



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### BCAFN acknowledges International Women's Day!

**(Lheidli T'enneh Territory (Prince George) x̣ẉməθḳẉəỵəm (Musqueam), Sḳẉx̣ẉú7mesh (Squamish) and sə̣lilẉətạ (Tsleil-Waututh)/Vancouver, B.C.)** – International Women's Day (IWD) is a day dedicated to celebrating women's political, social, economic, and cultural achievements. The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) recognizes and commits to advancing women's rights and gender equity in all spheres and calls on everyone to join this movement. This year's international theme, 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress,' is a reminder of the importance of advancing gender equality. It is not only about meaningfully supporting women and girls but that we work to break barriers to shape a better future for seven generations to come.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee stated, "Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people bring strength and purpose into the heart of our First Nation communities. The implementation of the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQIA+) people is a top priority. I will continue to advocate for equity, healing, and justice for First Nations women in British Columbia. This way, we will build stronger, more inclusive, and prosperous communities. Mussi Cho!"

The long-standing BCAFN Women's Representative, Louisa Housty-Jones, added, "Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people overcome barriers from a lack of accessible health and wellness services to minimal educational and culturally specific programming and opportunities that will uplift them. This year's theme is very fitting as investment is needed to help accelerate the health and success of Indigenous Women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people."

Orene Askew, also known as DJ O Show, BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, shared, "To celebrate this day, we need to celebrate the valued contributions and achievements of Indigenous two-spirit and trans women. I continue to advocate for creating safer spaces for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people within ceremony and community. Although it is imperative to acknowledge the progress we've made in working toward gender equality, we also need to recognize that there is more critical work to do. Chen kwenmantumiyap!"

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