

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



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November 25th, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Prime Minister's Office
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3
Via email: pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable David Lametti
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
mcu@justice.gc.ca

RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Lametti,

I am writing with respect to BC Assembly of First Nations Resolution 21a/2019, "Implementation of Recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls," which was presented, affirmed and endorsed by consensus at the BC Assembly of First Nations 16th Annual General Assembly on September 18th-20th, 2019 (enclosed).

The National Inquiry's report and Calls for Justice were received by your government on June 3, 2019. The Calls for Justice require immediate attention and dedicated resources to ensure an end to this national tragedy of ongoing genocide.

The rights, the well-being and the safety and security of First Nations women and girls have been threatened and violated for far too long. First Nations women and girls must be restored to a place of honour and respect in every part of Canada (Honouring Promises, 2019).

The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports the immediate implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, as well as the recommendations coming directly from Indigenous, front-line, grassroots, and women's organizations, and particularly the recommendations from *Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*.

The implementation of these recommendations must include the full and meaningful implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, including

#honouringourancestors



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recognition of Indigenous peoples' inherent Title and Rights, and the restoration of collective Indigenous women's rights and governance.

The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and committed to implement, and which the government of BC has proposed to implement through *Bill 41*, affirms:

Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirms that a "comprehensive national-level integrated action plan to eliminate violence against Indigenous women, girls, trans and two spirit people must address all the socio-economic factors impacting Indigenous women's, girls', trans and two-spirit's safety including equitable access and self-determination over land, culture, language, housing, child care, income security, employment, education, and physical, mental, sexual and spiritual health," as called for in *Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*, and must be accompanied by an appropriate budget and resources.

The government failed to make a fulsome response to the National Inquiry Report and the Calls for Justice. Now, given your government's renewed mandate and existing commitments, we call on you to honour your promise to implement the Calls for Justice. I acknowledge the work undertaken thus far to respond to the National Inquiry's interim report, and I urge you to work in partnership with Indigenous, front-line, grassroots, and women's organizations, families, and survivors for the full and immediate development of the national action plan and implementation of the Calls for Justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is positioned above the printed name.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee

cc: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs





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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Musqueam Community Centre, Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Vancouver, BC
September 18-20, 2019

Resolution 21(a)/2019

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

WHEREAS:

- A. There is a responsibility by all to redress the systemic racism and to eliminate the gendered colonial violence perpetrated against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQIA) people within Canada;
- B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC committed to implement, affirms:

Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 19th day of September, 2019, at the Musqueam Community Centre, Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Vancouver, BC

A blue ink signature, likely of Terry Teegee, is written over a horizontal line.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

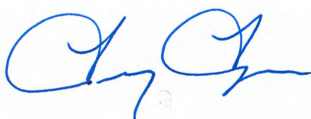
Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination;

- C. The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) has worked with like-minded organizations to action and bring attention to the critical and devastating issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, and has been mandated by the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly to continue this work via Resolutions 2008-34, 2017-10h, 2018-01, 2018-03d, 2018-16, and 2019-07g.
- D. A National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (“the National Inquiry”) was launched September 1, 2016, with a Terms of Reference to inquire into and report on systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada, and to report by April 30, 2019. The Inquiry held Part I – Family, Part II – Institutional, and Part III – Expert Hearings, led by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller, and released its final report on June 3, 2019, in Gatineau, QC;
- E. the final report of the National Inquiry included 231 Calls for Justice, which “represent important ways to end the genocide and to transform systemic and societal values that have worked to maintain colonial violence.” The first Call for Justice states “We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous governments (hereinafter “all governments”), in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people”;
- F. the National Inquiry found that Indigenous women are twelve times more likely to be murdered or to go missing than members of any other demographic group in Canada, and found that the deaths and disappearances constitute genocide, which Indigenous peoples and their allies have known and said for decades; and
- G. Indigenous, front-line, grassroots, and women’s organizations participated in the movement created by the National Inquiry by producing their own submissions, and reports, which notably included the seminal report prepared by the Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre titled Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, including 200 recommendations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports the immediate implementation of the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (“the

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

National Inquiry”) and also the recommendations coming directly from Indigenous, front-line, grassroots, and women’s organizations, and particularly the recommendations from Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside;

2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly recognizes that the implementation of these recommendations must include the full and meaningful implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, including recognition of Indigenous peoples’ inherent Title and Rights, and the restoration of collective Indigenous women’s rights and governance;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supports the call for a “comprehensive national-level integrated action plan to eliminate violence against Indigenous women, girls, trans and two spirit people must address all the socio-economic factors impacting Indigenous women’s, girls’, trans and two-spirit’s safety including equitable access and self-determination over land, culture, language, housing, child care, income security, employment, education, and physical, mental, sexual and spiritual health,” as called for in Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, along with an appropriate budget and resources, before the fall 2019 federal election; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and staff to work with Indigenous, front-line, grassroots, and women’s organizations, and other like-minded organizations to advocate for the full and immediate, Indigenous-women led implementation of these recommendations.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief