farms

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) continues to advocate for a First Nations-led transition away from open net-pen salmon farming in British Columbia that protects wild salmon and upholds First Nations rights and jurisdiction. BCAFN continues to support this work by advocating for transparent transition planning, meaningful First Nations engagement in future regulatory and licensing decisions, and a precautionary approach that prioritizes the long-term protection and recovery of wild salmon.

National Fisheries Committee

As Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations National Fisheries Committee, Regional Chief Terry Teegee continues to help advance First Nations fisheries priorities at the national level. At the Committee’s recent meeting, First Nations from across Canada discussed shared priorities including wild salmon recovery, habitat protection, Indigenous-led fisheries governance, climate change impacts, cumulative effects from major resource development, Indigenous-led science and monitoring, and rebuilding fish abundance for future generations. Discussions also reinforced that fisheries are foundational to First Nations cultures, food security, and community wellbeing, and that First Nations leadership must remain at the centre of fisheries policy and decision-making.

BCAFN will continue working with partners to advance these priorities and support healthy salmon, healthy watersheds, and strong First Nations leadership in fisheries governance.

JUSTICE

Regional Chief Terry Teegee remains a portfolio holder for Justice and Policing at the National Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and serves as co-chair of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Justice alongside Regional Chiefs Francis Verrault-Paul of Quebec and Abram Benedict of Ontario. In this role, Regional Chief Teegee remains committed to advocating for the widespread implementation of the national Indigenous Justice Strategy, while pushing for policy and legislative reforms to ensure Canada's justice system respects and upholds the rights, jurisdiction and priorities of First Nations.

Key priorities identified by the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly include recognizing First Nations Police Services as an essential service, advancing the urgent need for a national inquiry into systemic racism in policing and the deaths of First Nations, and addressing the criminalization of residential school denialism. Regional Chief Teegee, the BCAFN, the FNLC and the AFN continue to work in partnership to advance First Nations' mandates as directed via resolutions in British Columbia and nationally.

RCMP Surveillance

In March of 2026, the BCAFN was deeply disturbed to learn of the surveillance of First Nations political organizations through an initiative known as the Native Extremism Program. These actions by the RCMP demonstrate a clear abuse of power, a violation of First Nations rights, and a complete undermining of First Nations sovereignty and self-determination. The declassified files confirmed deliberate wiretaps and covert monitoring, sanctioned at the federal level, targeting legitimate First Nations leadership and advocacy. These revelations underscore the longstanding systemic racism within Canada's policing and justice systems, further justifying the call for an independent, First Nations-led inquiry into historic and ongoing surveillance practices.

Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative

The FNLC shares a mandate to continue work on the Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative (PPSM). The PPSM process, positioned as a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG), the FNLC and the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC), is intended to advance transformative reform of the *Police Act*, in alignment with the BC First Nations Justice Strategy (BCFNJS), the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCORPA) and the Declaration Act Action Plan. For several years, FNLC and BCFNJC technicians have worked alongside the province to review and provide recommendations for policing and public safety reform in alignment with the mandates of the respective organizations. After a pause in working group discussions over the winter for ministerial briefing, the working group reconvened to determine the next steps of the initiative.

In March 2026, despite years of engagement, technical work and the co-development of detailed policy proposals and recommendations, PSSG staff informed the FNLC and BCFNJC that the province would no longer be proceeding with a review and modernization of the *Police Act* as originally mandated in favour of minor policy reforms, and further, no funding would be provided to support the FNLC or the BCFNJC in a related technical working group. As a result of this shift in policy direction, the FNLC advised PSSG that FNLC technical staff can no longer meaningfully participate in the PPSM working group. This retreat from meaningful legislative reform raises serious concerns regarding BC's commitment to addressing the systemic anti-First Nations racism deeply embedded in the current justice system and fails to address the province's commitment to implement the Declaration Act Action Plan, the BCFNJS and the process outlined in the SCORPA report. In response to this change, a resolution was brought forward at

the June 2026 UBCIC Chiefs Council, calling on PSSG to reignite the PPSM Initiative in alignment with the working group's original intent while ensuring that all participating organizations are adequately resourced to participate meaningfully. Despite this disappointing shift, the BCAFN

remains deeply committed to advocating for meaningful reform of the policing and justice systems, prioritizing the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction, laws and inherent right to self-determination.

LANGUAGES

The BCAFN continues to engage with the AFN by advancing the rights and interests of First Nations in BC at the 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, with Chief Donald Sam of 7Akisqnuq First Nation serving as an alternate representative. Tracey Herbert and Dr. Suzanne Gessner from the First Peoples Cultural Council are the appointed technical experts on the TCOL supporting the Chief representatives in ensuring the needs of BC First Nations are central to their advocacy.

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.

Discussion on the Regional Allocation Formula (RAF) remains a central issue, with ongoing

research intended to inform future funding approaches. However, concerns persist regarding the transparency, consistency and inclusiveness of engagement processes to identify an equitable regional funding formula that accurately reflects the unique needs of First Nations, while also recognizing that the existing funds do not meet the language revitalization needs of First Nations from coast to coast. These gaps raised broader questions regarding equity in participation and confidence in the research process. The CCOL has called for greater clarity on decision-making timelines and improved coordination moving forward. CCOL members emphasized the need for greater transparency and accountability, particularly regarding the management and reallocation of funding through the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages. The CCOL has requested that all available resources be directed to First Nations-led language revitalization efforts in a manner that is equitable, transparent and responsive to regional expertise. The CCOL will convene in July 2026 at the AFN AGA in Algonquin Anishinaabe territory, where it is expected the committee will discuss the AFNs development of a First Nations approach to artificial intelligence, the ongoing research into the research funding factors, and other relevant priorities as identified by the Chiefs. The BCAFN will continue to support the representatives at the CCOL and TCOL tables, while ensuring that the priorities of BC First Nations remain a key consideration for both committees.

FNLC Letter to MIRR on First Nations Language Legislation

In March 2026, the FNLC sent a letter to

the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, calling on the province to urgently prioritize the co-development of First Nations language legislation to protect and revitalize First Nations languages across BC. The FNLC emphasized that BC is home to 34 distinct languages represented within the 204 First Nations, which account for nearly half of all First Nations languages in Canada. Each of these languages varies in its level of endangerment due to the ongoing impacts of colonization and chronic underfunding. As

noted in Actions 4.29 and 4.30 in the Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan, BC has the duty to fulfill its obligations to First Nations to support the livelihood of our unique languages. The FNLC stressed the urgent need for the establishment of a First Nations-led working group and immediate provincial action to ensure long-term and sustainable support for community-led language initiatives. At this time, no response from the Minister has been received.



NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

BCAFN continues to advance First Nations leadership in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem stewardship, and nature policy across British Columbia. This spring, work focused on strengthening implementation of the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation (TFANC), advocating for continued investment in First Nations-led conservation, contributing to national discussions through the Assembly of First Nations, and monitoring emerging federal and provincial policy changes affecting biodiversity and species protection.

Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation

This spring marked the release of the Second

Annual Report for the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation (TFANC), reflecting on progress made during the Agreement's second year and the transition into Year Three. The report highlights collaborative work undertaken by the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRs) to advance habitat conservation, protection and restoration, species at risk recovery, and First Nations-led stewardship across the province.

Through TFANC, the FNLC continues to work directly with provincial and federal partners to inform nature conservation priorities, identify

emerging issues, improve coordination, and advocate for approaches that better reflect First Nations rights, title, governance, and stewardship responsibilities. As implementation enters its third year, BCAFN remains committed to ensuring First Nations voices continue to shape conservation policy and decision making in British Columbia.

Transitioning to a New Federal Nature Funding Landscape

March 31, 2026 marked the sunsetting of several ECCC nature funding programs that have supported First Nations participation in biodiversity and conservation initiatives over the past several years. The end of these funding streams has created a period of uncertainty for many initiatives. This includes the suspension of the First Nations Nature Table, while ECCC determines the future direction of federal nature programming.

BCAFN and the FNLC are engaging with federal partners advocating for long-term, predictable investments that support First Nations-led stewardship, conservation, habitat restoration, species at risk recovery, and capacity across British Columbia.

Advisory Committee on Climate Action and Environment

Regional Chief Terry Teegee continues to serve as Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations Advisory Committee on Climate Action and Environment (ACE). This spring, Regional Chief Teegee participated in an in-person ACE meeting in Vancouver, where First Nations leaders from across the country discussed national priorities related to biodiversity conservation, climate

change, major project acceleration, nature funding, and coordinated advocacy leading into the First Nations First Ministers Meeting. Regional Chief Teegee continues to bring a BC perspective to these discussions, helping ensure the priorities and concerns of BC First Nations are reflected in national policy and advocacy.

Major Projects and Biodiversity

BCAFN continues to monitor federal and provincial initiatives to accelerate major project approvals and assess their potential implications for nature conservation and First Nations rights. Of particular concern are any mechanisms under new fast-tracking legislation that could reduce or bypass existing environmental review processes, including protections provided under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

Strong species-at-risk protections are critical for protecting biodiversity, important habitats, and supporting the recovery of culturally significant species. BCAFN is advocating that efforts to accelerate major project approvals must not come at the expense of biodiversity conservation or weaken existing environmental safeguards. First Nations rights, meaningful participation, and robust protections for species and ecosystems must remain central to any legislative or regulatory reforms.

Looking ahead, BCAFN will continue working with partners to advance First Nations-led conservation, secure stable long-term nature funding, and ensure biodiversity policies reflect First Nations' rights, governance, and stewardship responsibilities.



RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

This year marks five years since the discovery of 215 potential unmarked burial sites at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in Tk'emlups te Secwepemc territory. The BCAFN is deeply concerned that racism and anti-First Nations hate continue to be amplified by elected officials in British Columbia. The persistence of residential school denialism serving as a tool to advance political agendas has distorted the truths of First Nations, undermined Survivors and their families, and sown division between First Nations and the broader public. Such conduct falls below the standard expected of political leaders and has no place in the institutions entrusted with governing British Columbia. These actions must be unequivocally condemned, and those who perpetuate harmful and divisive narratives must be held accountable.

Bill C-9 Advocacy

Since early 2025, the BCAFN has received a clear mandate from the Chiefs-in-Assembly to advocate for the criminalization of residential school denialism and to call on public institutions to hold individuals accountable for spreading misinformation and hate, rooted in anti-First Nations racism. Throughout late 2025 and early 2026, the BCAFN was notified of Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code* (hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places). Through a series of discussion sessions with the Department of Justice, the BCAFN and other Indigenous advocacy organizations emphasized the critical need to include residential school denialism as hate speech within this legislation, to protect legitimate First Nations protest and to expand the definition of cultural places to account for First Nations sacred sites. Although First Nations were aligned in their messaging throughout this process, none of these proposed amendments made it into the legislation.

In December of 2025, the National Assembly of First Nations passed a resolution calling for the criminalization of residential school denialism and specifically called for amendments to Bill

C-9. When Bill C-9 entered the committee review stage, the BCAFN and AFN were notified of the opportunity to speak before the committee. Unfortunately, this appearance was cancelled, and the review of the Bill was moved to the Senate review stage. Finally, Regional Chief Teegee sent an urgent letter to the Senate Committee on Human Rights demanding an amendment with respect to residential school denialism. In April 2026, several First Nations leaders spoke to the committee calling for the same amendment. Following the witness testimony, Senator Nancy Karetak-Lindell officially proposed an amendment to the Bill to recognize residential school denialism within the legislation. As a residential school survivor herself, Senator Karatek-Lindell agreed this amendment came at a critical time with the widespread nature of anti-First Nations racism. Unfortunately, when the Senate voted on the amendment, it was defeated 41-32. Bill C-9 then continued through the parliamentary process, with no more opportunities for amendments on denialism.

The BCAFN strongly condemns the Senate's rejection of these amendments, and Canada's inaction to raise this important addition following the clear direction of title and rights holders from across Canada. The failure to recognize residential school denialism as hate speech is a profound failure of Canada's commitment to reconciliation and its obligations under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. This action reinforces the concerns of First Nations, that our input is routinely sidelined in federal law-making processes. This decision not only perpetuates harm by allowing denialism to persist, but also reflects a broader pattern of delay, symbolic engagement and legislative processes that exclude meaningful co-development with First Nations.

The BCAFN will continue to call on Canada to demonstrate real accountability to advance legislative reforms that uphold First Nations

rights, affirm the truth of residential schools, and meaningfully confront denialism. First Nations from across Canada have done our part in sharing the truths of the residential school system to engage the broader Canadian public in the

realities of this system. Canada must step up and publicly acknowledge the true atrocities of this system, and stand alongside the lived experiences of Survivors, who will always hold the truth.

TOXIC DRUG CRISIS

In 2025, BC saw a decline in overdose deaths for the second consecutive year, with 1,826 deaths recorded, down approximately 30% from the 2023 peak of 2,591. Despite this decline, First Nations families and communities continue to be disproportionately impacted by the toxic drug crisis. More work is needed to reduce avoidable fatalities, drug-related harms, and the overrepresentation of First Nations in the criminal justice system, and to ensure the recognition and respect of First Nations' rights to culturally appropriate healthcare, free from discrimination and racism.

As directed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, FNLC staff have completed the first draft of the First Nations Action Plan on the Toxic Drug Crisis, in line with recommendations from the 2025 All Chiefs Meeting. BCAFN will continue to work with the FNLC, federal, provincial and municipal governments, the First Nations Health Authority, the BC First Nations Justice Council, Elders,

Knowledge Keepers and other subject matter experts, to advance drug policy reforms that centre the health and wellness of First Nations through First Nations-led decision-making, service delivery, and policy implementation, and to secure adequate, long-term, sustainable resourcing to elevate the mental health and wellness outcomes of First Nations in B.C.

A callout for interested Chiefs or their proxy representatives to join the Chiefs' Task Force on the Toxic Drug Crisis will be issued this Fall. Chiefs with strong knowledge of Western and First Nations mental and physical health systems, and trauma-informed, healing-focused approaches to the toxic drug crisis, are invited to watch for announcements and apply to join the Task Force. BCAFN staff will keep Chiefs updated on this important work in the coming months.

UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - DECLARATION ACT (PROVINCIAL)

On January 29, 2026, the Province sent letters of notification to all First Nations in BC notifying of potential amendments to the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)* and related *Interpretation Act (the Acts)*. Since this announcement, the FNLC hosted several All Chiefs Meetings, provided regular communications with First Nations leadership,

and implemented a coordinated communications campaign to advocate for Premier Eby to halt any amendments or suspension to the Acts including op-eds, open letters and template documents for nation-led advocacy.

[On April 20, 2026](#), as a result of collective advocacy from First Nations from across the

province, Premier Eby and Attorney General Niki Sharma announced that they will not be proceeding with amendments or suspension in the Spring legislative session and committed to working with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and First Nations leadership to develop an offramp solution over the next six months. Consistent with the mandate we have received from First Nations leadership via resolution, FNLC continues to oppose the Province's Proposal, and is committed to genuine good faith collaboration with the Province and First Nations to find solutions as soon as possible before the fall legislative session.

Since this announcement, movement towards an offramp solution has been slow and a path forward remains unclear; however, the Province hosted a Chiefs Forum on June 8, 2026 at Musqueam Community Centre and has since appointed Grand Chief Stephen Point and Russ Brown as co-facilitators to support a joint process between BC and rights holders on alignment of laws and implementation of the *Declaration Act*.

In its June 18 letter to First Nations, the Province described three broad categories of work:

1. Priority Setting Process
2. Engagement/Development Process; and
3. Accountability and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.

As a first stage, the Province is working to establish a Political Advisory Table, including Modern Treaty Nations, together with the Province. While the original composition of the table included up to 12 representatives, the facilitators indicated in recent Regional Information Sessions hosted on July 2 and 3 that it will accept all 22 letters of interest from First Nations leadership to participate at the political table, with the first in-person meeting proposed for the week of July 13, 2026 and regular virtual and in-person meetings through the summer and into the fall.

According to the Province, the Table is intended to provide strategic guidance, help identify

areas of consensus, and develop options and recommendations for consideration at a second Chiefs Forum the Province intends to hold in September 2026, alongside regular virtual and in-person meetings throughout the summer and fall.

A Unilateral Process Developed by the Province

Despite the statement released by the Province of BC and the FNLC in April committing to a jointly developed process, work to date (inclusive of the proposed process, appointed facilitators, and the Political Advisory Table) has been unilaterally driven by the Province. The FNLC nonetheless intends to participate, consistent with the mandate endorsed by First Nations through resolution, to advance First Nations' priorities and to both protect and enhance the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Declaration Act*.

Because this is not a jointly designed process, a number of important questions remain, which the FNLC is seeking clarity from the Province. These include how the technical work supporting the Table will be carried out and by whom; whether a technical committee will be established and whether technical staff may accompany leadership to the Table; how many First Nations representatives are being sought; how those who apply will be selected; how decisions about the process will be made, and by whom; the meeting schedule and format; and the scope of information sharing. We will continue to seek answers and will keep First Nations informed as we learn more.

Next Steps

We encourage all First Nations to consider taking part in this process, whether by submitting an expression of interest for the Political Advisory Table or by sharing your views and priorities with the Province and/or the FNLC. The FNLC will continue to engage with the Province, seek answers to the outstanding questions above, and keep First Nations informed of progress and gaps/concerns over the summer months.

UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - UN DECLARATION ACT (FEDERAL)

In 2025 and early 2026, Canada has failed to make notable progress in implementing the *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA). Canada's failure to take substantive action raises serious concerns about this government's political will to uphold its international commitments and to adhere to its own legislation.

On June 21, 2021, the UNDA came into force following years of First Nations advocacy. The act was hailed by First Nations leaders and advocates as a systemic and significant shift in Canada's decades-long denial of the internationally recognized human rights of Indigenous peoples.

The Act requires the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to:

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

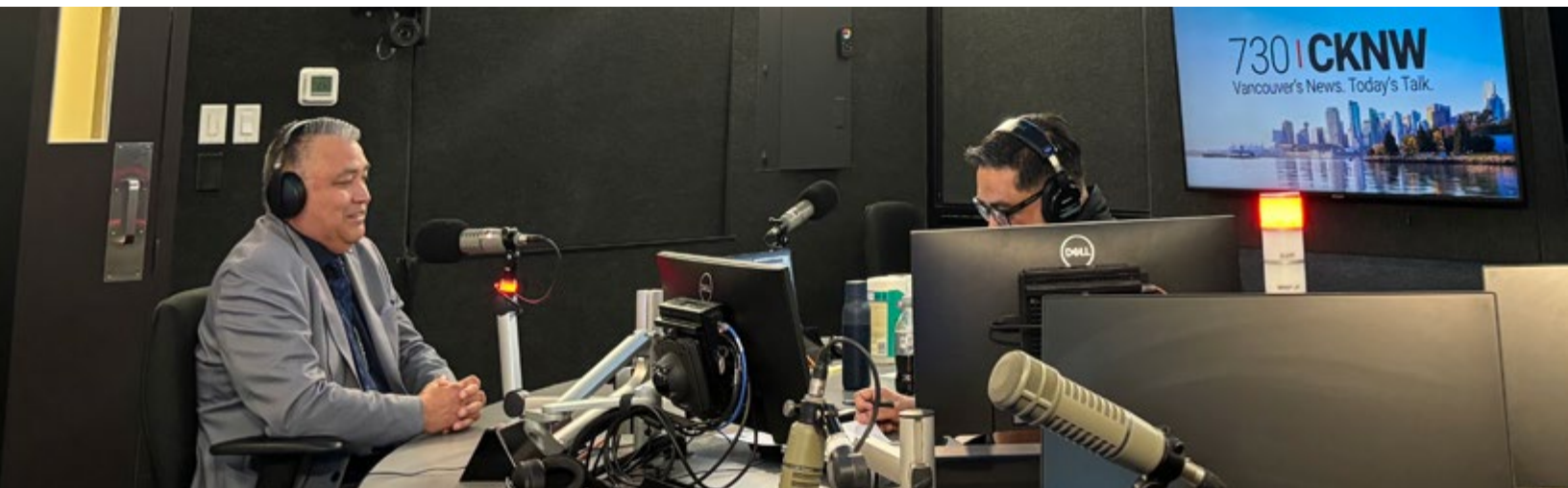
Regional Chief Teegee holds the national AFN portfolio for the federal implementation of the *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA), chairs both the FNLC-DOJ Political Table on a BC-Specific Process on UNDA Implementation

and the AFN Chiefs Committee on UNDA and remains a strong advocate for federal action on UNDA implementation.

In these capacities, Regional Chief Teegee and the BCAFN continue to raise concerns about Canada's failure to enact Section 5 of the Act and to take all measures necessary to ensure that Canada's laws are aligned with the standards of the *Declaration*.

Canada has failed to take the necessary action to ensure a number of recent high-profile and impactful federal bills meaningfully obtain the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations, including Bills C-5 (*One Canadian Economy Act*), C-9 (*Combating Hate Act*), S-2 (*An Act to amend the Indian Act*), and Bill C-37 (*The First Nations Clean Water Act*). Canada's failure to align these bills with the standards of the *UN Declaration* demonstrates Canada's negligence in developing key alignment of laws, mechanisms, and cross-departmental guidance.

Furthermore, Canada has failed to ensure the timely implementation of the 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, and a cohesive whole-of-government approach, including comprehensive



Regional Chief Terry Teegee did many interviews in response to questions about the Declaration Act (DRIPA), March 2026.

guidance to ensure the standards of the *UN Declaration* are applied correctly and consistently.

In February 2026, the FNLC-DOJ Political Table met with the Minister and set clear expectations for a revised work plan to arrive at tangible, co-developed mechanisms to address five essential areas:

1. Alignment of Laws processes and mechanisms.
2. Accountability mechanisms.
3. First Nations capacity funding mechanisms.
4. Legislative alignment and action plan prioritization processes.
5. Whole-of-Government approach.

Despite this commitment, the Department of Justice has significantly delayed work on this file. The FNLC has expressed concerns to the Minister about the department's inactivity and is standing by to continue this work.

Regional Chief Teegee continues to lobby the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Sean Fraser, to raise these concerns and advocate for renewed commitment to implementing the UNDA and the FNLC-DOJ BC-Specific Process for UNDA implementation.

The UNDA Action Plan is approaching its fifth year. Regional Chief Teegee and the BCAFN have advocated for a 5-year renewal of the Action Plan, to be codeveloped with First Nations through a more rigorous and transparent process than the Action Plan's original development. If the DOJ is to meet these goals, we should expect engagements on a revised Action Plan to begin this year. As a result, the BCAFN is encouraging all First Nations to communicate their priorities to Canada regarding critical pieces of legislation, policy, or practices that require urgent review and revision to align with the standards of the *UN Declaration*.

The implementation of the *UN Declaration* and the UNDA must represent a significant, systemic shift from the status quo. It necessarily requires the recognition of First Nations' Rights to self-determination, FPIC, and the right to self-government in the development and decision-making over laws, policies, and practices that impact our rights. The BCAFN continues to advocate for this important shift and the mechanisms which will support it.

WATER

On June 16, 2026, Indigenous Services Canada 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. This legislation is an extension of the former Bill C-61, which died on the order paper in 2025 due to government prorogue. The Bill is not anticipated to proceed to second reading or Committee study until Fall 2026.

Analysis

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

- Recognition of First Nations jurisdiction

and rights over lands and waters, **limited to First Nations reserve lands**

- 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
- National standard requirements for water and wastewater services
- The development of a funding framework that is to be developed in consultation and cooperation with First Nations
- Liability protections for water system operators

- The establishment of a First Nations Water Commission
- 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, including the following:

- Bill C-37 was amended from the former Bill C-61 without consultation and cooperation with rights and title holders
- The bill fails to align with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and *United Nations Declaration Act*
- Unlike C-61, the legislation does not provide legal recognition for water as a human right despite platform commitments from Prime Minister Carney during his election campaign
- Wording in several provisions have

weakened federal obligations and accountability which rely on “best efforts” rather than enforceable requirements

- 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+

The BCAFN has established a new Women’s Council and a new 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council to serve as an advisory body to the BCAFN Women’s and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representatives. The Councils have met twice since their formation and are working toward a quarterly meeting schedule to strengthen regional collaboration and advance priorities for First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people across BC. The Councils’ initial focus is on developing foundational governance documents, including Terms of References and multi-year Workplans. A central role of Council members is to bring forward emerging issues, community priorities, and regional perspectives from their traditional territories to the attention of the Representatives. This collaborative approach helps ensure that the Women’s and

2SLGBTQQIA+ Representatives’ advocacy work is informed by diverse First Nations voices and reflects the unique priorities of communities throughout the province.



Members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council at their inaugural meeting in March 2026.



BCAFN Women's representative, Cheryl Rule

Cheryl Rule, BCAFN Women's Representative, continues to engage with national and provincial partners on key initiatives that advance safety, justice, and gender equity. Recent updates include:

- The Native Women's Association of Canada released a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ (MMIWG2S+) Advocacy Toolkit that highlights practical resources to support families, Survivors, grassroots organizers, and community advocates.
- The Indigenous Human Trafficking Coalition developed a safety awareness poster in advance of FIFA World Cup 2026 events in Vancouver, seeking to raise awareness of and reduce human trafficking.
- The federal government introduced Bill C-16, the Protecting Victims Act, which proposes significant Criminal Code reforms related to gender-based violence, including measures addressing femicide, coercive control, and mandatory minimum sentencing. UBCIC has submitted recommendations to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights to strengthen federal legal protections and uphold the rights of Indigenous women, girls, and

2SLGBTQQIA+ people as Parliament reviews Bill C-16.

- The Environmental Assessment Office is continuing engagement with First Nations and the MMIWG Coalition on a proposed Environmental Assessment Certificate condition aimed at addressing gender-based violence associated with industry and work camps. This work promotes stronger community safety considerations within environmental assessment processes.

Through the leadership of the Women's Representative and the newly established Women's Council, BCAFN remains committed to protecting the rights, safety, and well-being of First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people while ensuring First Nations perspectives continue to inform advocacy at the provincial and national levels.



BCAFN Women's representative, Cheryl Rule with panel for the BCNWA's Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, May 2026.

BCAFN Women Chiefs and Leaders Caucus Meeting

The BCAFN Women Chiefs and Leaders Caucus Meeting, held March 24-25, 2026, in Kelowna on the syilx/Okanagan traditional territory, was a hybrid event focusing on building safety and equity within the economic landscape of BC/Canada resource development. Many historical First Nations governance systems respected women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, but were

eroded by colonization, patriarchy, and legal oppression, contributing to the violence and discrimination faced today. We now have the opportunity to address these issues, promote justice, inclusion, and solidarity. Central to this work is the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ (MMIWG2S+) National Action Plan. BCAFN is committed to advocating for and implementing concrete actions from this plan, though some initiatives are still in early stages and require further strategizing, partnerships, and funding.

This event brought together First Nations women leaders to share experiences, discuss priorities, and advance gender and cultural safety in industrial projects and resource sectors, with a focus on addressing violence and discrimination, including challenges related to the MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan.

The first day of the event included a cultural presentation by syilx artist Krystal Withakay, an impactful keynote by Dr. Val Napoleon on collective futures, updates on BCAFN's Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan, and a government update on gender equity from MLA Jennifer Blatherwick. In addition, Woodfibre LNG provided a presentation on advancing gender and cultural safety in industrial projects, and there was a session on the national strategy to combat human trafficking. The day concluded with a plenary panel developing recommendations from

BC First Nations women on policy addressing MMIWG2S+ and human trafficking concerns.

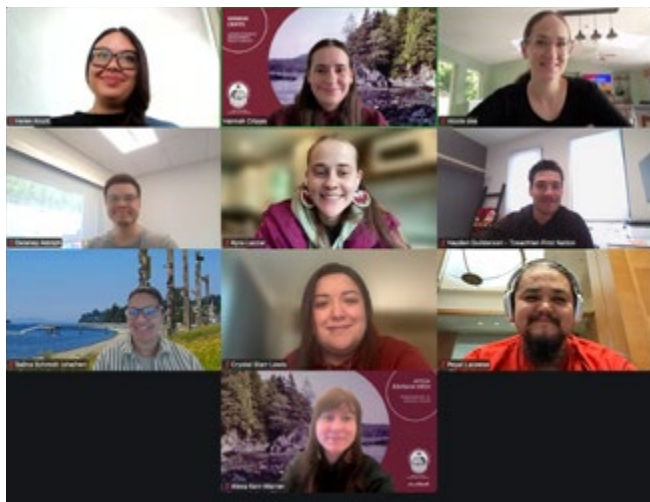
The final day began with the story of the T̓silhqot'in Women's Council, highlighting Indigenous governance and leadership and was followed by federal presentations from Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada, and the Impact Assessment Agency, detailing actions to address MMIWG2S+ calls for justice in resource development. The event concluded with a presentation on the impacts of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) within the Tahltan Nation.

In attendance at the event were BCAFN's Female Youth Representative, Crystal Lewis, Women's Representative, Cheryl Rule, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, Orene Askew. Crystal is a passionate community advocate focused on uplifting and empowering youth. She addressed challenges like substance use and housing insecurity, and the importance of supporting the well-being of youth in a world shaped by colonial systems. Cheryl advocated for human rights, governance, and cultural preservation, and emphasized the urgency of addressing the MMIWG2S+ crisis and supporting residential school survivors. Orene works to create inclusive, safe spaces for 2S+ individuals, amplifying their voices and fostering community support by providing value and respect in the face of discrimination.



Jennifer Richardson (Chief Advisor to Combat Human Trafficking) moderates the plenary panel (Lorna Brown, Cheryl Rule, Orene Askew and Crystal Starr-Lewis) at the BCAFN Women Chiefs and Leaders Caucus Meeting, March 2026.

YOUTH



BCAFN Youth Advisory Circle Strategic Planning Session, 2026.

The BCAFN Youth Representatives, with the support of Regional Chief Terry Teegee and BCAFN, continue to advocate for First Nations youth across the province to ensure their perspectives are meaningfully reflected in decision-making.

Progress Toward Establishing the BCAFN Youth Council

Progress on BCAFN [resolution 33/2023: Support to Establish A BCAFN Youth Council](#), has been substantial. With support from a Youth Advisory Circle made up of six First Nations youth from across the province, the BCAFN Youth Representatives have recently completed a strategic plan and draft terms of reference for future members of the BCAFN Youth Council to adopt. This foundational work for the Council was developed to reduce barriers to member participation and provide a strong framework for implementing the BCAFN Youth Council. The BCAFN Youth Representatives envision a Council that is strong, well-supported, and ready to advance First Nations youth advocacy once established.

BCAFN Youth Forum: Advancing First Nations Youth Leadership

The BCAFN Youth Forum was held on March 17, 2026, at the Fairmont Waterfront in Vancouver,

BC, on the traditional and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. The gathering provided First Nations youth with an opportunity to connect with their peers and share their perspectives to help inform BCAFN's policy advocacy. Participants discussed their priorities in key areas, including environment, justice, and economic development policy.

Youth participants also heard from peers across the province about their journeys in political advocacy and took part in cultural connection through beading with fishbones. With support from BCAFN, the BCAFN Youth Representatives will continue to advocate for funding to ensure this important gathering can be held annually.

BCAFN Youth Representatives

BCAFN welcomes Tyra Point to her new role as the BCAFN Interim Female Youth Representative. Tyra is from Sts'ailes First Nation and serves as a Council member for her Nation. She has previous experience as a youth representative and continues to contribute to various advocacy efforts. Tyra is passionate about advocating for Indigenous peoples within the justice system, and BCAFN is pleased to have the opportunity to work with her. Tyra will serve as the BCAFN Interim Female Youth Representative until an election is held at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting in October 2026.

National Advocacy

BCAFN Youth Representatives Peyal Laceese and Tyra Point continue to advocate for the interests and priorities of BC First Nations youth through their participation in the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council.

In this role, Peyal and Tyra help ensure that the voices, experiences, and perspectives of BC First Nations youth are represented at national policy tables. They bring forward youth-identified priorities, challenges, and solutions to support stronger advocacy on issues that matter to First

Nations youth across British Columbia and beyond.

Their continued participation helps strengthen connections between BC First Nations youth and national advocacy efforts, while ensuring that youth perspectives remain central to discussions, decision-making, and policy development.

Indigenous Youth Internship Program

BCAFN is pleased to welcome Zachary Elliott and Darien Smallboy-Ermineskin from the Indigenous Youth Internship Program to the Environment and Economic Development teams for a three-month internship placement. During their time with BCAFN, Zach and Darien will gain meaningful exposure to policy analysis and political advocacy while contributing to projects that advance First Nations priorities across BC. BCAFN looks forward to the perspectives, energy, and knowledge Zachary and Darien will bring to their teams, and BCAFN is proud to support emerging First Nations leaders through this placement.

Continuing Advocacy for First Nations Youth Leadership

Regional Chief Terry Teegee and the BCAFN Youth Representatives will continue to advocate for First Nations youth across British Columbia

to ensure their voices are represented in decision-making and that they have access to meaningful leadership opportunities.

BCAFN will continue to seek provincial funding to support the sustainable implementation of the BCAFN Youth Council, reduce barriers to youth participation, and ensure the annual BCAFN Youth Forum can continue as an important gathering for connection, dialogue, and advocacy. BCAFN will also continue to identify new ways to include First Nations youth in key discussions and policy processes at the regional, national, and international levels.



BCAFN Youth Forum 2026 in Vancouver, March 2026.



Chiefs and leaders in assembly at the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly, March 2026.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BCAFN Events

BCAFN Annual General Meeting

October 14 - 16, 2026

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, Vancouver

FN Low-Carbon Transportation Toolkit Webinar

September 22, 2026

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Online via Zoom

FN Low-Carbon Transportation Planning Guide Webinar

November 18, 2026

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Online via Zoom

Go to events.bcafn.ca for registration, updates and more details on these events.

AFN Events

Raise your voice on important changes to Bill C-37, the First Nations Clean Water Act

Date TBD

First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting 2026

Fall 2026

TBD

AFN 4th National Climate Gathering

October 5 - 8, 2026

Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton, ON

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly 2026

December 8 - 10, 2026

Rogers Centre, Ottawa, ON

Go to afn.ca for registration, updates and more details on these events.

Other Events

BC Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering

November 3 & 4, 2026 - Save the Date

Vancouver Convention Centre West

Go to fnlg.gov.bc.ca for updates and details

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Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation

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Brian Assu
We Wai Kai Nation

Chief Donald Sam
?Akisqnuq First Nation

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2SLGBTQQIA+ Knowledge Keeper
Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales
Squamish Nation

Knowledge Keepers
Harvey McLeod
Upper Nicola Band
Dr. Gwendolyn Point
Sto:Lo Nation

Women's Representative
Cheryl Rule
Coldwater Indian Band

2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative
Orene Askew
Squamish Nation
Swxwú7mesh Úxwumixw

Youth Female Representative
Tyra Point
Sts'ales First Nation

Youth Male Representative
Peyal Laceese
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