



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

## Inside

- Economic Development
- Non-medical Cannabis Legalization and Regulation
- Womens' Representative Update
- 2021 Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Sessions
- Women, 2S, and LGBTQIA+ Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan
- Regional Engagement on the Development of MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA+ National Action Plan
- First Nations Approaches to Gender Based Analysis Plus
- BCAFN Youth Update
- Homelessness
- Indigenous Languages
- Shared Territories and Overlaps
- Clean Energy and Mining
- Climate Emergency
- Water
- Emergency Management
- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Implementation
- Hunting and Wildlife
- Justice
- Children and Families
- AFN Technical Working Group on Social Development
- Contact BCAFN
- Upcoming Events

# Newsletter

BC Assembly of First Nations

WINTER 2022



BCAFN & Positive Living North No khēyoh t'sih'en t'sehena Society co-hosting Christmas Dinner at The Fire Pit in Prince George - Angela Carter, PLN Executive Director and Regional Chief Terry Teegee

## Message from Regional Chief Terry Teegee

Chiefs, Leaders, Knowledge Holders, Elders, Youths, and community members,

*Hadih,*

This past winter has affirmed that we continue to live through challenging times. Our Nations are dealing with several overlapping crises, as well as the constant fight for reconciliation and recognition of our Aboriginal rights and title. The BCAFN has been working diligently to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, illicit-drug toxicity deaths, homelessness, justice for our children and youth, equitable disaster management, and other matters impacting our families and communities.

After spending another holiday season with COVID-19, the Omicron Variant spread across the world in greater numbers than ever seen before. Through the Delta and Omicron waves, the BCAFN has worked to champion vaccination and counter misinformation in First Nations communities. As we continue to watch our loved ones become sick and the loss of family, friends and Elders, I encourage everyone everywhere to get fully vaccinated - not only for themselves, but for their vulnerable and immunocompromised loved ones as well.

Before the end of 2021, we saw the announcement of two historic Agreements-in-Principle regarding long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program, as well as long-overdue compensation for children and families. In the coming months, the BCAFN will be working toward a full compensation package committing the Canadian government to ensure that these federal programs' discriminatory and harmful aspects will remain relics of the past.

Though these settlements are promising, our Nations are continually reminded of the colonial mistreatment of our children and youth. For example, Williams Lake First Nation recently shared findings of 93 possible gravesites at St. Joseph's Mission. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) newly announced that the Vatican delegation would proceed, and the audience with Pope Francis will occur on April 1st. Per the 94 Calls to Action, the BCAFN will call upon the Pope and the Catholic Church to apologize and acknowledge the harms inflicted on our children, families and communities.

In the aftermath of one of BC's worst wildfire seasons on record, followed by devastating flooding, the BCAFN has been working with First Nations and other partners to build capacity for stronger emergency response and recovery. We recently met with the Disaster Recovery and Climate Resilience Committee to press for commitments from Canada and BC to make investments and changes to the emergency management systems in this province.

The BCAFN continues to work on these issues and others within my portfolios, such as economic development, fisheries, justice, and cannabis legislation and regulation. I hope these updates will be informative and uplifting. I am incredibly proud of and inspired by the excellent work being done by BCAFN's staff, board members, and representatives on these complex issues. As we come out of another tough winter, I encourage you to celebrate the hard-fought progress we've made toward the betterment of our families, communities, and Nations.

Mussi Cho.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee introducing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, December 2021

## Economic Development

The BCAFN Economic Development team submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to extend the current funding agreement for two additional years. This work is integral to the economic well-being of BC First Nations during challenging times. BC First Nations will feel the effects of the covid-19 pandemic on the economy for years as Canada faces inflation, increasing interest rates, and shifting federal and provincial funding priorities. The BCAFN will continue to provide advocacy, representation, and services as we move through this turbulent time.

Current initiatives include the ongoing development of the BC First Nations Centre for Excellence in Economic Development. In January, a business plan was submitted to the Province of BC and the Government of Canada for consideration, with a decision expected in March. This exciting initiative will showcase the innovation and resiliency of BC's First Nations citizens, communities, and organizations and provide a suite of targeted services in a non-partisan environment.

Ongoing priorities are driving policy papers in the economic development sector. Upcoming publications will focus on Indigenous food security and international trade. In addition, there will be papers developed this year that focus on the economy of water, circular economies, and opportunities within the agricultural and food sectors. [The Black Books Toolkit](#) and the [non-GDP Wellness Indicator](#) are in-progress for updates. Please look out for upcoming workshops focusing on the Black Books Toolkit.

On February 9th, 2022, the BCAFN held its first Economic Development Forum of the year, presented virtually. The two keynote speakers, Dawn Madahbee Le'ach, the National Indigenous Economic Development Board Chair, and Jill Earthy, the CEO of InBC, opened and closed the day, respectively. The forum, moderated by the BCAFN Youth representatives Justen Peters and Taylor Behn-Tsakoza, hosted nearly 200 participants.



**SAVE THE DATE**

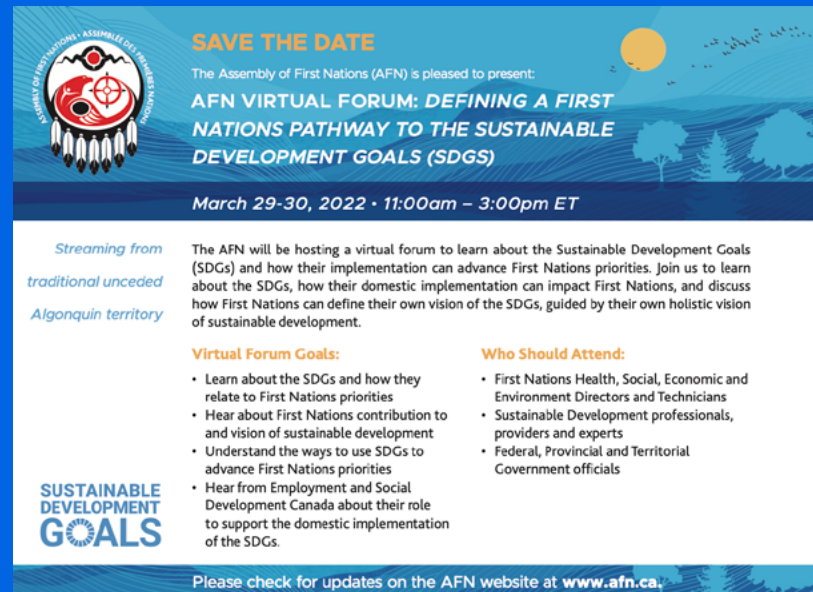
The Assembly of First Nations is pleased to present:

**NATIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE – VIRTUAL**

Dates: March 8-10, 2022  
Times: 11:00am – 4:00pm (ET)

Streaming from unceded Algonquin territory

Please check the AFN website for updates at [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca).



**SAVE THE DATE**

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased to present:

**AFN VIRTUAL FORUM: DEFINING A FIRST NATIONS PATHWAY TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)**

March 29-30, 2022 • 11:00am – 3:00pm ET

Streaming from traditional unceded Algonquin territory

The AFN will be hosting a virtual forum to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how their implementation can advance First Nations priorities. Join us to learn about the SDGs, how their domestic implementation can impact First Nations, and discuss how First Nations can define their own vision of the SDGs, guided by their own holistic vision of sustainable development.

**Virtual Forum Goals:**

- Learn about the SDGs and how they relate to First Nations priorities
- Hear about First Nations contribution to and vision of sustainable development
- Understand the ways to use SDGs to advance First Nations priorities
- Hear from Employment and Social Development Canada about their role to support the domestic implementation of the SDGs.

**Who Should Attend:**

- First Nations Health, Social, Economic and Environment Directors and Technicians
- Sustainable Development professionals, providers and experts
- Federal, Provincial and Territorial Government officials

Please check for updates on the AFN website at [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca).



## Non-medical Cannabis Legalization and Regulation

### National Advocacy

Regional Chief Terry Teegee is the Co-Chair of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Cannabis. On the National level, the Federal Cannabis Act review was slated to begin in October, 2021, but has seen delays. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) will be involved in the Cannabis Act review process, though details are still forthcoming. The FNLC will work to ensure that BC First Nations are included and heard in the review process. Submissions will be prepared for the legislative review, and the recommendations will be brought forward to the AFN Chiefs Committee on Cannabis.

### BC-FNLC Cannabis Working Group

At this table, key priorities remain jurisdiction, cannabis revenues, and targeted economic supports for First Nations cannabis businesses. The FNLC has continued engagement work to support the development of a BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy, which was mandated by resolutions passed at the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC Chiefs Meetings. As an overview of the engagement sessions, our August 10th, 2021 session helped us set necessary context for the fall sessions, and allowed the FNLC to seek input on potential federal and provincial legislative changes. The November 17th, 2021 session focused on the topics of cannabis economic development and BC First Nations experience in the cannabis market. The November 19th, 2021 session sought input on the topics of health and safety, BC First Nations experiences with cannabis jurisdiction, and provided an overview of the potential for a BC First Nations Cannabis Institution.

Since 2021, the FNLC held two January engagement sessions. The January 13th engagement session focused on the topic of cannabis taxation and revenue sharing. A draft framework of the BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy was presented to First Nations leadership and community members at the FNLC's January 26th post-engagement session.

The draft of the BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy is in late-stage development, and will be shared with

BC Chiefs and leadership in early March, 2022. The strategy framework will also be shared and brought to the Chiefs meetings of the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC, and spring 2022 for consideration. Provided that the Strategy receives endorsement by BC Chiefs, the FNLC will continue to work at the working group and political level to secure support for the implementation of the Strategy.

The BCAFN and FNS have continued with the development of the BC indigenous Cannabis Initiative, a tripartite initiative under the federal Strategic Partnership Initiative funding program, to help address gaps in access to resources, information, and capital for First Nations cannabis business in BC. The partners are currently in the procurement phase of the project. The FNLC is also continuing to work with the BC Cannabis Secretariat on other initiatives, including an Indigenous-led Cannabis Market Access research project that will yield a SWOT analysis of Indigenous participation in the cannabis sector and explore the feasibility of a BC Indigenous cannabis association.

The [BC Indigenous Cannabis Product Program](#) was also soft-launched in early January of this year. The program establishes a special logo to identify participating Indigenous cannabis products in BC cannabis stores, and interested private retailers. The FNLC continues to advocate for First Nations interests with respect to the BC Indigenous Cannabis Product Program, Direct-Delivery, and Farm Gate.

The opportunity to continue the dialogue, collaborate, and gain strength through the sharing of our stories and expertise is an exciting one, as First Nations press to participate in and occupy the emergent cannabis sector. We look forward to supporting First Nations as they determine their path forward on cannabis governance and economic development.



## Women's Representative Update

Greetings! My name is Louisa Housty-Jones. I come from the Heiltsuk Nation where I also serve on Council. I am passionate about the wellness and leadership of women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and I am honoured to have been re-elected into this role at BCAFN's AGM in September 2021. I look forward to building upon the good work that we have done so far.

I continue to serve on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Womens Council, where we have recently been involved in several initiatives, including:

- Discussion on supporting implementation of the Calls for Justice based on 2021 regional engagements and reports;
- Comments on the federal government's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy – Shelter and Transitional Housing for Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People;
- Participation in the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women meeting with National Indigenous Leaders and Representative;
- Participation in the Canada National Action Plan (CNAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Advisory Committee Meeting;
- Meeting with Ambassador Bob Rae in preparation for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women;
- Supporting the implementation of AFN Resolution 13/2020, Becoming A Role Model in Ending Sexual Orientation and Gender-Based Discrimination Within the Assembly of First Nations;
- Feedback on the proposal to establish a National Council of Elected Woman Leaders at the AFN.

Regionally, I continue to advocate for pathways to prevent and address violence against First Nations women, girls, gender diverse, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. I'm a firm supporter of community-based and led solutions, while at the same time holding government accountable for the historical and ongoing impacts of colonial legislation, policy, and practice.

I'm also working to create space for the increased representation and voice of First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ through the development of a First Nations Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Strategic Action Plan. The intention of this Plan is to advance strategic, coordinated, and well-resourced action by all levels of government, led by First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, for addressing priorities and commitments set out in the Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Declaration and other issues that impact First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, to ultimately achieve our vision for wellbeing, safety, equity, and justice.

Planning for the 2022 Women, Gender Diverse, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Sessions is also underway. They will be held virtually on April 26 and 27, 2022. These sessions are a way that BCAFN supports dialogue among First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and one forum that helps ensure our advocacy is inclusive and representative of the experiences and priorities of women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. I'm looking forward this annual gathering, where we come together to gather strength and chart a vision for the future!

In my community I continue to support our governance work and fisheries and oceans portfolio, among others. I'm passionate about expanding opportunities and safety for women working in male-dominated sectors such as fisheries, and always appreciate hearing the stories of other women breaking barriers, mentoring our youth, and reclaiming our spaces. I also affirm the importance of allyship and believe that we all have a role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. I am grateful for the support from BC First Nations leadership that I have received, and I would encourage everyone to look at how our First Nations governments can support the work and leadership of women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in our communities.

## Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+

### Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Sessions

BCAFN has a mandate to hold annual Women's Dialogue Sessions and dedicated 2S and LGBTQIA+ events. Dialogue sessions were held in 2017, 2018, 2020, and 2021. The Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Declaration, and 2021 report, Nourishing Hope and Belonging, was developed as a result of these sessions. Planning is currently underway for the BCAFN 2022 Women's, Gender-Diverse and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Sessions.

A planning committee was formed through an open call-out and evaluation process to guide the visioning and planning for the event. The committee is inclusive of the majority of regions in BC, and reflects several dimensions of diversity. With this guidance, we hope to host dialogue sessions that are reflective of the diverse priorities and experiences of First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in BC.

The BCAFN 2022 Women's, Gender-Diverse and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Sessions will be held virtually on April 26th and April 27th, 2022, from 9:00am-4:00pm PST. The event will feature:

- April 26th: A Dialogue Session dedicated for First Nations elected, traditional/hereditary, community, and grassroots women, Two Spirit, gender diverse, and non-binary leadership and community members, including youth and elders;
- April 27th: A collaborative "Listen and Take Action" Session dedicated for First Nations elected, traditional/hereditary, community, and grassroots leadership and community members of all ages, including those who are male-identified. This new part of the Dialogue Sessions is intended to highlight the role that men and boys, as well as institutions, have to play in upholding gender equality and explore how we can work together as holistic communities to do this.
- TBD: A follow up session to present the 2022 Dialogue Session report to governments and institutions.

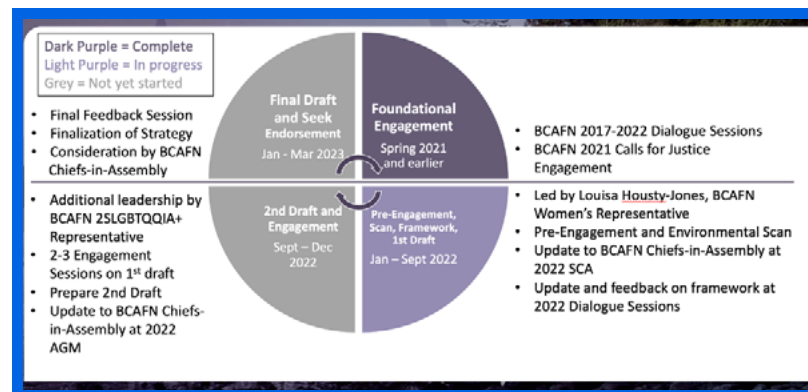
Please visit the BCAFN [events website](#) for more information. Additionally, anyone seeking more information about the event can email [taylor.arnt@bcafn.ca](mailto:taylor.arnt@bcafn.ca).

### First Nations Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Strategic Action Plan

Through resolution [11/2020 Support for Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People Declaration and Strategy](#), the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the BCAFN to develop a strategic plan for addressing the Women's Declaration and other issues that impact Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

To support the development of the strategic action plan, preparatory work is underway to engage with First Nations on an environmental scan of how BC First Nations organizations and governments are applying a gendered lens to policy, programs, and governance in a culturally relevant way.

Here is an overview of the development process:



More information will be circulated shortly and you are invited to visit our website or connect with BCAFN Senior Policy Analyst, Sarah Froese at [Sarah.Froese@bcafn.ca](mailto:Sarah.Froese@bcafn.ca) for more information.

## Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ continued,

### MMIWG2S+

At the BCAFN 18th Annual General Meeting on September 14, 15, and 16, 2021, [Resolution 29/2021](#), “What We Heard” Report on MMIWG2S+ was presented, affirmed and endorsed by consensus. In alignment with the mandate provided for by this resolution, the BCAFN continues to advocate for the implementation of the Calls for Justice and for action on the priority areas of human and Indigenous rights and governmental obligations, culture, health and wellness, and policing and justice.

To date, the federal and provincial governments have not taken sufficient action on the Calls for Justice and are lacking in appropriate coordination, transparency, and resourcing. While a National Action Plan has been developed, it does not have sufficiently concrete actions, a coordinated implementation plan, or appropriate governance, communication, and accountability structures. Thus far, the federal government has only committed to supporting the implementation of the Federal Pathway, which is the federal government’s contribution to the National Action Plan. The BC government’s contribution to the National Action Plan is called A Path Forward. While it contains some positive commitments that reflect what was heard in community sessions held in 2019 and 2021, we maintain it must go farther in terms of systemic transformation, and be expanded in terms of commitments to action.

We are advocating for the establishment of more regionally grounded and community-based implementation processes for the National Action Plan, and calling for further work regarding the Calls for Justice to reflect the principles of concrete action, accessibility, transparency, self-

determination, partnership, respect, accountability, representativeness, and inclusiveness. We contend that the federal and provincial/territorial governments have a responsibility to ensure appropriate coordination and support for the fulsome implementation of the National Action Plan in partnership with First Nations.

BCAFN’s avenues of advocacy and support include meetings with Ministers and officials in provincial and federal government, correspondence, advocacy via the AFN Women’s Council, participation in the BC Coalition on MMIWG and other forums aimed at addressing this issue, facilitating the sharing of missing persons posters, one-on-one support to family members, the integration of the Calls for Justice and What we Heard report into the First Nations Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People’s Strategic Action Plan; participating in provincial and federal engagements regarding mainstream strategies to end gender-based violence; and taking an active role in provincial and federal initiatives to reform justice and policing.

We commend the efforts of family members, advocates, and front-line workers who continue to prevent, respond to, and advocate for an end to violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+, and those who work for justice and healing. BCAFN is committed to supporting this advocacy.

To speak with someone about BCAFN’s work in this area please contact BCAFN Senior Policy Analyst, Sarah Froese at [Sarah.Froese@bcfn.ca](mailto:Sarah.Froese@bcfn.ca).

## First Nations Approaches to Gender Based Analysis Plus

BCAFN has the opportunity to build upon existing work related to gender-based analysis plus (GBA+). GBA+ is an approach to doing work (whether it be policy, programs, advocacy, or governance) that values and incorporates the experiences and priorities of everyone in our communities. It values diverse voices, and lifts people up. We wish to further explore how First Nations knowledges, cultures, and practices can form the foundation of this methodology; and develop tools to assist Nations in applying this holistic lens in a way that supports self-determination.





## BCAFN Youth Update

Justen and Taylor continue to attend regular AFN National Youth Council (NYC) in addition to the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC) meetings which promotes relationship-building between the Province of BC and Indigenous youth. This year, the UAYC is undergoing a Strategic Planning Session which involve the youth to contribute to the strategic vision of the UAYC mandate and future priorities. Taylor and Justen have also been working with the BC Coalition to end Youth Homelessness which includes participating in a Working Group that is developing a Youth Homelessness Action Plan (Action Plan) as mandated by BCAFN [Resolution 17/2020](#).

### Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Funding

As part of funding received from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Justen and Taylor have been working with BCAFN staff and consultants to plan and host the 2022 BCAFN Youth Forum on March 19 - 20th, 2022. This two-day event will kick off with an evening session on March 19th and will host a range of activities for youth to gather virtually and connect through icebreakers and games. On March 20th, the Youth Representatives will be co-hosting a full-day event that will feature First Nations youth leaders to speak about entrepreneurship and mental health. Door prizes and honoraria will be available to all participants. For more information, go to [youth.bcafn.ca](http://youth.bcafn.ca)

In addition to the Youth Forum, Justen and Taylor have also initiated a short BCAFN Youth Podcast series that will feature emerging youth leaders to talk about a range of topics interest that First Nations youth in BC have identified as priorities at the 2021 BCAFN Youth Forum. The Youth Podcast Series will soon be available to view in March. Stay tuned on [youth.bcafn.ca/podcast](http://youth.bcafn.ca/podcast)

The BCAFN Youth Representatives are developing a handbook for future BCAFN Youth Representatives to support them into their new roles with a goal of providing a 'how-to' manual and applicable resources that assists the new representatives in their leadership. Justen and Taylor are working BCAFN staff to engage with the AFN NYC Representatives to learn more about what youth are doing in each region to inform the content of this handbook.

### BCAFN Economic Resiliency Forum

Justen and Taylor supported BCAFN staff in planning, co-hosting, and facilitating the virtual Economic Resiliency Forum on February 9th, 2022. The forum hosted speakers and panelists that discussed building economic resilience with business sector outlooks for the construction, forestry, technology, and tourism industries.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**VIRTUAL BCAFN**

British Columbia Assembly of First Nations

**YOUTH**

**FORUM**

**MARCH 19th: 5pm - 8pm**

**MARCH 20th: 10am - 4pm**

HONORARIA & DOOR PRIZES AVAILABLE!

For more information: [www.youth.bcafn.ca](http://www.youth.bcafn.ca)

OPEN TO FIRST NATIONS YOUTH IN BC AGES 15-29



## Homelessness

As inflation continues to rise at unprecedented rates and housing continues to become increasingly unaffordable, BC will undoubtedly continue to face unprecedented housing insecurity. Indigenous peoples continue to represent the majority of the de-housed population across municipalities across Canada. The de-housed face significant barriers in finding adequate and affordable homes and accessing the proper medical and mental health care they need due to a lack of housing available on reserve and affordable housing off reserve.

As the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) has since been legislated both at the provincial and federal levels, there are growing calls for municipalities to heed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #43 which calls on all levels of government to fully adopt and implement UNDRIP. BCAFN implores municipalities across BC to both consider and prioritize their relationships with the de-housed populations as part of the path to reconciliation.

Recent court decisions have indicated a shift in defining suitable housing. In January 2022, the BC Supreme Court rejected the Vancouver Park Board's (VPB) injunction request to remove CRAB Park encampment residents for both overnight and daytime occupation in the park. Justice Kirchner indicated that VPB failed to prove that there were suitable shelter alternatives available to the de-housed residents. Similar court decisions were reached in Prince George in late 2021 and most recently in February 2022 where Justice Coval dismissed the City of Prince George's second attempt at obtaining an injunction to remove the Lower Patricia Encampments, and found the City to be in breach of earlier court orders by destroying camp residents' belongings.

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) recently met with the Minister Responsible for Housing, Honourable David Eby. Regional Chief Terry Teegee called on Minister Eby's immediate intervention

as these decampment issues and the inadequate municipal responses to these issues continue to arise throughout the province. The FNLC will continue to advocate for BC to act on ensuring there is sufficient and culturally appropriate housing available for BC's de-housed populations, of which are over-represented of Indigenous peoples.

BCAFN has been working on developing a Homelessness Strategy to address the homelessness crisis in BC which was mandated by BCAFN [Resolution 08/2020](#). BCAFN staff are currently exploring ways to identify adequate funding to gather the appropriate distinctions-based data that is needed to inform the strategy development. BCAFN will work closely with Indigenous service providers and First Nations in BC to develop a comprehensive advocacy plan in Spring/Summer 2022.

### Save the Date

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) presents:

## 2022 National Forum on Policing and Restorative Justice

**April 6 & 7, 2022**

(Online via Zoom)

The national forum will host plenary and dialogue sessions to discuss the evolution of First Nations policing and restorative justice.

*Please check the AFN website for updates at [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)*



## Indigenous Languages

The AFN, along with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, and the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) are working towards the full implementation of the Indigenous Languages Act at the Joint Implementation Steering Committee (JISC).

The BC region representative on the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages is Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk'etemc and the alternate is Chairperson Khelsilem. The AFN Technical Committee on Languages representative is Tracey Herbert, CEO, First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC), supported by Suzanne Gessner, Research and Development Linguist, FPCC.

Critical components of work underway include the development of a National Indigenous Languages Strategy and Indigenous Languages Funding Model (ILFM). The AFN undertook a series of engagements to develop a First Nations vision for the ILFM in February – early March 2022. It is being proposed that the AFN will seek ratification of the Funding Model (including a new regional funding allocation formula) at the AFN AGA in July 2022. Subject to ratification at the AGA, the Funding Model would be formally shared with DCH; and following this DCH would submit a Treasury Board Submission for acquiring the spending authorities for the new distinctions-based ILFM; unlocking Budget 2019 incremental funding for future years.

BCAFN understands that further information on the proposed Strategy and Funding model is required, and that further dialogue may be needed, and will look to facilitate opportunities for this.

Regionally, in alignment with [Resolution 11/2019: Support for Co-Developing Provincial Indigenous Languages Legislation](#), BCAFN collaborated with regional partners on the development of a proposal to support the establishment of a working group. This committee will explore options for supporting First Nations languages in BC, including provincial languages legislation. Given the ongoing evolution of the draft DRIPA Action Plan, this proposal was paused. BCAFN is now working with UBCIC, FNS, and FNEsc at a technical level to discuss how work on First Nations languages might be coordinated and advanced within a DRIPA framework going forward, as well as intersections with national-level work.

FNEsc is also actively engaged in advancing language-related commitments under the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA), including a First Nation Languages Policy.

To connect regarding BCAFN or AFN's languages-related work please contact BCAFN Senior Policy Analyst, Sarah Froese at [Sarah.Froese@bcafn.ca](mailto:Sarah.Froese@bcafn.ca).



SAVE THE DATE

The Assembly of First Nations

**Annual General Assembly**

**Where:** Vancouver Convention Centre  
1055 Canada Place, Vancouver BC

**Dates:** July 5-7, 2022

## Shared Territories and Overlaps

On November 24-25, the FNLC hosted a virtual dialogue to discuss strategies for addressing shared territories and overlaps situations. This dialogue built upon discussions from the previous forum in March 2020, which was interrupted due to COVID-19.

In preparation for this forum the FNLC convened two focus groups on July 29 and August 5, 2021 to seek guidance and input on the agenda and content for the November forum. These focus groups involved a small, but diverse sample of First Nations leadership and subject matter experts.

The 2021 Forum was open to First Nations Chiefs, hereditary/traditional leadership, and technicians/experts. The dialogue revolved around:

- Incorporating Indigenous laws and protocols within a shared territories and overlaps context,
- Resolving disputes and shared decision making,
- Strategies for supporting capacity, including consideration the potential role for a First Nations institution to support First Nations with regard to this work,
- Exploring pathways forward.

A summary of the proceedings are available and a final report is currently being prepared, and will be shared with BC Chiefs.

For more information contact BCAFN Senior Policy Analyst, Sarah Froese at [Sarah.Froese@bcafn.ca](mailto:Sarah.Froese@bcafn.ca).

## Clean Energy and Mining

BCAFN and the FNLC, with the technical support of the First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC), have continued engaging through the fall and winter with the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI). This work is part of the co-designed and co-led [Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities \(ICEO\)](#) process, BCAFN [Resolution 25/19](#), and within the Relationship Protocol framework signed between the FNLC and EMLI in September 2021.

The ICEO process is open to all First Nations governments and First Nations organizations in BC and offers a venue to collectively discuss current opportunities and barriers for First Nations' participation in the clean energy sector. The purpose of the ICEO also includes engaging on legislation, regulations, policies, and practices to align BC clean energy laws with the Declaration Act.

The ICEO delivered two workshops in early March (March 1st and March 3rd) with First Nations rights-holders to gather input on how engagement and

collaboration should occur, and to identify priorities for the work going forward. By the end of April, the FNEMC and EMLI will publish a summary of the input received and will bring an Engagement and Collaboration Plan and a list of prioritized topics to the FNLC assemblies for First Nations' approval.

In addition to the ICEO, the Relationship Protocol includes an engagement process with the Mine Audits Effectiveness Unit, the Code Review Committee responsible for review of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC, placer mining reform, Indigenous guardians, and other initiatives as they arise. The BCAFN, the FNLC and the FNEMC have also been advocating to EMLI to ensure the Oil and Gas Royalty Review includes all First Nations in BC. Finally, the alignment of the Mineral Tenure Act with the Declaration Act is also a major priority for our organizations given the efforts of First Nations in BC to file litigation to reform this outdated law.



## Climate Emergency

In 2019 in Merritt, at the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly, First Nations leadership recognized the climate emergency and mandated the BCAFN to work with the FNLC to prepare a draft First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy) for their review and approval.

In mandating this work to begin, First Nations were responding to not only the climate emergency but also the lack of meaningful consultation in the development of the CleanBC plan, and other climate initiatives led by Crown governments. Since receiving the mandate, BCAFN have been working with our FNLC partner organizations to ensure the Strategy was developed with and for First Nations in BC.

A final draft of the Strategy is now ready for Chiefs' review and approval. It combines input and feedback from First Nations leadership, Elders, Knowledge keepers, women, youth, staff and First Nations organizations. This input was gathered through a lengthy [engagement process](#) and document review. A First Nations Technical Advisory Group was established to guide the Strategy development. These experts shared their knowledge and expertise and we are grateful for their time and support.

The final draft Strategy presents a vision, guiding principles and four pathways: Inherent Title and Rights, Capacity and Leadership, Land and Water Protection, and Climate Response and Preparedness, with goals, themes, objectives and strategic actions, which are condensed and presented into 20 Urgent Calls for Climate Action.

Different from what we see in other governments' climate plans, the draft strategy uses a holistic approach to responding to the climate crisis. The pathways and strategic actions are interconnected and interrelated, with the first pathway, Inherent Title and Rights, acting as a foundational pillar that enables the other pathways.

This approach seeks "to address underlying violations of First Nations Rights, structural inequities, capacity issues, and barriers within communities while also offering opportunities to

building long-term climate resilience, strengthen emergency response and First Nations-led stewardship of land and waters, to avoid carbon pollution, ecosystem destruction, biodiversity loss, and the loss of cultural and spiritual relationships between First Nations and their ancestral territories."

The final draft of the Strategy and related implementation actions are now before First Nations leadership in BC for review and approval, with resolutions recently passing at the FNS and UBCIC Chiefs' assemblies in February. The Strategy will be presented at our Special Chiefs Assembly on March 10th and if endorsed, BCAFN staff will start working towards the implementation phase.

Implementation includes continuing engagement with First Nations rights-holders and presenting the Strategy to Crown governments and other partners to seek collaboration for implementation. Engagement with First Nations will start with holding an all-Chiefs Meeting to develop an implementation plan based on First Nations' priorities.

BCAFN will continue serving First Nations in BC, supporting their self-determined climate actions and advocating for the complete restitution of First Nations rights in the context of climate change.

Contact Patricia Rojas, Climate Change Coordinator, [patricia.rojas@bcafn.ca](mailto:patricia.rojas@bcafn.ca) if you have any questions.





## Water

### National Portfolio

In December 2019, Canada committed to developing a Canada Water Agency (CWA) to improve collaborative freshwater management across Canada. In the 2021 Budget, Canada committed \$17.4 million to “support work with the provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, and key stakeholders on the scope of the agency’s mandate”. A [resolution](#) was passed at the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly in March 2021 which supports BCAFN to facilitate a dialogue with First Nations in BC to discuss potential opportunities and gaps in the proposed Canada Water Agency. These dialogues will be part of a larger BCAFN Water Dialogue Series that will be hosted virtually in March 2022. For more information, please go to [events.bcafn.ca/water](https://events.bcafn.ca/water).


The Regional Water Coordinator continues to work with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) on the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* (SDWFNA) reform and supporting the AFN on developing a long-term National Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater Strategy.

### National Class Action Litigation Settlement

On December 22, 2021, the Federal Court and the Court of the Queen’s Bench of Manitoba issued a joint statement approving a (minimum) \$8 billion settlement regarding the National Safe Drinking Water Advisories Settlement. The settlement outlines Canada’s commitment to contributing a minimum of \$6 billion over nine years to support reliable access to safe drinking water on-reserve.

Additional terms of the settlement include:

- \$1.5 billion in compensation for First Nations impacted by Water Quality Advisories,
- The creation of a \$400 million First Nations Economic and Cultural Restoration Fund,
- A renewed commitment to Canada’s Action Plan for the lifting of all long-term drinking water advisories,
- The creation of a First Nations Advisory Committee on Safe Drinking Water,
- Support for First Nations to develop their own safe drinking water by-laws and initiatives,
- The planned modernization of the SDWFNA including the repeal of SDWFNA by March 2022 and replacement of the act by December 2022.



**Virtual Water Dialogue Series**  
**Elders, Youth and the**  
**Canada Water Agency**

**March 15, 2022 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

British Columbia  
Assembly of First Nations

## Water continued,

### Regional Portfolio

In January 2022, the Provincial government released a [Discussion Paper](#) which outlined their plans to develop and engage on the BC Watershed Security Strategy and Fund which identifies BC's plans in "developing and implementing a Watershed Security Strategy and Fund with Indigenous peoples, and in collaboration with local and federal governments". BCAFN continues to advocate for meaningful engagement and collaboration between First Nations and BC on this initiative. The Province is currently seeking feedback on the Discussion Paper. For communities interested in providing feedback, submissions are due March 18th, 2022 at 4pm PST and can be submitted to [livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca)


The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) has received a mandate to review and amend the FNLC First Nations Water Rights Strategy which was

developed in 2013 to reflect changes to provincial legislation including but not limited to the Water Sustainability Act and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act which will help inform modernized goals and actions within the strategy. These engagements will be planned for Summer 2022.

The BCAFN Environmental portfolios have teamed up to distribute a monthly [BCAFN Climate Change and Water Newsletter](#). This newsletter will feature updates, community-led projects, and share funding opportunities for environmental community-based initiatives. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter or have a community environmental initiative you would like featured in the newsletter, please email [sophia.iliopulos@bcfn.ca](mailto:sophia.iliopulos@bcfn.ca) or [patricia.rojas@bcfn.ca](mailto:patricia.rojas@bcfn.ca) for more information.

# SAVE THE DATE

## BCAFN Water Dialogue Series



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

March 1 (9am - 3pm): First Nations Jurisdiction, Co-Governance, and the Canada Water Agency

March 15 (1pm - 4pm): Elders, Youth and the Canada Water Agency Session

March 17 (9am - noon): Climate Change and the Canada Water Agency  
March 17 (1pm - 4pm): Safe Drinking Water on Reserves and the Canada Water Agency

March 24 (9am - 3pm): Women & 2SLGBTQIA+ Session

March 29 (9am - noon): Water & Wastewater Operators Session

April 5 (9am - 3pm): FNLC All Chiefs Meeting on Water

**HONORARIA AVAILABLE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
EVENTS.BCAFN.CA/WATER**



## Emergency Management

The past year has proved to be a grave wake-up call to the climate emergency that we continue to face in BC. Heat domes, wildfires and floods set the tone for an unprecedented year of climate disasters. In November 2021, BC faced an atmospheric river event which impacted over 40 First Nations leaving thousands stranded without access to basic needs such as food, water, and heat. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) called on Canada to uphold the Bilateral Emergency Management Services Agreement to ensure the safety and security of First Nations across BC and advocated for the immediate and necessary capacity funding required to support the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS). As First Nations are disproportionately impacted by climate change, many of whom were evacuated from their homes multiple times in 2021, First Nations leadership continue to call for adequate and immediate resources from BC and Canada to support First Nations-led emergency management response systems and programs.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee recently met with the Disaster Recovery and Climate Resilience Committee which is comprised of British Columbia and federal Ministers. Regional Chief Teegee expressed concerns regarding the needed supports and reform to emergency management in BC, inclusive of preparedness, mitigation, and recovery efforts. These investments in emergency management include current emergency support services for First Nations evacuees, better funding for capacity development, including capital asset purchases by way of changes to the core funding model, and better communication between nations and the various level of government service delivery agencies.

The FNLC has been engaging with Emergency Management BC on modernizing and co-developing the Emergency Program Act (EPA). As these discussions are underway, the FNLC organizations will be seeking direction from Chiefs and leadership at their upcoming assemblies on this important work.

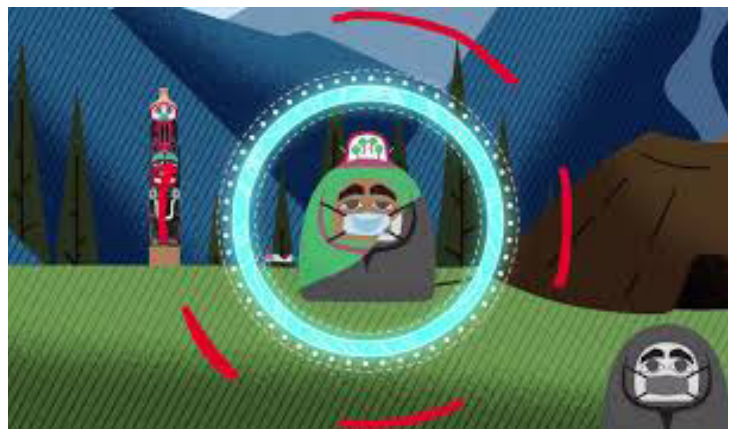
## COVID - 19 Vaccines Public Service Announcements



BCAFN Regional Chief Terry Teegee speaks about the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Protect our Elders, children and immune compromised family and community members. [Watch on YouTube](#)



BCAFN Knowledge Keeper Dr. Gwendolyn Point speaks about COVID-19 and the importance of getting the vaccine. [Watch on YouTube](#)



The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, and is the best way to protect our communities from the virus. [Watch on YouTube](#)

## Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Implementation

The BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC have been working with the Province of B.C. to advance implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). There have been some positive developments, such as the amendments to the Interpretation Act introduced in the fall. There is also promising work underway to ensure a proper distinctions-based approach rooted in recognition of First Nations rights in BC, and to ensure that the province's legal arguments and pleadings are not rooted in colonial doctrines and are, instead, aligned with the UN Declaration and existing aboriginal and treaty rights under section 35. At the same time, there is yet to be the major transformation needed to realize the promise under DRIPA.

There continue to be ad-hoc approaches to align provincial laws with the UN Declaration which do not meet the province's obligations under DRIPA. A workshop and series of focus groups are being held with Indigenous and non-Indigenous legal experts to work through barriers and provide recommendations to transform the legislative process. Additionally, the Province is establishing a Secretariat in the Premier's office focused on changing the machinery of government and ensuring consultation and cooperation with First Nations.

Section 4 of DRIPA requires the Province to implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration. A consultation draft was released in the summer. The FNLC will continue to press for a concluded action plan to be released by the end of March 2022, and for this action plan to include meaningful actions and investments to advance First Nations legal orders, self-determination, and decision-making within their territories.

Section 7 of DRIPA relates to decision-making agreements that implement free, prior, and informed consent. There have been continuous procedural barriers cited as reasons for the slow progress in concluding these critical agreements. As such, the FNLC has called on the Province to co-develop stand-alone legislation to create additional enablement for this transformative aspect of the Declaration Act – and to have this legislation introduced in the upcoming spring sitting of the Legislature.





## Hunting and Wildlife

The BC Government has been seeking input on co-developing and implementing a new and improved wildlife management and habitat conservation strategy for BC, called the "Together for Wildlife Strategy". The Wildlife and Habitat Branch is leading legislative amendments to the Wildlife Act aimed toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in wildlife management in BC. Additionally, the Province is proposing several province-wide amendments to the Hunting Regulations of the Wildlife Act as part of a regular cycle of review which happens biennially. Updated regulations will be published in the Synopsis of British Columbia's Hunting and Trapping Regulations.

### Together For Wildlife Strategy

The BC Government is requesting BCAFN consideration on four amendments which support the Province's commitment to the principles of *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*:

1. Incorporating Indigenous knowledge into decision-making;
2. Allowing protocol hunting and sheltering agreements;
3. Removing the Non-Derogation Clause from the Wildlife Act;
4. Replacing the term "Indigenous governing entity" instead of "Indigenous governing body" in the Wildlife Act.

On January 10th, 2022, the Ministry provided BCAFN with a Consultation Draft. BCAFN reviewed the Consultation Draft and shared its comments internally with the FNLC. The FNLC provided a written submission, including proposed revisions to the Consultation Draft, to the Ministry on January 27th, 2022.

### Amendments to Hunting Regulations

Seven proposed regulation amendments have been made by the Province which apply only to licensed hunters under the Wildlife Act; therefore, the Province does not anticipate any impacts to Aboriginal or treaty rights to hunt, trap or fish:

1. Regulating the use of air rifles for the purpose of hunting;
2. Dispatching of Wounded Dangerous Wildlife;
3. Chronic Wasting Disease – Prohibit possession of high-risk parts of deer, elk, or moose sourced from outside of BC;
4. Hunter Compulsory Inspection;
5. Hunter Compulsory Reporting;
6. Compulsory Inspection of Furbearers Harvested by Trappers;
7. Prohibit the altering or tampering of antlers/horns of harvested wildlife.

The BCAFN currently does not have a Hunting and Wildlife mandate, though one may soon be created at the upcoming Special Chiefs Assembly on March 9th-11th, 2022. Suggestions about this mandate can be sent by email to [taylor.arnet@bcagn.ca](mailto:taylor.arnet@bcagn.ca).



Regional Chief Terry Teegee giving out meals and gifts at The Fire Pit in Prince George



## Justice

Regional Chief Terry Teegee continues to Co-Chair the AFN Taskforce on Policing along with Quebec Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, advancing work to establish policing as an essential service and the co-development of the National Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS). Chief Jerry Jack and Chief Dean Nelson are the BC representatives on this Taskforce. The Regional Chiefs, along with national Inuit and Metis leadership, recently met with federal, provincial, and territorial Ministers to discuss these issues at the FPT Ministers of Justice and Public Safety meeting in February.

The AFN is mandated by Resolution 07/2021 - Creation and Implementation of Legislation for First Nations Policing as an Essential Service to advocate for the equitable treatment of First Nations police services through the development of a First Nations policing legislative framework. The First Nations Policing Program (FNPP) has been chronically underfunded for the last 30 years, resulting in inequities existing in First Nations policing when compared to non-First Nations police systems. In a recent [case](#) before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, Pekuakamiulnuatsh, the Tribunal found that the complainant was discriminated against through the provision of services via the FNPP. In 2020, the federal government expressed its intention to create a new First Nations policing legislative framework. Since then, AFN and the federal government has been discussing how best to include First Nations in all aspects of the development process. An [AFN Forum on Policing and Restorative Justice](#) will be held virtually on April 6-7, 2022.

In Regional Chief Teegee's work related to the IJS he consistently draws from the BC region's work to develop the BC First Nations Justice Strategy and the progress that is being made on the implementation of this Strategy. While the federal government remains committed to the IJS, the AFN has raised issue with the lack of funds provided for engagement on this initiative as the federal government only made \$11 million available for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit across Canada.

Regionally, the BCAFN will be working with the BC First Nations Justice Council to engage with First Nations in BC on their priorities and recommended approaches to federal legislation that will be drafted to establish First Nations policing as an essential service. The dates for a two-day virtual forum on this topic are tentatively set for May 17 and 18. Please watch for more information on this soon. It should be noted that Public Safety Canada also initiated separate engagement on this topic in fall 2021.

The FNLC also prepared a submission for the BC Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act. The Special Committee is expected to deliver its report to the legislature by April 28, 2022.

BC is currently undertaking work to develop [anti-racism data legislation](#). The consultation and engagement period closed on January 31, 2022, and the results of the engagement will be available online.

Overall, we have a critical opportunity to advance justice for First Nations people by leveraging these initiatives. These are also pathways to support the implementation of the National Inquiry Calls for Justice and TRC Calls to Action. BCAFN looks forward to continuing to support, engage with, and amplify the voices of First Nations as they work for the rights, safety, and wellbeing of our communities.



## Children and Families

As First Nations mourn the loss of our children, the BCAFN continues to advocate for systemic change and assertion of our jurisdiction over First Nations Child & Family Services. We are involved in ongoing work toward compensation for children and families impacted by discrimination, as well as long-term reform of the Child & Family Services system. We strive to secure long-term funding reform to address specific needs through a focused holistic lens. We are also working to ensure that Nations asserting jurisdiction through Bill C-92 will be financially resourced and supported to do the work needed in their communities.

The BCAFN continues to work toward implementing An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis

Children, Youth and Families. Between June and December 2021, we held 15 engagement sessions with representation from more than 100 First Nations across the province. We are developing recommendations and actions based on feedback from Phases 1 and 2. In the meantime, Phase 3 is underway, including four symposiums featuring First Nations actively in the process of asserting jurisdiction. In addition, the BCAFN is working with an independent contractor on considerations for BC-Specific Fiscal Frameworks to support First Nations jurisdiction over child & family wellbeing and services. As the COVID-19 pandemic dwindles, the BCAFN hopes to come together in person later this year for an All Chiefs Assembly on Children and Families.

## AFN Technical Working Group on Social Development

### Income Assistance Program

The on-reserve Income Assistance program is a component of Canada's social safety net. The Program provides eligible individuals and their families with funds to cover basic needs (e.g. food, clothing, and shelter – rent and utilities), special needs (e.g. personal incidentals, doctor recommended diet). Since 2003, the Program also provides case management and pre-employment support to help individuals transition to employment and education.

In 2018, ISC committed \$8.5 million over 2 years to engage with First Nations to understand how to make the IA program more responsive to the needs of individuals and families on-reserve and to identify the supports required to help individuals better transition from IA to employment and education.

ISC is looking for First Nation partners to directly engage in the work of income assistance reform over the next 6 to 8 months. The Department recognizes there is a significant and immediate window of opportunity to achieve long lasting results to address the needs of First Nation individuals and families. Suggestions about income assistance reform in B.C. can be sent by email to [taylor.arnt@bcfn.ca](mailto:taylor.arnt@bcfn.ca).

### Income Assistance Funding

Additional COVID-19 funding is being provided for the Income Assistance program to help ensure that First Nations individuals and families living on reserve who rely on income assistance, and those who support them, will be able to cover their essential living expenses.

Similar to the previous rounds of funding, First Nation communities will receive funding that is based on a \$300 per month temporary COVID-19 benefit per Income Assistance family unit, retroactively for five months (November 2021 – March 2022) using historical caseloads with an adjustment for potential increase in demand. First Nation communities have been approved to receive funding in 2021-22 for Income Assistance service delivery to support these individuals and families. ISC's regional offices will be reaching out to the communities with their funding amounts and details.

## BCAFN Board of Directors

### Chief Harvey McLeod

Upper Nicola

### Chief Rosanne Casimir

Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc

### Chief Jerry Jack

Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation

### Chief Elaine Moore

Gitwinksihlkw

### Chief Lynda Price

Ulkatcho First Nation

## BCAFN Representatives

### Knowledge Keepers

Dr. Robert Joseph

Gwawaenuk First Nation

Dr. Gwendolyn Point

Sto:Lo Nation

### Women's Representative

Louisa Housty Jones

Heiltsuk Nation

### Youth Male Representative

Justen Peters

Okanagan Indian Band

### Youth Female Representative

Taylor Behn-Tsakoz, A.

Fort Nelson First Nation

## BCAFN Staff

Regional Chief Terry Teegee

[regionalchief@bcfn.ca](mailto:regionalchief@bcfn.ca)

Special Advisor to the Regional Chief

Jaime Sanchez [jaime.sanchez@bcfn.ca](mailto:jaime.sanchez@bcfn.ca)

Chief of Staff

Vanessa West [vanessa.west@bcfn.ca](mailto:vanessa.west@bcfn.ca)

Executive Assistant

Victoria Austin [victoria.austin@bcfn.ca](mailto:victoria.austin@bcfn.ca)

Administrative Support Worker

Samantha Seymour

[samantha.seymour@bcfn.ca](mailto:samantha.seymour@bcfn.ca)

Senior Policy Director

Maureen Buchan

[maureen.buchan@bcfn.ca](mailto:maureen.buchan@bcfn.ca)

Senior Policy Analyst

Sarah Froese [sarah.froese@bcfn.ca](mailto:sarah.froese@bcfn.ca)

Economic Development Policy Analyst

Sarah Behn [sarah.behn@bcfn.ca](mailto:sarah.behn@bcfn.ca)

Policy Analyst

Taylor Arnt [taylor.arnt@bcfn.ca](mailto:taylor.arnt@bcfn.ca)

Policy Analyst

Position vacant

Finance Manager

Melanie Lyons [melanie.lyons@bcfn.ca](mailto:melanie.lyons@bcfn.ca)

Communications Officer

Annette Schroeter [annette.schroeter@bcfn.ca](mailto:annette.schroeter@bcfn.ca)

Regional Climate Change Coordinator

Patricia Rojas [patricia.rojas@bcfn.ca](mailto:patricia.rojas@bcfn.ca)

FNLC Cannabis Policy Analyst

Position vacant

Regional Water Coordinator

Sophia Iliopoulos [sophia.iliopoulos@bcfn.ca](mailto:sophia.iliopoulos@bcfn.ca)

Administrative Project Support

Joanna Prince [joanna.prince@bcfn.ca](mailto:joanna.prince@bcfn.ca)

## BCAFN Events

### BCAFN Offices Closed

April 15- 18, 2022

Happy Easter Holidays!

### BCAFN Water Dialogue Series

March 1 - April TBD, 2022

Online via Zoom

### BCAFN Youth Forum

March 19 & 20, 2022

Online via Zoom

All First Nations youth 16 - 29 years old

[Register](#)

### Women's, Gender Diverse and 2SLGBTQIA+

April 26, 27 & TBD, 2022

Online via Zoom

Information and registration for all BCAFN events can be found [here](#)

## AFN Events

### National Asset Management Conference

March 8 - 10, 2022

Virtual

### 2022 National Forum on Policing and Restorative Justice

April 6 & 7, 2022

Virtual

### AFN Annual General Assembly

July 5 - 7, 2022

Virtual

Information and registration for all AFN events can be found [here](#)

[BCAFN Website](#)

[BCAFN Youth Website](#)

[BCAFN Events Website](#)

[BCAFN Youth Facebook](#)

## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

### Head Office:

(250) 962-1603 • 1-877-621-1603 • fax (250) 962-9552  
1004 Landooz Road, Prince George, BC, V2K 5S3

### Vancouver Office:

(778) 945-9911 • 1-833-381-7622 • fax (778) 945-9916  
1020 - 1200 West 73rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6P 6G5

Call our Administrative Support worker, Samantha Seymour, at 778-281-2224 and she will be able to assist with enquiries.

