

PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION

Between

THE FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

(BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS, FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT, UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS)

And

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S OFFICE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

Collectively referred to as "the Parties"

WHEREAS

- A. The First Nations Leadership Council ("the FNLC") is comprised of the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. The FNLC works together to secure the mandates to politically represent the interests of First Nations in British Columbia and develop strategies and actions to empower First Nations to bring about significant and substantive changes to government policy that will benefit all First Nations in British Columbia.
- B. The Human Rights Commissioner ("the Commissioner") is an independent officer of the provincial legislature. The Commissioner works to promote and protect human rights, upholding the dignity of people in British Columbia and addressing the root causes of discrimination and inequality.
- C. The Parties have common interests in achieving justice and upholding the rights of First Nations in British Columbia.
- D. The Parties share a common belief that cooperative working relationships and effective communications can contribute directly to the well-being of communities by facilitating collaborative action in key areas such as education, research, policy development, and advocacy.

THEREFORE, the Parties have reached the following understanding:

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 This Protocol sets out a mutual commitment of the Parties to engage in ongoing joint dialogue and action on a broad range of issues and initiatives to promote Indigenous human rights, uphold the dignity of Indigenous peoples, and address the root causes of discrimination and inequality experienced by Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.

2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 The following principles pertain to this Protocol and the actions arising from this Protocol:

- a) Recognition of Aboriginal title and rights, treaty rights, and human rights;
- b) Mutual respect for each Party's mandate, policies, and perspectives; and
- c) Cooperation and collaboration in projects and initiatives of mutual interest, as agreed.

2.2 The Parties agree to implement this Protocol based on the principled framework set out in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and other reports and instruments including, but not limited to, the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and, the *American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Parties are committed to joint advocacy efforts on key issues including, but not limited to:

- a) raising awareness of Indigenous human rights in British Columbia;
- b) supporting the implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (BC);
- c) implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;
- d) implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action;
- e) collaborating on public policy issues of mutual interest or concern; and
- f) building a strong, effective and collaborative relationship.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The Parties agree to hold meetings at a minimum of twice annually to:

- a) identify priorities and establish a shared and focused agenda; and
- b) monitor progress under this Protocol and discuss any issues related to its effective implementation.

4.2 The Parties may include technical or other representatives in their meetings to support their discussions and joint work and may direct their technical representatives to carry out work between meetings.

4.3 Subject to the Commissioner's duties to maintain confidentiality and privacy under the Human Rights Code and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Commissioner will share information with the FNLC that the Commissioner has access to in support of joint efforts and FNLC goals. FNLC will share information as appropriate with the Commissioner that FNLC has access to in support of this Protocol.

4.4 The Parties agree to provide advance notice, whenever possible, on actions and communications that may have significant implications for the objectives of this Protocol.

4.5 The FNLC agrees to provide advice on how to best ensure that First Nations are meaningfully engaged in the ongoing work of the Commissioner.

5.0 TERM & REVIEW

5.1 This Protocol takes effect from the date it is signed by the Parties.

5.2 The Parties may agree to amend or terminate this Protocol at any time.

5.3 The Parties will review the effectiveness of this Protocol and identify opportunities for its improvement within two years of it taking effect.

In witness thereof, the Parties have executed this Protocol on Cooperation and Communication on this 28th day of January, 2021.

On behalf of BRITISH COLUMBIA'S OFFICE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER:



Kasari Govender
British Columbia's Human Rights Commissioner

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



Terry Teegee
Regional Chief

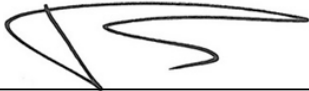
On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



Cheryl Casimer
Political Executive Member



Lydia Hwitsum
Political Executive Member



Robert Phillips
Political Executive Member

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President



Chief Don Tom
Vice President



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer