



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2015 - March 2016

The logo is a circular emblem. On the left, a salmon is depicted in profile, facing right, with its mouth open as if swimming. On the right, there is a steering wheel with eight spokes. Four grey arrowheads point outwards from the center of the wheel towards the top, bottom, left, and right. The entire design is rendered in a light orange or peach color, set against a white background with a grey outer ring.

**British Columbia Assembly of First Nations**

**312-345 Chief Alex Thomas Way**

**Kamloops, BC V2H 1H1**

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# MESSAGE FROM AFN NATIONAL CHIEF

Greetings to all Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Elders, Youth and Citizens!

On behalf of the entire AFN Executive I extend our best wishes and acknowledge your work and accomplishments over the past 12 months. I thank you for the invitation to attend the BC AFN Annual General Meeting in October and for the warm welcome I received. It has been a great honour to hear from the many delegates, Chiefs, Grand Chiefs and Elders and to learn more about your priorities for advancing the rights and well-being of First Nations in your region. I have been very fortunate to have the support and wise counsel of my colleague on the AFN Executive, BCAFN Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson, who has worked tirelessly in his AFN portfolios as well as behalf of BCAFN.

This is an important time for all First Nations as we press forward on strategies to support one another to ensure our

rights, title and jurisdiction are respected and implemented. BC is a focus of activity on many issues our people are facing across the country, including lands and resources, nation-building and governance, closing the gap in the quality of life between our people and Canada, and giving life to our rights. In all cases, BC is a region full of innovation and exciting, new approaches and we will support you in all initiatives.

I thank all of you for your action and leadership over the past year and look forward to working with you in the coming months as we move forward in our shared commitment to strengthen our people, communities and Nations.

National Chief Perry Bellegarde  
Assembly of First Nations



# MESSAGE FROM BCAFN REGIONAL CHIEF

Dear Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Elders, Youth, First Nations Citizens and honoured guests,

I am proud to present this Annual Report for your consideration and review. It reflects the hard work that the BC Assembly of First Nations has been undertaking to further our mandate and our responsibility to represent and support our members' issues at a local, provincial, national, and international level. As we move forward together on this journey of Nation re-building and Reconciliation, I look forward to hearing your thoughts on what we have done well and where we can improve. In my role as Regional Chief, I am committed to representing BC First Nations on the many different issues of great importance to our people. I have worked hard over the past year on a number of portfolios ranging from child and family welfare to economic development, the environment and climate change to natural resource management, and many other important issues that affect our Aboriginal Title, Rights, and Treaty rights as First Nations peoples.

I strive to ensure that lines of communication are open with our members, other First Nations organizations, the Government of Canada, the Province of BC, and the business community to create partnerships and real opportunities to bring change to our communities. We recognize that while we will always march to the beat of our own drum, we need



to keep our doors and minds open to opportunities that will advance our collective well-being and growth. We cannot afford to have one without the other. We must leverage what we have in common and remain united by our shared goals.

We must continue to fight for real movement on the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and for the true implementation 'without qualification' of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As your Regional Chief, I am committed to continuing this important fight.

While I am here to advocate on your behalf, First Nations governments, communities, Nations, and individuals will chart their own course, on their own terms, and I will be here to support you in whatever decisions you make that are in the best interest of your community. In this profound moment in our history, I am confident that we can join together in different ways to create better memories for our children, and generations to come. Thank you for your continued support and guidance as we move into the next year, and the next chapter of my term as Regional Chief.

All my relations,

Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson

# MESSAGE FROM BCAFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Elders, Youth, and honoured guests,

We are proud to present this BCAFN Annual Report for the Chiefs-in-Assembly for your review and consideration. This report provides a comprehensive update of the breadth of work being undertaken by the BC Assembly of First Nations. We continue to strive towards reconciliation and recognition in the spirit of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and upholding the standards articulated in United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As your elected representatives on the BCAFN Board, we are mandated to:

- a) advance the rights and interests of First Nations people in British Columbia;
- b) restore and enhance the relationship among First Nations people in British Columbia, the Crown, and people of Canada;
- c) develop and promote policies and resources for the benefit of First Nations people in British Columbia, including but not limited to governance, lands and resources, economic, social, education, health and cultural matters;

- d) work in collaboration with other organizations that advance the rights and interests of indigenous people; and
- e) uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of the BCAFN.

We continue to support and advise the Regional Chief on a number of items relating to his work at national, provincial and regional levels. We continue to work in various capacities and represent BCAFN at a number of committees, working groups, meetings and advisory tables including but not limited to:

- ▶ FNLC-BC Commitment Document Working Group
- ▶ Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group
- ▶ Chiefs Committee on Claims
- ▶ National Indian Brotherhood Trust Board
- ▶ Advisory Committee on Climate Action and Environment
- ▶ AFN Restructuring and Nation Building Chiefs Committee
- ▶ AFN Executive Meetings
- ▶ Ministerial Meetings including Federal Ministers and Provincial Ministers

- ▶ First Nations Leadership Council Meetings
- ▶ First Nations Policing Program Dialogue Session
- ▶ Aboriginal Equity Partnership Meetings

As we continue to move forward in our collective work, we look forward to ensuring results and achieving tangible outcomes for our Nations. We are elected and accountable to the Chiefs in Assembly, and we continue to work for you in our capacity as board members. As we grow as an organization, we commit to supporting and advising our Regional Chief and to keep you engaged



and informed as we work towards the implementation of our work plans and strategies as they relate to sustainable economic development & fiscal relations, and engagement on various issues with the Provincial and Federal Government.

We look forward to a successful and positive year and we thank you for your

continued support.

Best Regards,  
Chief Maureen Chapman, Chief Susan Miller, Chief James Delorme, Chief Rebecca Harris, and Chief Liz Logan

# MESSAGE FROM BCAFN CHIEF OF STAFF

Dear Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Elders, Youth, and honoured guests,

I am proud to report to you as the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Chief of Staff. Since Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson was elected, BCAFN staff have been working hard to fulfill the Regional Chief's vision and mandate.

Our office underwent significant transition over the past year. Office operations were moved from West Vancouver to Kamloops, BC, and we continue to build our team as we work towards implementing our organizational goals.

Despite the challenges associated with BCAFN's transition, we have laid the groundwork for the next two years, and I look forward to continued engagement with BC First Nations as we work together to implement the Regional Chief's vision and the mandate provided by the Chiefs in Assembly. We are committed



to the Regional Chief's community-driven vision for the implementation of a provincial First Nations sustainable economic development strategy, and have been working hard to secure the funding partners necessary to complete this important work. We are working with the Province on this file, and on a number of other important files ranging from the Commitment Document to an Action Plan for Children and Families.

Significant progress has been made over this past year, and I am confident this will only continue. On behalf of myself and the BCAFN staff, I thank you for your support during this year of transition.

Best Regards,

Melanie Debassige  
BCAFN Chief of Staff



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BCAFN is working towards creating new and better memories for First Nations. This new reality will include meaningful, collaborative relationships with the provincial and federal governments and with industry which will help to close the socio-economic gaps that exists for First Nations.

This report will demonstrate the achievements we have taken towards fulfilling our business plan, as well as providing an overview of BCAFN's plans for the coming year. Through a principled approach, the organization will move forward by focusing on the foundation that First Nations can improve their communities by working together, creating consensus on priorities and action, and building on their own strength. To achieve successful outcomes, the BCAFN has been working towards completing the following activities:

- ▶ Increasing community engagement and driving Treaty and Reconciliation processes;
- ▶ Creating strategic work plans and budgets, and increasing BCAFN funding and staff;
- ▶ Hosting a Northern Special Chiefs Assembly (Nisga'a Territory);

**First Nations can  
improve their  
communities by  
working together**

- ▶ Partnering with BCAFN Youth Representatives in policy and communications;
  - ▶ Defining what reconciliation, recognition and jurisdiction means to us;
  - ▶ Identifying a focus for BCAFN's work with Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada;
- The BCAFN has already begun developing strategies and will pursue further targets through political efforts, technical working groups, and administrative efforts by:
- ▶ Providing Expression to Aboriginal Title & Rights and Treaty Rights;
  - ▶ Ensuring Health, Wellness & Good Governance;
  - ▶ Protecting and Promoting Language, Traditions & Culture;
  - ▶ Promoting Life-Long Learning;
  - ▶ Protection of Children, Youth, Elders and Families; and
  - ▶ Safeguarding our Resources, Participating in the Economy.

This annual report provides not only a summation of what the organization has accomplished this year, but provides a

# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND: BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is a Political Territorial Organization (PTO) that represents the 203 First Nations in British Columbia. The BCAFN is a regional arm of the National Assembly of First Nations (AFN). BCAFN hosts 2 regional assemblies that allow for the First Nations leadership of British Columbia to engage in open discussion in order to provide community-driven direction and mandates to the Regional Chief. The Regional Chief then represents and advocates for these mandates at the regional and federal levels.

British Columbia Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson hails from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and was elected as BCAFN Regional Chief on June 26, 2015. The BCAFN is one of the ten regional organizations affiliated with the national Assembly of First Nations whose members include 633 First Nations across Canada, making the Regional Chief an Executive Member of the AFN Executive Committee. The Regional Chief further works to represent regional concerns on this Committee to ensure that regional perspectives are included in National political discussions and decision-making. The Regional Chief also holds specific portfolios that deal with national policy

issues and concerns, which are delegated by the Assembly of First Nations National Chief.

The BCAFN is inclusive in its representation, including First Nations involved in the treaty process and those that have chosen to engage. In addition, we also represent the modern and historic treaty First Nations of BC, which include Douglas Treaties and Treaty 8 First Nations.

The BCAFN is also an incorporated entity, which allows the BCAFN to operate with its own regionally specific mandates and establish relationships (including funding agreements) with the Provincial government and their organizations, in addition to the relationship that the BCAFN holds with the AFN. The BCAFN operates to create linkages between the regional and national political process and to ensure that these activities are communicated and represented at a community level.

The BCAFN Society is registered under the Societies Act of British Columbia, and is governed by a Board of five directors who are elected to three-year staggered terms. Each director is a Chief or designate for his or her First Nation band.

The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is a Political Territorial Organization (PTO) that represents the 203 First Nations in British Columbia.

The purposes of the organization as set out in the Constitution are as follows:

- ▶ Advance the rights and interests of First Nations people in British Columbia;
- ▶ Restore and enhance the relationship between First Nations people in British Columbia and the Crown and people of Canada;
- ▶ Develop and promote programs and policies for the benefit of First Nations people in British Columbia, including but not limited to economic, social, education, health and cultural matters by working in coalition with other organizations that advance the rights and interests of Indigenous People.

BCAFN hosts 2 regional assemblies annually that allow for the First Nations leadership of BC to engage in open discussion in order to provide community-driven direction and mandates to the Regional Chief. The Regional Chief then advocates for and represents these mandates at the regional and federal levels, creating links between the two processes. The BCAFN's role is to ensure that these activities continue to be communicated and represented at the community level.

The BCAFN is working to create new and better memories for First Nations people. This approach includes developing meaningful participatory relationships with the provincial and federal governments, and with industry. The ultimate goal is eventually to close the socio-economic gap that exists for First Nations.

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), consisting of BCAFN, Union of the BC Indian Chiefs, and the First Nations Summit, is working to clarify the relationship between First Nations and the BC Provincial Government based on the principles articulated in the Commitment Document, which will allow all parties to work towards mutual respect and reconciliation of Aboriginal Rights and Title with the Crown. These principles and agreements will allow for First Nations, governments, industry and other stakeholders to work together, inquire and establish new forms of interaction that will respect and acknowledge First Nations inherent Title and Rights.

BCAFN's staff positions include a Chief of Staff, Senior Policy Advisor, 2 Policy Analysts, Office Manager, Finance Manager and Events Coordinator.



# VISION/MISSION/MANDATE/PHILOSOPHY

The BCAFN is committed to supporting First Nations in advancing community-driven, nation-based approaches, made in accordance with each Nation's customs, laws and traditions, addressing our own specific challenges, and meeting our own unique opportunities.

## BC Assembly of First Nations Vision Statement:

- ▶ BC Assembly of First Nations is unified towards self-sufficiency and vibrancy while never forgetting who we are. We envision a future where our inherent laws, lands, and traditions are recognized and respected by governments, industry and the general public.

## BC Assembly of First Nations Mission Statement:

- ▶ We are proud, progressive and innovative BC First Nations advocating for and implementing our Aboriginal Title and Treaty Rights through the exercise of our inherent laws and jurisdictions.

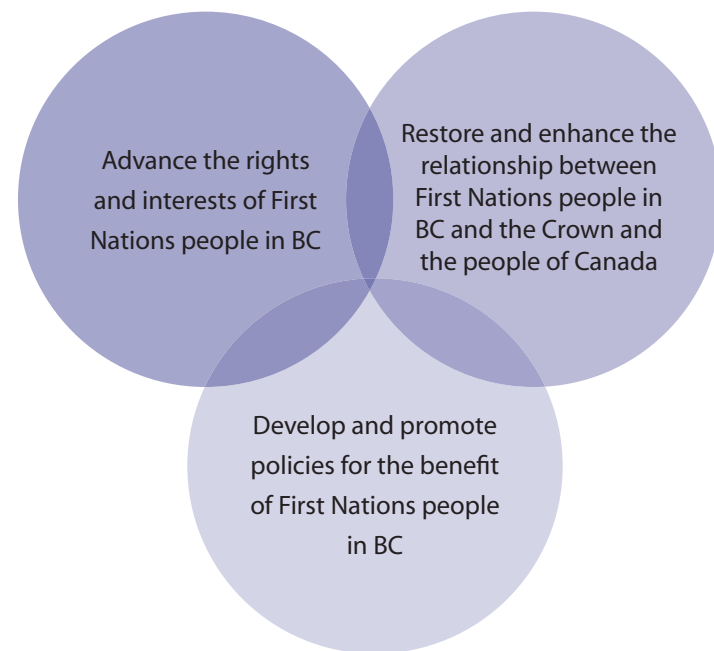
## BC Assembly of First Nations Mandate:

- ▶ Advance the rights and interests of First Nations people in British Columbia;
- ▶ Restore and enhance the relationship among First Nations people in British Columbia, the Crown and people of Canada;

- ▶ Develop and promote policies and resources for the benefit of First Nations people in British Columbia including but not limited to governance, lands and resources, economic, social, education, health and cultural matters; and
- ▶ Work in coalition with other organizations that advance the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples.

## BC Assembly of First Nations Philosophy:

#HonouringOurAncestors





# REGIONAL CHIEF'S 6-POINT PLATFORM: KEYS TO SUCCESS

The following are the BC Assembly of First Nations' keys to success:

## 1. Giving Expression to Aboriginal Title & Rights and Treaty Rights

- ▶ Develop mechanisms and agreements to support First Nations participation in joint decision-making with Federal and Provincial governments;
- ▶ Work with communities and community experts to ensure First Nations participation in ongoing Provincial planning and regulatory initiatives;
- ▶ Acknowledge that the treaty process is about achieving reconciliation and must be a community-driven process (Treaty section 35);
- ▶ Bring back experienced negotiators that were removed from the treaty negotiations and moved to LNG negotiations. Provide the negotiators with a larger mandate.
- ▶ Settle treaties that have AIP's (stage 4 or 5) any conclusion has to include post-Tsilhqot'in values;
- ▶ Treaties are not just about resource development – We cannot put all of our energy into First Nations that lie along the pipelines –we need to focus on all First Nations regardless of their stage along the resource

development spectrum;

- ▶ Provincial government needs to put forward money to deal with overlapping issues that have stalled the treaty process;
- ▶ Analyze Eyford's reports to understand where the short-term successes can be found and where there is an opportunity to advance the Regional Chief's platform;
- ▶ Press Releases on the BCTC website: The province provides 80% funding with 20% contribution agreement. 12% goes to the federal government and only 8% goes to First Nations. We need to find a way forward that doesn't totally scrap the process. The Province needs to expand its mandates.

## 2. Ensuring Health, Wellness and Good Governance

- ▶ Encourage communities to get involved in Comprehensive Community Planning and establish visions, goals based on communities' cultural practices which would allow us to plan and make decisions for our communities;
- ▶ Advocate so more of our youth can experience the positive outcomes that sports and similar activities can bring into their lives;

- ▶ Policy development to formalize business concepts and establish a stable and reliable government that our people can trust.
- 3. Protecting and Promoting Language, Traditions & Culture
  - ▶ Return to cultural ways in making decisions for our communities and learn from best practices.
- 4. Promoting Life-Long Learning
  - ▶ Work with education experts and support best practices;
  - ▶ Find innovative ways to support lifelong learning in communities through technology.
- 5. Protection of Children, Youth, Elders & Families
  - ▶ Utilize First Nations comprehensive community plans as a basis for a holistic approach for development funding;
  - ▶ Develop province wide strategic plans;
  - ▶ Advocate for funding of First Nations-specific housing and infrastructure development plans.
- 6. Safeguarding our Resources, Participating in the Economy

- ▶ Create a Nation-based approach to resource development – decision making, management, partnership and fiscal relationship;
- ▶ Establish government-to-government relationship that provides chiefs with decision-making authority;
- ▶ First Nations require the following to ensure economic success: a) A blueprint or Comprehensive Community Plan that provides leadership with a mandate to move forward; b) Strong Leadership who will make decisions based on community direction; c) Structure (policies and procedures and measuring tools; and d) Infrastructure;
- ▶ Create a strategy to support small communities and northern communities in developing plans for economic development and assess infrastructure needs, finding innovative ways to offer support. Build capacity with leadership in understanding economic development and governance. Create strategies to support communities in developing strong structures to support growth and development;
- ▶ Establish a new way forward on Recognition legislation.

# MANAGEMENT, HUMAN RESOURCES, OWNERSHIP

## MANAGEMENT

The BCAFN is overseen by a Board of Directors of (5) five members, which includes the Regional Chief. The BCAFN is managed by a Chief of Staff who is responsible for carrying out the BCAFN's mission statement in accordance with direction provided by BCAFN members and the BCAFN Board of Directors. The Chief of Staff also acts as the Regional Chief's political policy advisor and manager by providing high-level, innovative support. Duties include providing current political and technical advice directly to the Regional Chief while overseeing the day-to-day operations of the BCAFN.

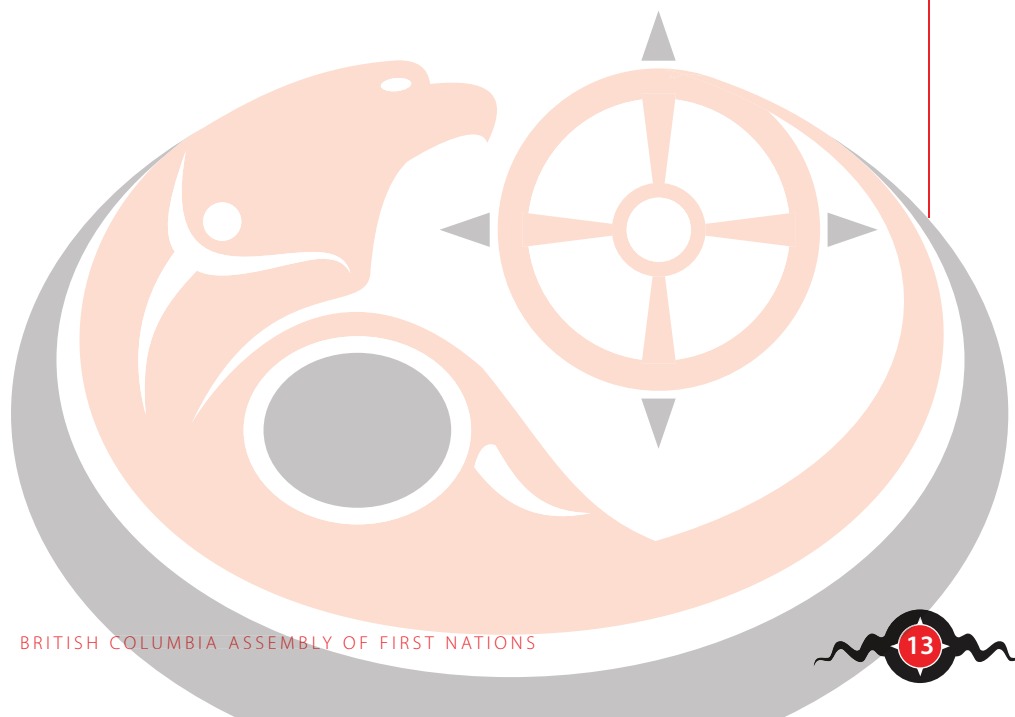
## HUMAN RESOURCES

The day-to-day operations of the BCAFN are overseen by the Chief of Staff and handled by the Senior Policy Advisor, 2 Policy Analysts, Finance Manager, Office Manager, and Events Coordinator. All of the employees are full-time contract staff.

## OWNERSHIP

The BCAFN is an incorporated entity under the Societies Act of British Columbia (S-45919). This allows the BCAFN to operate with its own regionally specific mandates and to establish relationships (including funding agreements) with the Provincial government and other organizations, in addition to the relationship that the BCAFN holds with the Assembly of First Nations.

The BCAFN operates to create linkages between the regional and national political processes to ensure that these activities are communicated and represented at a community level.



# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

## KEY ACTIONS (2015-2016)

The BCAFN moved its office operations from West Vancouver to the reserve land of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, formerly known as the Kamloops Indian Band. The new office is located in the former Indian Residential School. The BCAFN has worked hard to implement the following key areas, including:

- ▶ Increasing community engagement to help assist and drive the treaty process and reconciliation;
- ▶ Creating a work plan, budget and increase BCAFN funding and staff;
- ▶ Hosting a Special Chiefs Assembly in a Northern community;

- ▶ Partnering with BCAFN Youth Representatives in policy and communications;
- ▶ Facilitating and helping communities define the conversation about what reconciliation, recognition, and jurisdiction means to us;
- ▶ Identifying a focus for BCAFN's work with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; and

The BCAFN is committed to supporting Nations in advancing their own community driven approach, made in accordance with each Nation's customs and traditions, addressing their own specific challenges and meeting their own unique opportunities.





We have already begun to develop strategies and will pursue further targets through political efforts, technical working groups, and administrative efforts.

### BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

In March 2016, Laxgaltsa'p Village Government, Nisga'a Territory, hosted BCAFN for the Special Chiefs Assembly. We had over 100 attendees including Chiefs, proxies, leadership and observers.

The first day was dedicated to celebrating Nisga'a culture with cultural performances with a feast in the evening. The following two days of business included addressing the Assembly and a discussion regarding the Regional Chief's

transitional report since his election in June 2015, including BCAFN's economic development strategy, provincial and national perspectives on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, and an Aboriginal Title and Rights panel. The agenda also included various reports from BC Advisor Grand Chief Edward John, Debbie Jeffrey from First Nations Education Steering Committee, Clint Davis from TD Bank, Cliff Fregin from New Relationship Trust, and others.

Highlights of the Assembly included an honoring for new elected MLA Melanie Mark and a historic apology to Nisga'a Nation by Grand Chief Edward John on behalf of the First Nations Leadership Council.



## IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (2016-2017)

The BCAFN hosted a strategic planning session with the Board of Directors and Staff in January 2016. This allowed sufficient time for staff to prepare a Critical Path which speaks to work plans and budgets, and ensures cohesiveness with the strategy. The Critical Path that was established includes:

1. Establish criteria and identify think tank experts;
2. Create a framework for each group to adhere to, with specific information-gathering requests from which we can create a strategy;
3. Identify a Chiefs Committee comprised of one from each Nation;

4. Host 6 think tanks in September and October 2017;
5. From those sessions, disseminate information to Chiefs in November;
6. Organize a Chiefs Committee at the TRU pit house in November; and
7. Facilitate a Northern Assembly mid-November to discuss strategies and action plans.

We welcome your feedback and input into the planning and implementation of the above items as we continue on into the next year.

## LONG-TERM ACTION PLAN

In the long term, the BCAFN will continue to provide capacity, support, and innovation to drive our mandate and the vision of the Regional Chief. The BCAFN Administration will continue to seek additional funding opportunities to increase organizational capacity. Furthermore, we will continue to maintain positive relations with organizations we work with,

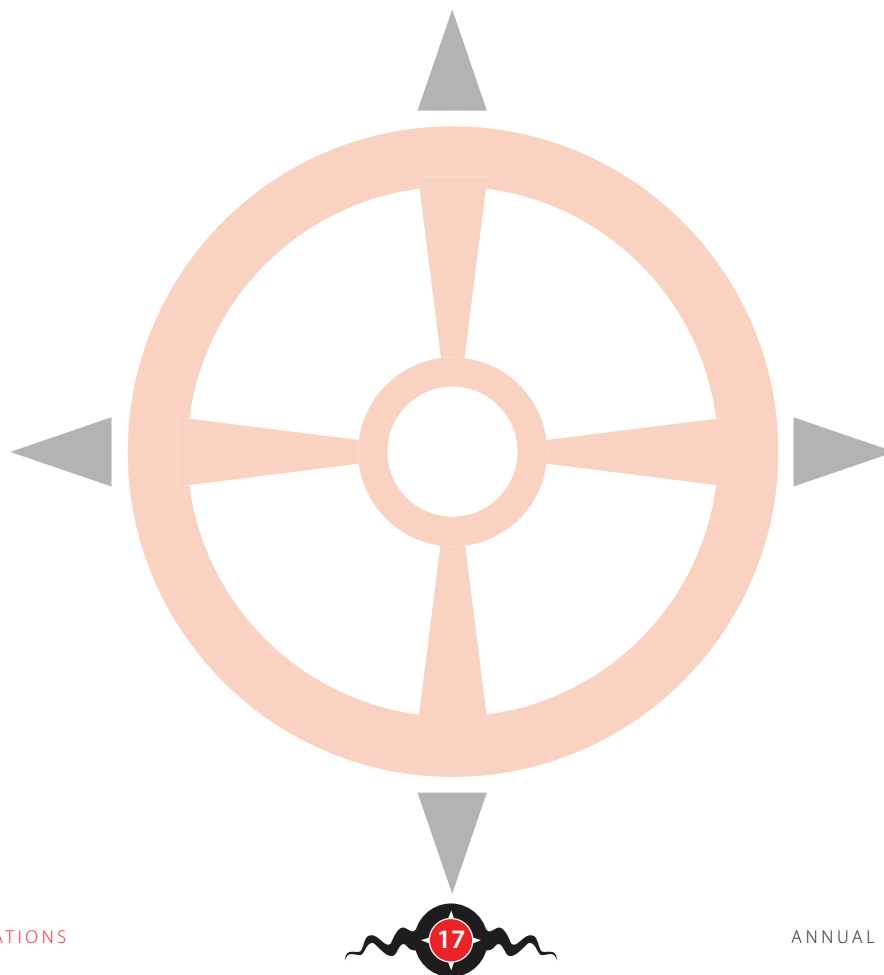
and will successfully implement the Sustainable Economic and Fiscal Relations Strategy as will continue to build bridges with government and industry to support the goals of our membership. Please continue to check our website ([www.bcafn.ca](http://www.bcafn.ca)) to keep up to date with our events calendar displaying important upcoming events.

# FINANCIAL AND CORPORATE REPORTING

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

The pro forma financial statements for the organization, including full audit documents and findings, are attached in Appendix A. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, as identified in the Financial Findings, BCAFN had an organizational deficit.

Measures to obtain additional funding, reduce expenses and raise funds through charity events have been undertaken to ensure that the organization does not continue to operate in a deficit situation.



# REGIONAL CHIEF REPORTS

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The BC Assembly of First Nations is committed to supporting First Nations in advancing our own community driven approach, made in accordance with each Nation's customs, laws and traditions, addressing our own specific challenges and meeting our own unique opportunities.

The BC Assembly of First Nations will fulfill its commitment to implement our 6 Point Critical Plan:

- ▶ Giving Expression to Aboriginal Title & Rights and Treaty Rights;
- ▶ Ensuring Health, Wellness & Good Governance;
- ▶ Protecting and Promoting Language, Traditions & Culture;
- ▶ Promoting Life-Long Learning;
- ▶ Protection of Children, Youth, Elders and Families; and
- ▶ Safeguarding our Resources, Participating in the Economy.

The plan is built upon a principled approach based on the foundation that First Nations can improve their communities by working together and building consensus on priorities and action and building on our own strength: to improve the quality of life for our people by supporting and empowering

**Building partnerships through  
business and industry is  
essential to improving quality  
of life for our communities**

our leadership and communities through economic development. The responsibility of leadership is to create a better future for the next generation.

Building partnerships through business and industry is essential to improving quality of life for our communities. I strongly believe that our Aboriginal Title and Rights need to be recognized by Federal and Provincial governments but also by industry. By advocating for the recognition of our rights and also advancing a strong platform of economic

development, this innovative approach will seek to improve the quality of life and social fabric of our communities.

Our work this year has followed our Critical Plan, with some work focusing on improving specific areas and other work as laying the foundation for future community growth and sustainability. As an initial meeting with this minister, issues under discussion included areas of focus, which require attention:

- ▶ A renewed relationship between Canada and First Nations
- ▶ Embracing or renewing the Kelowna Accord
- ▶ Development of a new fiscal relationship
- ▶ Elimination of the 2% cap on funding



- ▶ Implementation of the TRC recommendations
- ▶ Elimination of boil water advisories on reserves within 5 years

### SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Giving Expression to Aboriginal Title & Rights and Treaty Rights;

- ▶ The Tsilhqot'in Nation won a long hard battle when the Supreme Court of Canada came down with its historic Tsilhqot'in decision. This decision established a new reality and legal landscape for a transformed relationship between the Crown and the Tsilhqot'in people.
- ▶ Meeting with New Zealand Parliamentary Delegation to provide information to the delegation on the experiences of Canada's indigenous communities and to learn about Maori experiences in New Zealand
- ▶ Meeting with Union of BC Municipalities to build relations and determine common priorities and objectives
- ▶ Meeting with Sarah Robinson to discuss the Regional Chief's involvement and support in the Action Canada Conference
- ▶ Working with Alaskan Representatives to Develop a bilateral relationship protocol with Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska to work towards collaborative interests and objectives with respect to mining impacts and watershed protection and governance
- ▶ Attending Association of Mineral Exploration BC Roundup to identify issues and opportunities relating to Mining

and Aboriginal Title and Rights, quality of life, strategic partnerships and First Nations Entrepreneurship

- ▶ Regional Chief attended the first Economic and Fiscal Relations Strategy Regional Action Planning Meeting on February 15-16 in Prince George. An important issue raised was the need for the Province and industry to fully engage and seek the full, prior and informed consent of First Nations impacted by LNG or other industries involved in resource development and/or extraction.

Ensuring Health, Wellness & Good Governance;

- ▶ The FNLC-INAC Joint Gathering was a productive and informative session with leadership and senior Government officials discussing many important issues and best practices
- ▶ The AFN executive met at the end of November which was a very productive meeting. My new portfolio responsibilities include Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls as well as Justice, Economic Development and the AFN Women's Council. I'm very excited with the responsibility but also mindful of the work load. The other concern is ensuring that the Portfolios are resourced adequately to be effective.
- ▶ The AFN Special Chiefs Assembly was held in Gatineau, Quebec on December 8, 9 & 10, 2016. This event was highlighted by a number of AFN Executive and Women's Council pre-meetings and government meetings throughout the week. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was powerful in his opening comments and he spoke about

forging a new relationship with a number of commitments by building a new and better Canada, which will include the AFN and our respected communities.

- ▶ Teleconference with the Office of the Auditor General in which Glenn provided a briefing on the 2016 Auditor General Report – A Study on First Nation Services which will be tabled in the House of Commons on February 2nd. The Regional Chief focused on the need for adequate resourcing and support of the health authority as well as addressing the real need for improved NIHB, improved transportation policies and increased need to look at health issues with an interconnected perspective through our social determinants.

#### Protecting and Promoting Language, Traditions & Culture;

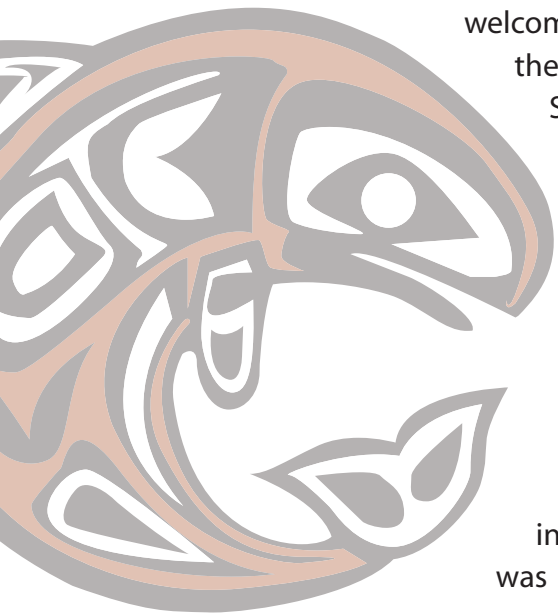
- ▶ Visited Bridge River First Nation. I was welcomed by Chief Susan James, the Council and Administrative Staff in the community. It was a positive experience to see the staff and community supporting each other. Many of the staff are very powerful leaders in their own capacities and it was an honour to share some time with the "XWISTE" which translates into "the smiling people." This was probably one of the most

powerful things I have ever witnessed in my life. I thanked the community for sharing their humour and laughter and now have a greater appreciation for what each day brings.

- ▶ Attended a press conference and cultural event with Chief Dalton Silver of the Sto:lo Nation and other leadership to show unity with respect to cultural heritage and need for burial site protection on Sumas Mountain. The community demonstrated a high level of participation at this gathering. Moving forward, we all need to ensure Burial and Heritage sites are a priority and are protected. The First Nation Leadership Council will continue to advocate with our respected Leadership to ensure Cultural Laws and Heritage Laws are being recognized and respected across our homeland.
- ▶ BCTC Governance Forum- a meeting of numerous First Nations leaders and negotiators to discuss advancement of treaty making for large multi-community First Nations and how modern treaties can support nation-building.

#### Promoting Life-Long Learning;

- ▶ In regards to Education, the investment into First Nations Education deserves a real and fair chance at success. Lifting the 2% cap on funding and fully implementing the ninety-four (94) Call to Action Recommendations on the Truth and Reconciliation will help improve the overall relationship between Canada and First Nations.
- ▶ Teleconference with Paul Martin to discuss his work around the Aboriginal Education Initiative focusing on elementary and secondary education for Aboriginal students and the



Capital for Aboriginal Prosperity and Entrepreneurship (CAPE) Fund, an investment fund investing in Aboriginal business.

Protection of Children, Youth, Elders and Families; and

- ▶ Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) is a national tragedy which has gone on long enough. The Assembly of First Nations has been raising awareness to the critical issue of MMIWG throughout Canada and advancing the need for a national action plan to end violence against women.
- ▶ BC Gathering of Family Members of Missing and Indigenous Girls
- ▶ Meeting with Minister Morneau to discuss Enhanced Prevention dollars need to flow, particularly to BC where these dollars have not been transferred. Current models have indicated that this program and dollars are inequitable and flawed. Recent Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision needs to be implemented. Services and funding formulas directed for First Nations children need to be comparable to those of non-First Nations children.
- ▶ Opportunity to deliver Opening Remarks during the Reconciliation Canada Event
- ▶ Meeting with Minister Rustad regarding MOU between the FNHC and MARR completed in the Spring
- ▶ Night of Strong Indigenous Women-The Regional Chief attended a "Night of Strong Indigenous Women" on March

**Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women  
and Girls is a national  
tragedy which has gone  
on long enough**

5 in Vancouver. This was an opportunity to showcase a feature film titled River of Silence, a movie written and soon to be produced, with the goal of helping to stop violence against Indigenous women through the magic and power of story on film. (Sohkeciwan = 'Strong River' in the Cree language).

- ▶ As his role as National portfolio lead on violence against aboriginal women and girls, the Regional Chief takes every opportunity to support messages of positive and strong indigenous women and continues to support and make efforts toward the common goal of making our communities safer for our families.

Safeguarding our Resources, Participating in the Economy

- ▶ The First Nations Leadership Council met on two occasions to discuss setting priorities for the AFN National executive meeting and the FNLC-MOE MOU. Discussion items included the need to protect our lands and waters. The FNLC emphasized the importance of communications and processes with respect to any developments on the land base.
- ▶ Attended the Indian Oil and Gas Annual General Assembly in Calgary Alberta as an observer. The AGA's agenda focused on the work of the First Nations and industry in dealing with the pipelines and the impacts of the fallen Oil prices on the First Nations in Alberta. Also, the 2016 AFN Annual General Assembly was awarded to Regina,

Saskatchewan.

- ▶ The AFN Executive also met with two Federal Ministers including Minister Carolyn Bennett Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Minister Jane Philpott of Health. The Ministers committed to engage with the respected regions over the next part of their transition.
- ▶ Meeting with Alaska Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallot to identify ways to work together to protect salmon and watersheds
- ▶ Attending the AFN First Nations Forum on Energy: Setting Priorities in Vancouver
- ▶ Met with First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) on February 17, 2016 to discuss the ongoing work of the FNFC
- ▶ Meeting with the 2nd Roundtable on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women
- ▶ The Regional Chief attended this meeting with Premier Christy Clark's delegation. The National Chief and a number of Regional Chiefs and other leadership met with First Ministers in Vancouver and urged the federal and provincial governments to act immediately on a First Nations plan to address climate change
- ▶ The Regional Chief met with Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development to advocate for BCACN's economic development plan and to hear from Minister Baines on his priorities in his Ministry. Minister Baines highlighted the recent government announcement of a \$5.4 million investment into clean energy for Indigenous communities as well as other initiatives.

- ▶ The Regional Chief met with Greg D'Avignon, CEO of the British Columbia Business Council (BCBC) where discussion items included the consideration of an MOU between the BCACN and BCBC as well as other potential projects where collaborative efforts would be useful. In particular, BCACN and BCBC spoke of bringing together First Nations leaders and high-profile leading CEOs to start the discussion around relationship building, improved communications, and tangible results for First Nations.





# CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTS

## JOINT GATHERING

The Chief of Staff attended the Economic Development portion of the Joint Gathering 2015 on November 18, 2015, in Vancouver, BC, at the Pinnacle Hotel Vancouver Harbourfront. The following were the key messages:

- ▶ INAC's economic development programs need to move at the speed of business
- ▶ partnerships with industry are necessary to ensure success
- ▶ human resource capacity is an issue
- ▶ First Nations see forestry as a main economic driver
- ▶ land use plans need to be a priority
- ▶ communications between First Nations and INAC need to be revamped.

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATION/HR

The Chief of Staff has been working diligently with BCAFN employees to ensure a smooth office transition. During this process, the office set-up, logistics and technical requirements have been a challenge. However, as with all challenges, solutions were found and the office set-up proceeded with

only minor glitches. Temporary workstations were set up to ensure work continued with minimal disruption.

The Chief of Staff reconciled travel, prepared proposals, prepared for year-end reporting and ensured that overall financial reconciliation is being kept current. Human Resources issues are being dealt with in a timely fashion in the areas of performance evaluation and employee retention.

## AFN EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Chief of Staff attended the AFN Executive Meeting on November 23-25, 2015, in Ottawa at the AFN National Office. Topics included the division of national portfolios to all Regional Chief's and a roundtable discussion of provincial priorities. The BCAFN Regional Chief was assigned three (3) high-profile portfolios: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Justice and Economic Development.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Chief of Staff has been working with the Province on the Regional Economic Development Strategic Framework. The BCAFN will deliver five (5) regional sessions that will culminate in a First Nations Regional Action Plan for Economic Development. These sessions will allow for leadership and

expert involvement in developing regionally based economic strategic documents as the foundation for a larger provincial framework that encourages and enhances the economic investment and progress in First Nation territories. The first round of Regional Sessions occurred in February/March 2016. The BCAFN will share key findings from the sessions in order to advance the discussions. The complete findings were packaged in a Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Economic Development and presented back to the BC Chiefs at the BCAFN Northern Summit in the Nisga'a territory in March 2016.

### **AFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**

On December 8-10, 2015, the Chief of Staff attended the AFN Special Chief's Assembly in Gatineau, QC, at the Hotel Lac Leamy. Several successful caucuses were held with the BC Chiefs. The inaugural caucus welcomed the INAC Minister and Justice/Attorney General Minister. The Chief of Staff accompanied the Regional Chief on a number of meetings throughout the Assembly, including meetings with the RCMP Commissioner to discuss the MMIW and a meeting at the Chinese Embassy. The Chinese Ambassador would like to work closely and develop a relationship with BC First Nations.

### **PROVINCIAL PARTNERS MEETING ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

On December 14 - 15, 2015, the Chief of Staff attended a preliminary partners meeting to discuss the funding of the Regional Economic Development Strategic Framework. Day one consisted of presentations from invited Chiefs to showcase the projects in their communities. Day two consisted of Provincial government presentations. The meeting concluded with a short, medium and long-term plan for this project.

### **BUDGET/FUNDING UPDATE**

The BCAFN Board of Directors accepted the following funding agreement approvals:

- ▶ INAC, Basic Organizational Funding \$483,000.00
- ▶ INAC, Lands and Economic Development Service Program \$83,000.00
- ▶ NIB, National Indian Brotherhood/Assembly of First Nations \$189,000.00
- ▶ MARR, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation \$166,000.00

- ▶ MARR, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation \$300,000.00
- ▶ MJTST, Ministry of Job Tourism and Skills Training, \$46,000.00
- ▶ NRT, New Relationship Trust, \$83,000.00

### FFN EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Chief of Staff attended the AFN Executive Meeting on February 8-9, 2016, in Vancouver. Items of discussion and decision included the upcoming federal budget, negotiations with respect to protocols with various organizations and entities, strategic planning, intergovernmental and parliamentary matters, NIB Trust appointments, AFN administrative matters including financial reports and governance, AFN resolutions, legal updates and portfolio responsibilities.

### AFN FIRST NATIONS FORUM ON ENERGY – FEBRUARY 10-11, 2016

The AFN First Nations Forum on Energy: Setting Priorities was held in Vancouver on February 10-11. The forum was intended to provide dialogue around energy options, establishing

policy clarity on developments, balance in economic planning and decisions, fundamentals for an improved political and economic relationship, coordinating priorities, opportunities and challenges, sharing in benefits, revenues, employment and procurement and discussions around Crown consultation and consent obligations.

### INAC FUNDING MEETING

On December 15, 2015, the Chief of Staff attended a meeting at INAC to discuss the funding for BCAFN, reporting, and future funding. Proposals to INAC were due in January 2016. The proposals will target core funding and capacity funding to ensure the successful operations of the BCAFN.

### FINANCE

The finance team met and made adjusting entries and re-allocated funds to ensure the budget is balanced. Two quotes for audit were sought, and at the BCAFN SCA in March 2016, a resolution passed awarding the audit contract to KPMG.



# YOUTH COUNCIL AND WOMEN'S COUNCIL REPORTS

## YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

In the 2015 AFN Annual General Assembly, BCAFN's Youth Representatives were elected to the National Youth Council Table as the Co-Chair (Hjalmer Wenstob) and Executive (Kalila George-Wilson). BCAFN's Youth Representatives have been working steadily with the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC) to host our youth forum in Quesnel, BC, which took place October 16-19, 2015, involving 80+ Aboriginal youth from all over BC. During this forum, Hjalmer hosted a carving workshop where we created a log drum and gifted it to the local Lhtako Dene people of the area. Kalila also hosted a wool weaving

workshop where she taught people to weave quarter bags for ceremony.

**We want to create a safe place to share and learn together through culture and language.**

The forum was a huge success! Discussions about education, community and belonging were conducted. We received a lot of great feedback from the youth to

help us give them what they want within our own regional forum, which we would like to host in the near future. Currently we are waiting on approval of funding from MARR (Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation) in order to host our forum. During this forum we want to create a safe place to share and learn together through culture and language.

# WOMEN'S COUNCIL REPORT

Highlights from the Assembly of First Nations Women's Council Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to help build the relationship between Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson, who holds the lead for the MMIWG Inquiry portfolio, and representatives from the AFN Women's Council. The following provides highlights of the meeting:

- ▶ Adequate resourcing for the AFN Women's Council was discussed at length. The Regional Chief was very supportive in committing to advocate for adequate funds for the Women's Council.
- ▶ The Council discussed its role and was resilient in having its own voice as it relates to the MMIWG inquiry.
- ▶ The election procedure amendments were approved. A copy of the procedures are attached to this report.
- ▶ The Regional Chief supported the recommendation of an AFN Women's Council Strategic Planning Session to update the Women's Council Strategic Plan. However, funding is a factor in carrying out this recommendation.
- ▶ Women's Council representatives are reviewing the AFN

portfolio areas and continue to have the discussion on developing meaningful roles for women's council members in their portfolio areas. The consistency of participation remains a challenge since council members are not notified of portfolio-related meetings or conference calls.





# NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

## AS A COUNTRY, WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER: A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MARILYN SLETT

For many years the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls has been ignored and downplayed by politicians and mainstream media. The voices of the families and friends of our missing or murdered mothers, aunties, sisters, and daughters have gone unheard. Last week their voices commanded much public and media attention when the Government of Canada announced the launch of a national inquiry to address the high number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

In a speech at the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated that the inquiry was a priority for his government "because those touched by this national tragedy have waited long enough. The victims deserve justice, their families an opportunity to heal and to be heard. We must work together to put an end to this ongoing tragedy."

As a member of the Women's Council of the Assembly of First Nations it was an honor to be present at the announcement of the national inquiry. The Women's Council works with the AFN to ensure the concerns and perspectives of First Nations

**It is our hope the inquiry will provide justice, healing and closure**

women inform its work.

As Heiltsuk leaders it was a proud moment for council members Leona Humchitt, Lorena White and I to witness the long-awaited announcement. As community leaders we all are shaped by our family and community, culture and history. Our motivations and goals are to be catalysts of change, working to build a healthy community, and to empower our community by reclaiming traditions of women's leadership and power in cooperation with other leaders in the community.

We also took much pride in the fact that Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, a member of the We Wai Kai Nation, will be playing a key role in the inquiry. Prior to being elected as the member of parliament for Vancouver Granville Jody served as the Regional Chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations.

It is our hope the inquiry will provide justice, healing and closure that the victims and their families and friends deserve. Like Minister Wilson-Raybould we believe "As a country, we can and must do better."

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Women's Representative needs to be supported by a

strong mandate, based on information gathering and capacity. To do this, we have submitted a proposal for a dialogue session to create an action plan to advocate for the protection of women's rights and the eradication of poverty and social injustice. Two central priorities that continue to impact First Nations women are:

1. the vulnerability of women and girls: localized concerns and solutions that are responsive to the needs of communities. For example, a bus service along Highway 16 where many women have gone missing.
2. Gender-discrimination in the Registration Provisions of the Indian Act: more than just a Status card, women and their children were cut off from communities socially and

economically. Legislation to amend has been tabled on October 14, 2016. Following this a 2-year consultation process will occur to redefine Indian Status for First Nations.

Having attended the pre-Inquiry sessions, the Regional Chief is pleased the government has fulfilled its commitments to hold a National Inquiry. Now that the Commissioners have been appointed, BCAFN will continue to monitor and ensure full community participation in the National Inquiry.

Building on this momentum in support of our women and children, this dialogue session will allow us to further this important work and collectively form an action plan that is community driven with a Nation-based approach.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## BACKGROUND

The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting communities and Nations in their economic pursuits by delivering timely and relevant information, building capacity through education, and creating windows of business and economic opportunity through ongoing advocacy.

Our first step was to seek out strategic partners to advance this important work. When we set the goal of economic

reconciliation it was immediately apparent that we required a better understanding of the state of the BC economy and the gaps between it and the many current and emerging on-reserve and regional/territorial economies. We also determined that BC too was looking to support economic development in our respective territories so it would be in our best interest to align ourselves, where possible and practical, with the BC Jobs Plan.

## REGIONAL SESSIONS

With the goals described above in mind, the BCAFN partnered with the Province of BC and embarked on an aggressive cross-province tour of five (5) Regional Sessions in an effort to hear firsthand what our leaders and technicians required to be successful.

The first round of Regional Sessions took place in Spring 2016, and visited (5) regions: Fraser Salish Region (Chilliwack), Vancouver Coastal Region (North Vancouver), Interior Region (Enderby), Vancouver Island (Parksville), and Northern Region (Prince George).

We learned the following key points:

- ▶ The statistical data that the Province relies on for its planning was inconsistent with the reality of on-reserve/territorial life;
- ▶ This inconsistency was in part due to the five (5) regions we were working within – our decision to now align ourselves with the Province's eight (8) economic regions allowing better statistical data to monitor and evaluate economic progress;

- ▶ Many First Nations people are hungry for an enhanced understanding of business, economics and the law;
- ▶ While there are many programs, grants and supports available through organizations such as the Aboriginal Business Investment Council, the information is either not known to BC First Nations, or not accessible;
- ▶ First Nations require assistance in developing their own

individual economic development plans, built from within, rather than to become a cog in someone else's plan;

- ▶ Finally, we learned that Canada must be compelled to participate. It is not enough to have BC at the table. First Nations need both their federal and provincial partners in the canoe.



## LOOKING AHEAD

The BCAFN team has spent the summer of 2016 analyzing the information we learned from the Phase I of the Regional Sessions. Our intent is to build on this by returning to First Nations communities in a second round of Regional Sessions in order to: report on our findings, deliver a menu of strategies, deliver more relevant statistical data, obtain more information on economic metrics and business associations, and to ask additional questions to more fully understand opportunities

and challenges facing First Nations communities. We also plan on giving full expression to the BCAFN-BC Business Council (BCBC) MOU which was executed in September 2016, so that we may create the conditions for greater synergies between First Nations and the business community. In order to better obtain available data, Phase II will visit (8) regions, please see [www.bcafn.ca/regionalssessions](http://www.bcafn.ca/regionalssessions) for more information.

# POLICY UPDATES

## BACKGROUND

The following section is intended to provide our membership and readers with a snapshot of the current status of key policy

areas, and to provide context to the Regional Chief's role in BC, as well as nationally, by virtue of his delegated AFN portfolios.

## AFN NATIONAL PORTFOLIOS

The Regional Chief holds 3 key national portfolios, as delegated by AFN National Chief Bellegarde, in Economic Development, Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, and in Justice. He also oversees the work of AFN's Management

Committee and works closely with the AFN's Women's Council. See Appendix B for the Regional Chiefs Mandate Letter from AFN headquarters in Ottawa, ON.



# AFN NATIONAL PORTFOLIOS

## CURRENT STATUS REPORTS

### PROVINCIAL RELATIONS: COMMITMENT DOCUMENT

Following the Tsilhqot'in SCC decision in 2014, First Nations in British Columbia articulated the "Four Principles" which are required as a foundation for a transformed relationship with the Crown, and directed the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to pursue a formal engagement process with the Province of British Columbia. In September 2015, British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) jointly presented the Commitment Document articulating our commitment to a government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights and to the reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdictions. Both the BC Cabinet and the FNLC confirmed endorsement of the Commitment Document by early 2016.

During the spring and summer of 2015 the working group met on a number of occasions to develop a draft workplan prior to the September 2016 First Nations Leaders Gathering in Vancouver. At that time, the working group was having difficulty reaching agreement on a number of foundational principles. With the Premier office's intervention prior to the gathering, agreement was reached on the Joint Draft Concrete

**The Prime Minister of Canada has stated that no relationship is more important to the Government of Canada than the one with Indigenous peoples**

Actions and the Province indicated it was still reviewing the Draft Vision/Principles/Goals.

FNLC Draft Vision/Principles/Goals remains under review by the Province, the legal teams and working group have met on a number of occasions to discuss further. Deadline for completion of this piece is October 31. The Concrete Actions are subject to dialogue, review, and endorsement of First Nations and Cabinet. These items have been discussed at the UBCIC AGA in September and additional feedback will be sought at the upcoming FNS Meeting October 19-21 and BCAFN AGM on October 24-26.

Additional work of the working group includes the draft Terms of Reference for the Joint Working Group, and funding support/budget considerations and engagement with First Nations, to be completed by November 1. Components of the work moving forward include the implementation of actions as articulated in the concrete actions piece, establishment of sub-committees, and a strong engagement plan with First Nations.

### FEDERAL RELATIONS

The Prime Minister of Canada has stated that no relationship

is more important to the Government of Canada than the one with Indigenous peoples. This is a profound statement that, to date, has not been implemented. Despite this, the Regional Chief has met with and continues to meet with federal government Ministers to advocate for the fulfillment of this promised new relationship that is founded upon reconciliation.

### **FISCAL RELATIONS**

On March 22, 2016, Prime Minister Trudeau tabled his first federal budget. A historic \$8.4 billion over 5 years in investments on Indigenous issues. The budget provided a specific narrative on the 2% cap on First Nations program spending, and a specific promise to engage in consultations on the development of a new long-term fiscal relationship between Indigenous peoples and the Crown. To date, moving into the second fiscal year of the Liberal government, the 2% cap on funding remains in place and the removal of the 2% cap is not defined. Both the AFN National Chief and BCAFN Regional Chief continue to fight for the removal of the 2% cap, and for long-term sustainable funding for First Nations and a new fiscal relationship. Moreover, the Regional Chief has met with Canada's Minister of Finance to advocate for the restoration of Tribal Council funding and the implementation and sufficient budgetary support for Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action Implementation. The Regional Chief also continues to advocate for resource and revenue sharing and the Aboriginal Resource Tax.

### **ABORIGINAL TITLE AND RIGHTS**

Due to the unceded nature of much of the vast territory in British Columbia, Title and Rights are an ever-evolving area for First Nations. Court cases across the province continue to shape and define them, but at times the guidance provided by the Court does not clarify the right, and too many First Nations are being tied up in Court, costing them valuable time and resources. Other Nations are experiencing silence or empty promises on the issues they are trying to resolve or mitigate, while some have established agreements that are not being enforced, or are being interpreted in a way that is not in the spirit of the original agreement. In November 2016, the Supreme Court will hear 2 cases simultaneously regarding the legality of the National Energy Board (NEB) taking over Canada's duty to consult by engaging First Nations in a public consultation process. Undoubtedly, "public consultation" is hardly parallel to a constitutional obligation.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting communities and Nations in their economic pursuits by delivering timely and relevant information, building capacity through education, and creating windows of business and economic opportunity through ongoing advocacy. BCAFN has set the goal of economic reconciliation, as evidenced by the historic signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the British Columbia Business Council (BCBC). In Phase I of the Regional Sessions on Sustainable Economic Development, we learned several

key facts which led to the restructuring of Phase II of BCAFN's provincial strategy set to commence in January 2017. Key among these findings were that: the statistical data that the Province relies on for its planning was inconsistent with the reality of on-reserve/territorial life; many First Nations people are hungry for an enhanced understanding of business, economics and the law; and while there are many programs, grants and supports available through organizations such as the Aboriginal Business Investment Council, the information is either not known to BC First Nations, or not accessible. BCAFN's provincial strategy is designed to fill these gaps, and the Regional Chief is committed to continuing this important work to allow First Nations to move away from administering poverty and towards administering wealth.

### JUSTICE/POLICING/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

2016 has brought several critical legal issues impacting First Nations to the forefront of our attention, including: gender-based discrimination in the Indian Act, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision on the chronic under-funding of First Nations children on reserves, the consideration and recognition of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in criminal sentencing, unreasonable delays in criminal trials, the continued legal battle facing Nuu-chah-nulth nations for commercial fishing rights, and a revised Emergency Management Agreement for First Nations communities in BC. BCAFN will continue to work, monitor, and report on these issues as they develop to ensure we have a concrete and timely response from the government on their position and action for resolving these issues.

### COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS

Currently, 65 First Nations representing just over 52% of BC Indian Act bands are participating in treaty negotiations. Only 8 First Nations in British Columbia have completed the treaty process since 2007. The BC Treaty Commission's acting Chief Commissioner has stated that future negotiations are expected to be 'speedier' due to a new agreement, endorsed in May 2016 by the Government of Canada, the Province of BC, and the BC Treaty Commission, which is expected to expedite the process with set time frames for the latter stages of the treaty process. BCAFN's membership is inclusive of all First Nations in British Columbia, therefore the Regional Chief supports First Nations in their decision to engage or not to engage in the BC Treaty Process. Nonetheless, the Regional Chief has asserted the need for the treaty process to move away from extinguishment provisions on Aboriginal Title and towards agreements that acknowledge Aboriginal Title.

### SPECIFIC CLAIMS

At present, the Specific Claims process is the only forum for First Nations and Canada to settle outstanding Treaty entitlements and it has demonstrated to be a slow, adversarial and dishonorable process to implement Treaty Obligations. The federal specific claims process affects more First Nations in British Columbia than any other region in Canada. As of October 2016, 173 Specific Claims are in progress in BC: 79 Specific Claims are currently under assessment and 94 Specific Claims are in negotiations. In total, 529 Specific Claims have been concluded: 157 have been settled through negotiations,

228 were closed as no lawful obligation on part of the Crown was found, 7 were resolved through administrative remedy, and 137 files were closed. There are 2 Specific Claims in active litigation, and 25 Specific Claims have been filed with the Specific Claims Tribunal. BC Specific Claims account for the largest number of claims backlogged at the DOJ. The Regional Chief continues to advocate for the elimination of the specific claims backlog in BC and for the Government of Canada to respect the role of the independent Specific Claims Tribunal.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The BC child welfare system as it relates to Indigenous children and youth is in a crisis state, there continues to be a high percentage of Indigenous children in care in BC. As part of identifying the need to bring leadership, experts and communities, on May 30 and 31, 2016 the Province of British Columbia and First Nations Leadership Council co-hosted the First Nations Children and Families Gathering in Vancouver, BC. The purpose of the Gathering was to engage First Nations leaders, community organizations and service agencies, provincial and federal government representatives in a dialogue on short, medium and long term opportunities to improve outcomes for First Nations children and families.

At the close of the Gathering, the Province and the First Nations Leadership Council committed to initiate a working group focused on addressing current policy and legislative frameworks related to First Nations children and families. Following the Gathering, the working group has met on a

number of occasions to develop a draft terms of reference, guiding principles, workplan, budget and initiate discussions with our Federal counterparts on issues of common interest with respect to Children and families. An important piece of the work is the "Draft Action Framework: Reconciliation, Self-Determination and Self-Government for Indigenous Children, Families and Nations in BC" which sets out a principled approach and framework for transforming the crisis state of Indigenous child and family welfare in British Columbia.

Goals and objectives of the working group include improving outcomes for First Nations children and families, supporting improved relations and engagement between First Nations and the provincial and federal governments as they relate to child and family well-being; identifying potential governance models for First Nations communities relating to child and family well-being; and identifying equitable and impactful investment approaches for governance relating to child and family well-being in First Nations communities.

The working group have had a number of meetings which have been productive. The federal government has been invited to participate and we are currently engaging as the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group. Work has been moving steadily forward including dialogue regarding the Terms of Reference, development of guiding principles, development of a Charter, development of inventories on best practices/models and legislative frameworks in other jurisdictions and the development of an integrated calendar.

## WATER

Many changes have occurred regarding water rights and usage in BC. 2016 saw the implementation of the Water Sustainability Act which has received some praise, but also criticism for failing to include or consider Aboriginal Title and Rights in this new piece of legislation. In other areas of water planning and governance, the social and political landscape is brighter. For example, Indigenous co-governance and roundtable Watershed planning can be seen in several communities throughout the province. While many of these initiatives are in their infancy, their collaborative approach is setting a new tone and precedent for the co-governance of freshwater sources in BC.

The First Nations Water Commission (FNWC) has reported that the federal Budget for 2016 has earmarked \$1.8 billion over five years for on-reserve water and wastewater infrastructure. The FNWC has identified 3 main roles to play including Technical, Policy and Governance, and Management and Reporting. Their short term goals include a presentation to the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, an immediate reduction of boil water advisories, and the establishment of funding mechanisms to support FNWC.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

With federal and provincial commitments for addressing climate change wavering with the continued approval of mega-projects, the uncertainty of environmental protection remains high. Compounding this are the mixed messages coming from governments about engaging and consulting

with First Nations, while simultaneously making unilateral decisions affecting Aboriginal rights. The federal government is about to embark on a nation-wide Review of their Environmental Assessments and Regulatory Processes. BCACFN staff will be participating in the session held in Kamloops, and the Regional Chief will be presenting to the Review Panel. Note that BCACFN engagement with the Review Panel will not constitute consultation. Further to this, on the 27th the FNEMC and FNLC will be hosting a meeting to further discuss review and reform of CEAA.

Following the First Ministers Meeting in March 2016, the AFN received \$1.2 million in funding to engage on climate change work with Canada's Working Group and the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and Environment (ACCAE), which has identified 4 key areas to address: adaptation and resilience, carbon pricing mechanisms, sectorial mitigation opportunities and clean technology, and innovation and jobs. Four regional representatives were appointed to ACCAE in May 2016: Grand Chief Ed John, Grand Chief Stewart Philip, Chief Byron Louis, and Chief Rebecca Harris. On the evening of October 24th, the FNLC will host an evening session to discuss and identify regional climate and environmental priorities, a draft First Nations led climate change strategy as well as other priority areas.

## FISHERIES

The BC First Nation Fisheries Council has been leading the work with respect supporting, protecting and advancing Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty rights related to fisheries



and the health and protection of aquatic resources. Following the 1990 Sparrow decision, DFO was the lead agency in implementing this new case law through the 1993 Policy for the Management of Aboriginal Fishing. In recent years, BC First Nations have observed DFO moving away from engagement on rights, and limiting its focus to operational objectives concerning managing access, and supporting First Nations involvement in fisheries management activities through contribution agreements. In addition to the non-implementation of Sparrow, other case law continues to not be recognized or implemented including Gladstone, Ahousaht, and recently Tsilhqot'in have all identified that these rights are alive and require deeper consultation and consent. Work has been underway to engage DFO to renew the MOU between the FNLC and DFO which seeks to formalize the political relationship and commits the FNLC and DFO Minister to the objective of a renewed nation-to-nation relationship as it relates to waters, fisheries and other aquatic resources. Furthermore, commits to maintaining an effective relationship based upon mutual respect and recognition, developing First Nations capacity and implementing efficient and effective fisheries management in BC.

BCAFN has a standing resolution with respect to the Federal Department of Fisheries Coastal Allocation Framework and "Endpoint Directive" which speaks to BCAFN working with our partner organizations including FNS, UBCIC and FNFC to engage with the Federal Government to advocate and

support implementation of our Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights and seek to repeal the Endpoint directive which seeks to limit or create notional allocations of fish for each First Nation in BC. The endpoint directive, the Coastwide Allocation Framework and the notional allocations are inconsistent with the constitutional priority of Aboriginal fishing rights.

Following the 2009 Morton decision, DFO assumed regulatory authority of aquaculture in BC. Concurrently, the Cohen Commission was examining the causes of serious decline in Fraser sockeye populations. On October 31, 2012, following 18 months of testimony and \$26 million, Cohen released his final report. The Report contained 75 recommendations to the federal Government, many of which included deadlines and key milestones to be achieved.

Commissioner Cohen recommended a number of changes to the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans policies, practices and management in relation to the sustainability of the Fraser River Sockeye Fishery. Recommendations of the inquiry focused on a cautious approach to open net pen finfish aquaculture. They included the need for a serious commitment to research into the health impacts of exposure of wild salmon to fish farms as well as explicit incorporation of in-depth knowledge about migratory patterns of wild fish and the cumulative impacts of exposure to salmon farms into decision making regarding siting of aquaculture facilities. Commissioner Cohen found that the cause of long-term decline of the Fraser River Sockeye



Salmon and the poor return in 2009 could not be attributed to one cause, rather cumulative impacts from multiple stressors in the environment must be considered

On August 09, 2016, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard (DFO) Minister Dominic LeBlanc, announced DFO's renewed commitment to protect wild salmon by releasing the Federal Progress Report on the implementation of the 2012 Cohen Commission. The Report announces the successful implementation of over 30 of the recommendations of the Cohen Commission. Cohen Commission highlights DFO conflictual mandates to both protect wild salmon and promote salmon farming, referencing open net-pen aquaculture open net-pen aquaculture has been linked to the decline of salmon stocks worldwide and are correlated with increased levels of sea-lice, piscine reovirus and Heart and Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI) disease. DFO is now planning to hold regional sessions to develop an updated Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Plan. This would update the 2005 policy to be current and better emphasize effective collaboration with First Nations, partners and stakeholders.

## HEALTH

The federal budget allocated \$270 million over 5 years to support construction, renovation and repair of nursing stations, residences for health care workers and health officers on reserve, further to this the government allotted \$64.5 million for a nutritional campaign in the north over the next five years. The First Nations Health Council and the

First Nations Health Authority does great work in providing political and advocacy support to BC First Nations in the areas of:

- ▶ Dedicated political leadership for the implementation of the Health Plans
- ▶ Provide continued political leadership for implementation of the TCA; FNHP and TFNHP
- ▶ Reflect a philosophy and culture of trust, unity, honesty, humility, healthy living, traditional practices and teachings in operations, planning, and decision-making
- ▶ Support to First Nations in achieving their health priorities and objectives
- ▶ Support Community-Driven and Nation-Based approaches
- ▶ Promote individual health and wellness responsibilities, including self-care and health literacy and
- ▶ Promote the transfer of health services to local and regional levels wherever possible, practical and feasible

Current work underway includes the development of the ten-year strategy for the social determinants of health, updating and negotiating new arrangements with the Government of Canada and British Columbia. The FNHC has currently been hosting their regional caucus sessions to report out on this important work and to seek further feedback and direction from the regions on this approach. Gathering Wisdom will be held Nov.30-Dec.2 in Vancouver.

## LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Preserving and enhancing language and culture is vital to ensuring vibrant First Nations in the future, as they are the lifeblood of Indigenous identity. Whether it be initiating a language class in your community, or protecting sacred sites or regalia from harm, the preservation and enhancement of cultural pieces must be respected and honoured as a priority issue for all First Nations. Some organizations, such as the First Peoples' Cultural Council funds cultural arts grants for several different categories and projects for those who are interested.

In June 2016, the province and the Royal BC Museum pledged to create a database of stolen First Nations cultural artifacts and press museums to return cultural items to their rightful owners. Standing with Premier Clark and Grand Chief Edward John, Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson stated that "We must right these wrongs and bring our ancestors home...it is not simply enough to talk about reconciliation."

## ENERGY

A number of events have occurred over 2015-16 with respect to energy policy in British Columbia. The federal government in undertaking consultations and work to reform the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) and the National Energy Board (NEB) environmental assessment processes. The Regional Chief has been very clear that environmental assessment processes must acknowledge traditional Indigenous knowledge and

land use and that the oversight committees must have First Nations on the panel.

Regarding Site C, Regional Chief Gottfriedson stood with Treaty 8 First Nations, including Prophet River and West Moberly First Nations, allies and supporters on Parliament Hill to call on the Trudeau Government to fulfill its commitment that now is the time for a renewed nation-to-nation relationship between First Nations and the Federal Government.

Energy remains a highly contentious issue in British Columbia, and as a component of BCAFN's economic development work, the Regional Chief is focused on promoting sustainability in projects to ensure lands, waters, traditional food sources, plants and animals remain intact for future generations.

## MINING

Despite the fact that recent court decisions, the establishment of political agreements, and the federal endorsement of UNDRIP have affirmed the central role of First Nations in decision-making and management related to the mining

sector, Provincial mining policy has not adapted to these critical changes. Other issues with mining in BC include: underfunded reclamation, insufficient funds for accidents, deals favouring miners

over taxpayers, and financial incentives for reckless behaviour. The Mount Polley disaster was a wakeup call for the Province, and in light of the Auditor General report issued in 2016, the Regional Chief has met with the BC Minister of Energy and

**Energy remains a highly contentious issue in British Columbia**

Mines to discuss the need for strong regulations that protect the environment, that promote best-available technology, and that respect and recognize First Nations' Rights, Title, and Treaty Rights. Mining has emerged as a key resource sector in our identified economic development regions. BCAFN is working to involve more First Nations in the industry, but we need to ensure regulatory and legislative reforms are in place to protect the sustainability of First Nations traditional territories and the mining industry itself.

## EDUCATION

The 2016 Federal budget allocated \$2.6 billion in First Nations education over 5 years starting in 2016-17, with a focus on investments in the current primary and secondary education system, language and culture, literacy and numeracy. The federal Liberals also committed to system transformation funding, including nearly \$1 billion for education infrastructure on reserve.

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) does great work in ensuring full and equitable access to meaningful education opportunities for our children and communities. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) is undertaking renewal discussions with FNESC and the Government of Canada to negotiate a new Tripartite Education Framework Agreement (TEFA), as the former agreement is set to expire in 2017. TEFA provides a flexible funding model for First Nations schools based upon the BC public education funding formula, with specific adaptations to reflect First Nations schools' unique characteristics.

**Housing remains  
a critical and  
unresolved issue for  
many First Nations**

## SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT

The 2016 federal budget committed \$15 million over two years to launch a pilot project to enhance training that aligns with community needs. The Federal Government is also undertaking a renewal and expansion of the Labour Market Strategy beyond March 31, 2017. The Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada has indicated that the

Ministry will accept proposals from First Nations regarding new approaches to labour market agreements on a provincial basis. In BC, 14 First Nations hold Aboriginal Skills and Employment Strategy (ASETS), and have been continuing to call for renewal that is inclusive and reflects the principles of Nation-to-Nation and Government-to-Government relations. Regional Chief Gottfriedson

has been advocating this notion on their behalf. Moreover, BCAFN continues to advocate that discussions informing new approaches to ESDC Labour Market agreement funding for First Nations must encompass and support culturally-appropriate delivery of services and labour market programs in British Columbia.

## HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

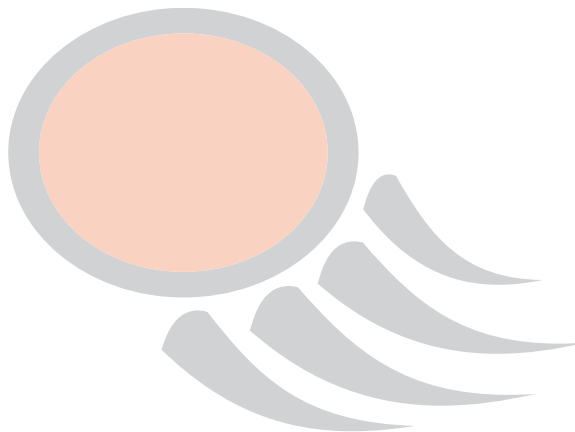
Housing remains a critical and unresolved issue for many First Nations on and off-reserve. Following the BC Consultation launch of Let's Talk Housing, the consultation for a national housing strategy, Canada Mortgage and Housing (CMHC) will issue its final report on November 22, 2016 to celebrate National Housing Day. There is no note of CMHC's involvement

with the AFN despite requests, however, CMHC has discussed developing a roundtable. As of September 2016, CMHC did not have details on participants or content.

A recent survey has revealed that housing has been identified as a priority topic for the 2017 Joint Gathering between FNLC and INAC, to be held from January 17-19 in Vancouver, BC. The federal government 2016 Budget provides \$554.3 million over the next two years to address urgent housing needs on reserve. Of this amount, \$416.6 million over two years will be provided to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to improve on-reserve housing conditions, reduce overcrowding, increase health and safety, and advance Canada's new relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance is about more than having transparency and accountability, it is about having capacity and support to administer the policies put in place to make a community thrive. Beyond the 2014 BCAFN Governance Toolkit, there are increasing resources becoming available to support First Nations in building their capacity to govern effectively. A recent example of this is the 2016 AFN resolution which was passed and directs the federal government to fund Regional First Nations Information Government Centres which will assist in the coordination of regional bodies, data governance champions, and national partners to establish a national First Nations data governance strategy.





# APPENDIX A

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Statements of

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**

Year ended March 31, 2016

# BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2016

## Financial Statements

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## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations ("BCAFN") are the responsibility of management and have been prepared in compliance with legislation, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of The Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. A summary of the significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgment, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The BCAFN's management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by management.

The BC Regional Chief and Board members meet with management and the external auditors to review the financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been audited by KPMG LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the BCAFN. The accompanying Auditors' Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the BCAFN's financial statements.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
B.C. Regional Chief

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Staff



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Canada  
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## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations

We have audited the statement of financial position of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations ("BCAFN") as at March 31, 2016 and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to BCAFN's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of BCAFN's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

KPMG LLP is a Canadian limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.



*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of BCAFN as at March 31, 2016 and its results of operations, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

*Other matter*

The financial statements of BCAFN as at and for the year ended March 31, 2015 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements on June 24, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KPMG LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Kamloops, Canada  
July 5, 2016

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

### Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
<b>Financial assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 179,138	\$ 317,144
Accounts receivable (note 2)	167,970	115,598
	347,108	432,742
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	212,800	51,679
Deferred revenue (note 3)	83,333	57,452
	296,133	109,131
<b>Net financial assets</b>	<b>50,975</b>	<b>323,611</b>
<b>Non-financial assets:</b>		
Tangible capital assets (note 4)	87,496	2,916
Prepaid expenses and deposits	10,028	18,112
	97,524	21,028
Commitments (note 5)		
<b>Accumulated surplus (note 6)</b>	<b>\$ 148,499</b>	<b>\$ 344,639</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

### Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	Budget	2016	2015
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation ("MARR") Indian and Northern Affairs Canada ("INAC")	\$ 202,667	\$ 504,102	\$ 219,102
National Indian Brotherhood - AFN	483,615	483,615	544,795
New Relationship Trust	168,500	178,439	75,180
Ministry of Jobs and Training	-	66,667	194,839
Rental revenue	-	46,000	-
Other income	-	38,078	-
Recovery - INAC	-	1,384	1,564
Recovery - MARR	-	-	(61,180)
Total revenue	854,782	1,315,829	974,300
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Administration	702,130	928,540	561,632
First Nations Leadership Council	168,500	224,393	262,436
New Relationship Trust	-	35,666	-
Regional Sessions	-	323,370	-
Youth Program	36,000	-	40,000
Governance Toolkit	70,000	-	112,150
Total expenses	976,630	1,511,969	976,218

Segmented information (note 7)

Annual deficit	\$ (121,848)	\$ (196,140)	\$ (1,918)
<b>Accumulated surplus, beginning of year</b>	344,639	344,639	346,557
<b>Accumulated surplus, end of year</b>	\$ 222,791	\$ 148,499	\$ 344,639

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

### Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	Budget	2016	2015
Annual deficit	\$ (121,848)	\$ (196,140)	\$ (1,918)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(3,000)	(90,822)	-
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	6,242	5,255
	(3,000)	(84,580)	5,255
Acquisition of prepaid expenses	-	(10,028)	(18,112)
Use of prepaid expenses	-	18,112	16,589
	-	8,084	(1,523)
Change in net financial assets	(124,848)	(272,636)	1,814
Net financial assets, beginning of year	323,611	323,611	321,797
Net financial assets, end of year	\$ 198,763	\$ 50,975	\$ 323,611

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

### Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Cash provided by (used in):		
<b>Operating activities:</b>		
Annual deficit	\$ (196,140)	\$ (1,918)
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization	6,242	5,255
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	(3,651)	-
	(193,549)	3,337
Change in non-cash operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(52,372)	(18,567)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	161,121	(40,106)
Deferred revenue	25,881	(118,470)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	8,084	(1,523)
	(50,835)	(175,329)
<b>Capital activities:</b>		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(90,822)	-
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	-	-
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	3,651	-
Write down of tangible capital assets	-	-
	(87,171)	-
Decrease in cash	(138,006)	(175,329)
Cash, beginning of year	317,144	492,473
Cash, end of year	\$ 179,138	\$ 317,144

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2016

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British Columbia Assembly of First Nations ("BCAFN") was incorporated as a non-reporting society under the Society Act (British Columbia) on April 2, 2003 and is a Political Territorial Organization that represents the 203 First Nations in British Columbia.

### 1. Basis of presentation and significant accounting policies:

These financial statements include the assets, liabilities and results of operations of BCAFN. The financial statements of the BCAFN are prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for governments as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB") of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, which encompasses the following principles:

#### (a) Revenue recognition:

Revenue is recognized as it becomes receivable under the terms of applicable funding agreements and contracts. Funding received under the funding arrangements which relates to a subsequent fiscal period is reflected as deferred revenue in the year of receipt and classified as such on the summary statement of financial position.

Government transfers are recognized as revenues in the period in which events giving rise to the transfers occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria is met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made. If the transfer contains stipulations that create a liability, the transfer is recognized as revenue in the period in which the liability is extinguished.

Interest is recognized as earned.

#### (b) Deferred revenue:

Deferred revenue represents grants and other fees which have been collected, but for which the related expenses or services have yet to be incurred or performed. These amounts will be recognized as revenues in the fiscal year the services are performed or related expenses incurred.

#### (c) Tangible capital assets:

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. Contributed tangible capital assets are recorded at fair value at the time of the donation with a corresponding amount recorded as revenue. Expenses for repairs and maintenance that do not materially add to the useful life or service potential of the asset are not capitalized, but expensed as incurred. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets, excluding land, are amortized over their estimated useful lives as follows:

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2016

### 1. Basis of presentation and significant accounting policies (continued):

Asset	Basis	Rate
Furniture and equipment	Straight-line	5 years
Computer equipment	Straight-line	3 years

Additions during the year have been amortized using the above annual rates prorated for the month of purchase. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use. When a tangible capital asset no longer contributes to BCAFN's ability to provide services, its carrying amount is written down to its residual value.

#### (d) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period.

Actual results could differ from these estimates.

#### (e) Financial instruments:

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that BCAFN is not exposed to significant interest, currency, or credit risks arising from financial instruments. The fair values of financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

#### (f) Pension plan:

BCAFN contributes to a private defined contribution pension plan. Contributions are expensed as incurred.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2016

### 2. Accounts receivable:

Accounts receivable by funding source is summarized as follows:

	2016	2015
INAC	\$ 83,333	\$ -
Ministry of Jobs and Training	46,000	-
GST/HST rebate receivable	34,553	23,148
Other	3,327	-
Assembly of First Nations	757	16,783
MARR	-	75,667
	<u>\$ 167,970</u>	<u>\$ 115,598</u>

### 3. Deferred revenue:

Deferred revenue consists of the following:

	2016	2015
INAC	\$ 83,333	\$ -
MARR	-	57,452
	<u>\$ 83,333</u>	<u>\$ 57,452</u>



## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2016

### 4. Tangible capital assets:

	Furniture & Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
2016			
<b>Cost:</b>			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 18,565	\$ 99,886	\$ 118,451
Additions	24,902	65,920	90,822
Disposals	(16,470)	(91,769)	(108,239)
Balance, end of year	26,997	74,037	101,034
<b>Accumulated amortization:</b>			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 18,356	\$ 97,179	\$ 115,535
Disposals	(16,470)	(91,769)	(108,239)
Amortization	1,455	4,787	6,242
Balance, end of year	3,341	10,197	13,538
Net book value	\$ 23,656	\$ 63,840	\$ 87,496
2015			
<b>Cost:</b>			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 18,565	\$ 99,886	\$ 118,451
Balance, end of year	18,565	99,886	118,451
<b>Accumulated amortization:</b>			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 17,937	\$ 92,343	\$ 110,280
Amortization	419	4,836	5,255
Balance, end of year	18,356	97,179	115,535
Net book value	\$ 209	\$ 2,707	\$ 2,916

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2016

### 5. Commitments:

BCAFN leases office premises under an operating lease expiring on July 31, 2016. The future minimum lease payments due under the terms of the agreement over the next year is \$21,057.

### 6. Accumulated surplus:

Accumulated surplus consists of individual fund surplus and reserves as follows:

	2016	2015
Unrestricted surplus	\$ 61,003	\$ 341,723
Invested in tangible capital assets	87,496	2,916
	<u>\$ 148,499</u>	<u>\$ 344,639</u>

### 7. Segmented information:

Segmented information has been identified based upon lines of service provided by the BCAFN. BCAFN services are provided by departments and their activities are reported by functional area in the body of the financial statements. Certain lines of service that have been separately disclosed in the segmented information, along with the services they provide, are as follows:

(i) Administration:

Administration provides the functions of corporate administration, finance, human resources, legislative services, and any other functions not categorized to a specific department that are required for carrying out the BCAFN's mandate.

(ii) First Nations Leadership:

First Nations Leadership is responsible for policy analysis, advice and development with respect to First Nations, Provincial and Federal initiatives including: children and families, title and rights, water, forestry, mining, missing & murdered indigenous women & girls, health, education, fisheries, environment and climate change, energy and general engagement with provincial and federal representatives.

(iii) New Relationship Trust:

New Relationship Trust works towards increasing authority and jurisdiction of First Nations governments and thereby improving the quality of life of First Nations citizens in British Columbia. In addition, provides policy coordination and capacity for First Nations organizations.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2016

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### 7. Segmented information (continued):

(iv) Regional Sessions:

The Regional Sessions provide First Nations with access to leadership and expertise to develop regionally-based economic strategic action plans. These strategic plans will encourage and enhance economic investment and progress in First Nation territories across British Columbia.

(v) Youth Program:

The Youth Program supports the initiative to engage and connect young people throughout the 203 First Nation communities, identifying key priorities that youth share, and supporting and strengthening the youth network in British Columbia.

(vi) Governance Toolkit:

Governance Toolkit was developed as a comprehensive guide intended to assist First Nations in building or rebuilding governance and navigating away from the Indian Act to make more relevant and current policies.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2016

## 7. Segmented information (continued):

2016	Administration	First Nations Leadership Council	New Relationship Trust	Regional Sessions	Youth Program	Governance Toolkit	Total
<b>Revenues:</b>							
MARR	\$ -	\$ 224,102	\$ -	\$ 280,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 504,102
INAC	483,615	-	-	-	-	-	483,615
National Indian Brotherhood - AFN	178,439	-	-	-	-	-	178,439
New Relationship Trust	-	-	66,667	-	-	-	66,667
Ministry of Jobs & Training	-	-	-	46,000	-	-	46,000
Rental income	38,078	-	-	-	-	-	38,078
Other income	1,384	-	-	-	-	-	1,384
Recoveries	-	-	-	(2,456)	-	-	(2,456)
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>701,516</b>	<b>224,102</b>	<b>66,667</b>	<b>323,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,315,829</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>							
Salaries, benefits and consultants	296,439	75,117	-	16,593	-	-	388,149
Advisory, technical and professional	92,753	58,833	3,448	108,731	-	-	263,765
Office	228,069	12,158	-	3,999	-	-	244,226
Travel	132,739	35,889	-	1,406	-	-	170,034
Amortization	6,242	-	-	-	-	-	6,242
Meetings and assemblies	172,298	42,396	32,218	192,641	-	-	439,553
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>928,540</b>	<b>224,393</b>	<b>35,666</b>	<b>323,370</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,511,969</b>
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (227,024)</b>	<b>\$ (291)</b>	<b>\$ 31,001</b>	<b>\$ 174</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (196,140)</b>

# BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2016

## 7. Segmented information (continued):

2015	Administration	First Nations Leadership Council	New Relationship Trust	Regional Sessions	Youth Program	Governance Toolkit	Total
<b>Revenues:</b>							
MARR	\$ -	\$ 179,102	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 219,102
INAC	483,615	-	-	-	-	61,180	544,795
National Indian Brotherhood - AFN	75,180	-	-	-	-	-	75,180
New Relationship Trust	-	83,334	-	-	-	111,505	194,839
Other income	919	-	-	-	-	645	1,564
Recoveries	-	-	-	-	-	(61,180)	(61,180)
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>559,714</b>	<b>262,436</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>112,150</b>	<b>974,300</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>							
Salaries, benefits and consultants	205,698	48,100	-	-	3,663	-	257,461
Advisory, technical and professional	76,122	55,354	-	-	-	29,889	161,365
Office	121,948	29,783	-	-	323	24,639	176,693
Travel	99,852	10,728	-	-	30,647	-	141,227
Amortization	2,837	2,418	-	-	-	-	5,255
Meetings and assemblies	55,175	116,053	-	-	5,367	57,622	234,217
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>561,632</b>	<b>262,436</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>112,150</b>	<b>976,218</b>
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (1,918)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,918)</b>

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2016

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### 8. Pension:

BCAFN provides a defined contribution plan for eligible members of its staff. Members are required to contribute 6% of their of their basic salary. BCAFN contributes 6% and the contributions are directed to the member's contribution account. During the year, BCAFN contributed \$10,791 (2015 - \$nil).

### 9. Indirect funding:

During the year, the National Indian Brotherhood - Assembly of First Nations provided additional funding of \$1,434 (2015 - \$128,218) directly to recipients and for travel and insurance premiums on behalf of the BCAFN. Of the funding received, the Regional Chief received \$nil (2015 - \$107,542) in salary for the year. These amounts are not reflected in these financial statements.

### 10. Credit facility:

Under its credit facility agreement with the Royal Bank of Canada dated February 2, 2016, BCAFN has an authorized revolving demand facility in the amount of \$25,000. The revolving demand facility is due on demand and bears interest at the bank's commercial prime lending rate plus 2.0% (March 31, 2016 - 4.7%, in aggregate). The credit facility was not utilized as at March 31, 2016.

### 11. Related party transactions:

During the year, a related person of the former Regional Chief was paid \$19,619 (2015 - \$103,442) for contract services.

These related party transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related party.

### 12. Comparative figures:

Certain 2015 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year.



# APPENDIX B

## AFN-RC MANDATE LETTER

### OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF

Assembly of First Nations

### BUREAU DU CHEF NATIONAL

Assemblée des Premières Nations



February 9, 2016

Shane Gottfriedson  
AFN Regional Chief, BCAFN  
312 – 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way  
KAMLOOPS BC V2H 1H1

Dear Regional Chief Gottfriedson:

#### Areas of Responsibility

I am writing to follow up on the November 23-25, 2015 Assembly of First Nations Executive Committee meeting in which you agreed to serve First Nations Chiefs, communities, and citizens as Portfolio holder for:

Economic Development  
Justice  
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls  
Women's Council  
Management Committee

Towards ensuring that all of our AFN Executive responsibilities are shared and aligned, I would like to outline my expectations for advancing your portfolio areas. In accordance with the duties of the Executive under the AFN Charter, you will engage Chiefs across Canada in your portfolio area. You are expected to advance First Nations priorities while ensuring that an appropriate rights analysis informs this work, as required and within resources available. This will ensure that all of our work serves to advance the recognition and implementation of First Nations inherent rights, treaties, title and rights recognized under international human rights law and Canada's own Constitution.

We must always seek to secure and maintain the trust and respect of First Nations (both the people and the leadership). In all that we do, we must reflect a strong sense of direction and purpose. Our common duty as members of the Executive is to provide clear and focused leadership that supports the respective, and common, priorities and goals of First Nations in accordance with the Charter of the AFN and mandates from Chiefs-in-Assembly. Our priorities document, *Closing the Gap*, is a framework to guide our work together.

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I applaud you and am honoured to appoint you to the portfolios set out above. This is an important leadership opportunity to lead both as a Regional Chief and as an AFN Portfolio Holder on behalf of all First Nations. You will need to balance your regional responsibilities as a Regional Chief with the equally important responsibilities of your portfolio to work on behalf of all First Nations across Turtle Island. I fully understand that your role representing the people and Chiefs in your region is a priority. At the same time, each portfolio holder must ensure that their work on behalf of the AFN is representative of all First Nations peoples and leadership across Turtle Island.

As required and as mandated by the Charter and Resolutions of the Chiefs-in-Assembly, the entire AFN Executive is tasked with defending the inherent rights of First Nations, securing financial and capacity support for portfolio areas, and supporting First Nations in their development and implementation of First Nations laws pertaining to First Nations citizens, communities, and territories. In partnership with the National Chief, Executive members will work to ensure meaningful inclusion of First Nations at Ministerial and inter-governmental decision-making tables which impact First Nations.

Your first priority will be to support the Assembly of First Nations agenda and leadership as defined and directed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly. You are expected to work in cooperation with First Nation Governments in your day to day work. You also have the responsibility to work in a collegial fashion with your Executive colleagues in order to achieve progress on the common agenda and priorities of First Nations.

In your capacity as Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, you are responsible for ensuring the mandates associated with your portfolio are executed in a professional and determined fashion. These mandates include:

#### Economic Development

- Work with the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development on issues such as strategies on forestry, resource development issues, employment, fishing, and other issues promoting increased employment for First Nations citizens.
- Continued work in mandated areas such as economic involvement on trade cooperation, connectivity, gaming, revenue options, research, business institute, and energy and mining resource development.
- Advocacy to reduce barriers to participate in the economy at all levels, increase certainty for First Nations, and to improve economic programs, services and incentives to support First Nations economic priorities.

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*Assembly of First Nations*  
*Assemblée des Premières Nations*

- Supporting the implementation of First Nations respective economic development objectives in manner consistent with their inherent and Treaty rights and their right to determine their own development; and direct staff to incorporate into AFN's work an analysis that recognizes the relationship between rights and development.
- Support First Nations in the development and implementation of sustainable strategies to facilitate and enhance capacity to engage actively in the economy.

#### Justice

- Continue to seek resources for violence prevention and response programs – including shelters.
- Secure financial resources for, and Chair, the Chiefs Committee on Justice.
- Liaise with policing bodies, including the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Executive to advance First Nations priorities and issues.
- Advance a national dialogue on policing and integrated solutions for First Nation communities and citizens wherever they reside and re-frame First Nations policing services as “essential services” with a supportive legislative framework.
- Advocate for a more robust community-based justice framework and increased resources for communities with existing programs and new resources for those that would like to develop programs.
- Work with First Nations to develop and implement a statutory framework recognizing First Nations Police Services as essential services with equitable funding and capacity supports.
- Support First Nations in the development and implementation of community safety and security action plans to ensure that all First Nations people – women, men, girls, boys, two-spirit and transgender people and others – are free from violence.
- Support the development and implementation of restorative First Nation justice systems and implement actions to end over-representation of First Nations people in the criminal justice and correctional systems.
- Press to repeal the *Safe Communities Act* and imposition of mandatory sentencing.
- Press to repeal *Bill C-51* and ensure that security and policing legislation and operations respect and uphold First Nations' rights to expression, assembly and association.

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- Work to ensure recognition of the inherent rights of First Nations as well as financial and capacity support for First Nations in the development and implementation of First Nations laws and jurisdiction pertaining to their citizens, communities, and territories.
- Urge the Crown to ensure First Nations are full partners from the earliest stages in all decisions that have the potential to impact First Nations – law, policy, administration and procedure.

#### Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

- Engage in a collaborative process to develop, with First Nations, a National Action Plan to address the root causes of violence experienced by First Nations women and girls.
- Work to ensure the Crown establishes an inclusive and comprehensive National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls with full involvement of Indigenous organizations, communities and families.
- Lead efforts to secure a national public inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women and girls and a national action plan to end violence; and integrate a human rights analysis as appropriate in AFN's work.

#### Women's Council

- Reaffirm the strong support for the on-going role of the Women's Council in the Assembly of First Nations.
- Liaise with the Women's Council between Executive Committee meetings.
- Work in partnership with the Women's Council Chair to ensure progress toward fulfilling their mandate.
- Assist the Women's Council, at the invitation of the Chair, to ensure their voice is heard on the inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Ensure, with participation of the Council, that adequate financial resources exist to support their mandated activities.

#### Management Committee

- Assist in the oversight of all financial and human resources activities of the AFN.
- Offer recommendations, with the management team, to modernize AFN governance practices.
- Identify own source revenue opportunities to offset declining federal revenue.
- Provide advice on addressing the AFN deficit.

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The Chief Executive Officer of the AFN Secretariat is the principal source of support for Portfolio holders in fulfilling their collective and individual responsibilities. The CEO is responsible for effectively managing the Secretariat, as well as carrying out responsibilities delegated by the Portfolio holder. The greatest benefit will derive to the AFN if the Regional Chief and CEO conduct their work with a high level of consultation and cooperation. While the Portfolio holder has many responsibilities, he or she is ultimately accountable to the Chiefs in Assembly through the National Chief. You are expected to uphold the duly approved policies of AFN and provide support to the National Chief in a way that is consistent with the agenda and direction of AFN as a whole.

I am looking forward to working with you to achieve meaningful progress for First Nations in your portfolio area and in all that we take on collectively.

Sincerely,



Perry Bellegarde  
National Chief

# BCAFN STAFF



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **AFN NATIONAL HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE FORUM**

November 1 – 3, 2016  
Winnipeg, MB

## **AFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**

December 6 – 8, 2016  
Gatineau, QC

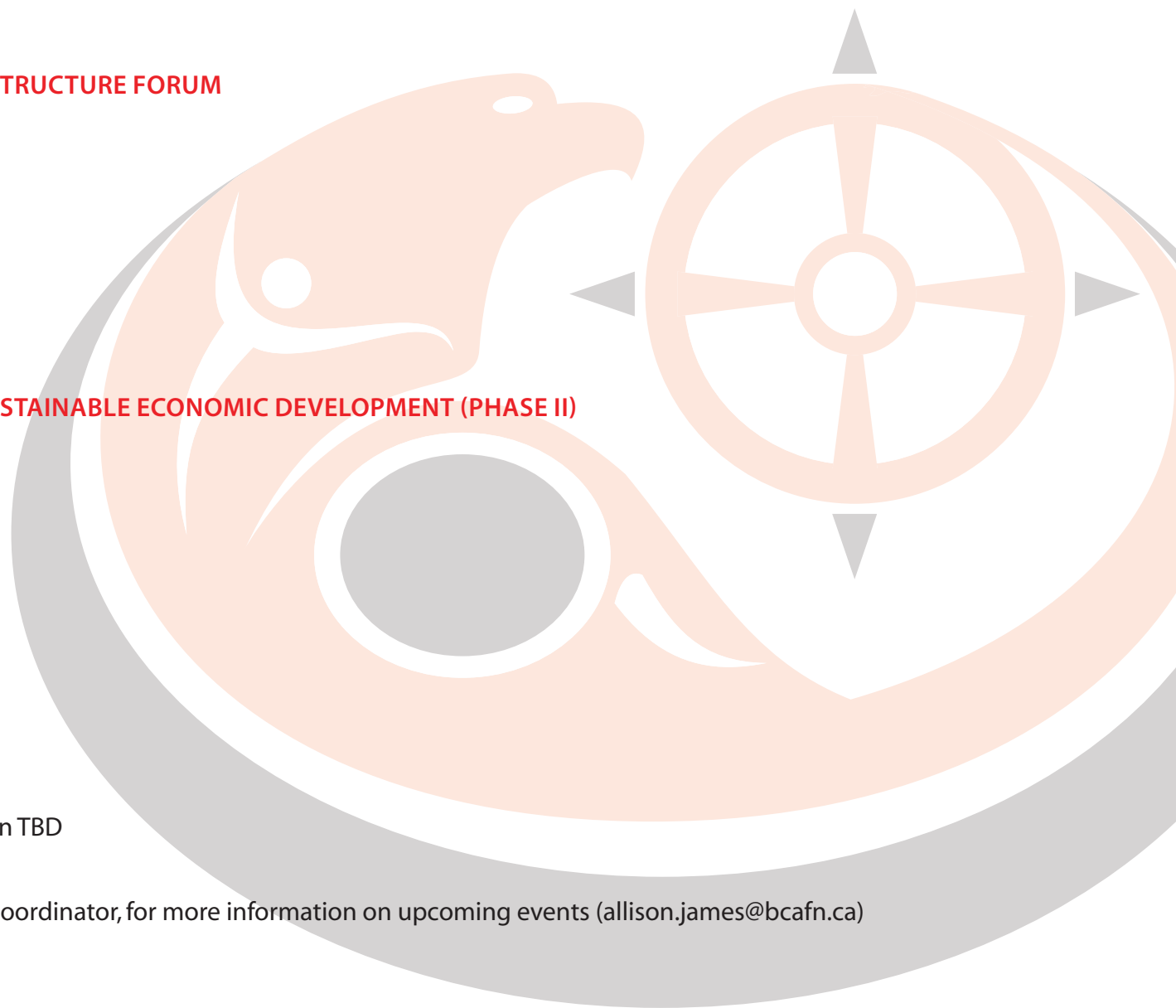
## **BCAFN REGIONAL SESSIONS ON SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PHASE II)**

January 9, 2017 – Cranbrook  
January 23, 2017 – Tsawwassen  
January 25, 2017 – Fort St. John  
January 30, 2017 – Moricetown  
February 3, 2017 – Williams Lake  
February 6, 2017 – Osoyoos  
February 9, 2017 – Haida Gwaii  
February 14, 2017 – Duncan

## **BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**

February 27 – March 1, 2017 – Location TBD

Please contact Allison James, Events Coordinator, for more information on upcoming events ([allison.james@bcafn.ca](mailto:allison.james@bcafn.ca))







BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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