



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 5, 2019

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly Draws Indigenous, Federal and Provincial Leaders Together to Conduct Urgent Business

(Algonquin Anishnaabeg Territory/Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 5, 2019) - Regional Chief Terry Teegee and BC First Nations leaders travelled to unceded Algonquin territory this week to address urgent business at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly held Dec. 3rd to 5th. Top priorities discussed included fisheries - the Big Bar slide event, federal implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, child and family welfare, the climate emergency, suicide crisis, and more. Over 30 resolutions were passed by the Assembly Chiefs or their proxies over the three days of the event.

“This annual assembly brings BC leadership to Canada’s center of power where our voices and concerns are heard and our urgency is more effectively communicated. We also take the time to reflect and celebrate the exceptional achievements made by BC leaders. Pathways have been forged and hurdles overcome during the struggle to create change and support First Nations’ communities in BC,” stated Regional Chief Terry Teegee.

Indigenous leaders have also taken time to honour and celebrate the exceptional work and achievements carried out by individuals including, Premier John Horgan and Jody Wilson-Raybould who were both Blanketed in traditional ceremonies. Premier John Horgan was acknowledged for his leadership in implementing the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* into Provincial law and Puglaas, Jody Wilson-Raybould was lifted up and supported in her continuing political journey within the federal sphere as an independent member of Parliament.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) advocates on behalf of First Nations on issues such as treaties, Indigenous rights, land and resources. They have the authority to review and enforce decisions and directions brought forward by proposed resolutions that are discussed and voted on at assemblies.

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