British Columbia Assembly of First Nations



Annual Report 2018 2019





BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Message from The	National Chief	1
Message from The	Regional Chief	2

ACTIVITY

BCAFN A	Activity	3	-	Ć
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GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors	8 - 9
BCAFN Representatives	10 - 13
BCAFN Chief of Staff	14
BCAFN Staff	15 - 19

DEVELOPMENT

BCAFN Vision & Mission	20
AFN About	20

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report Breakdown	23
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MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHIEF

Greetings to all Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Elders, Youth and participants!

Thank you for the opportunity to pass along my best wishes and express appreciation for all the hard work and leadership that First Nations in British Columbia have shown over the past year. I am grateful to Regional Chief Terry Teegee and the BCAFN team for all their advice and support as the Assembly of First Nations advocated for much needed change and positive movement.

This past year has been momentous, with Climate Change and its environmental impacts becoming the number one challenge to our lands and lifestyles. However, we've also seen some positive momentum. The passing of the Indigenous Language Act and the Indigenous Child Welfare Act can be celebrated as a step toward equality for our Nations, families, and young people. These two Acts are crucial to the rebuilding of our Nations. I can think of no better way to celebrate 2019, as the UN's Year of Indigenous Languages, than the passing of the Indigenous Language Act.

I want to acknowledge all the First Nations who, through their resiliency and determination, are working towards rebuilding their communities and nations for their future generations. We must ensure, as we set out on another 150 years with our Canadian neighbours, that First Nations' rights, title and jurisdiction are respected and implemented. British Columbia First Nations continue to be leaders when it comes to Nation Building and addressing the challenges facing them.

With the federal election coming up on October 21st, Canada will know that First Nations' priorities are Canada's priorities. I will be urging all parties, leaders, and candidates to engage and listen to First Nation concerns and issues using the "Honouring Promises" document the AFN developed for the election. I will continue to work closely with Regional Chief Teegee and the BCAFN to engage in constructive advocacy and action.

I thank all of you for your hard work in moving First Nations peoples and priorities forward. I am always amazed by the positive and effective efforts of the First Nations within British Columbia and look forward to meeting with you in the year ahead.

National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations



MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL CHIEF

Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Elders, Youths, First Nation members and honoured guests,

As the Regional Chief for the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and on behalf of the BCAFN Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to provide you with this annual report containing updates on our work and the financial report for this past year. The BC region includes over 200 First Nations, some with historic and modern treaties, some with innovative arrangements to manage their lands and resources; all First Nations in BC seek to exercise their authority and jurisdictions in all areas from languages, lands and resources, taxation, decision-making and cultural rejuvenation. It is for this reason the BCAFN exists: to support and advocate for the implementation of First Nations Aboriginal Title, rights and treaty rights through exercise of their inherent laws and jurisdiction. I have committed myself to work tirelessly for First Nations in BC and I have prioritized four areas of my mandate including: Establish Relationships and Communications; Education - Securing our Future Generations; Economic Development; and, Children and Families Matters.

We have been connecting with the Chiefs in BC during our Annual General Assembly, Special Chiefs Assemblies and various other meetings to discuss a wide range of issues of importance to First Nations in BC. The BCAFN has been working strategically with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit, as the First Nations Leadership Council to press the provincial and federal government to improve their laws for languages (Bill C-91), environmental assessments (Bill C-69, Bill 51), fisheries (Bill C-68), indigenous child welfare (Bill C-92), implementation of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Bill C-262), and others. Some of these have been approved through Crown processes, and we did not get everything we wanted, but we believe we have moved the dial with respect to changing a number of Crown laws to better address First Nations interests and concerns. We must continue to advocate and advance for full implementation of First Nations inherent and Aboriginal Title, rights, and treaty rights.

As Regional Chief I hold the National Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) portfolios for economic development (Chair of AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development), fisheries (Lead for Pacific region of the AFN National Fisheries Committee, alongside Regional Chief Roger Augustine), justice (alongside



Regional Chief Ghislain Picard), labour market/human resource development (Chair of AFN Chiefs Committee on Human Resource Development), cannabis (Chair of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Cannabis), and skills/training (Chair of AFN Indigenous Skills, Employment and Training). We continue to improve and work on our communication to First Nations in supporting their efforts to secure new arrangements, protect their Title, rights and interests. Forging the path to reconciliation is a priority now and we will continue to make progress to advocate and support the implementation of First Nations inherent Aboriginal Title, rights and treaty rights.

Maintaining the economic and political status quo is not an option. Although First Nations have over 276 legal victories, the judicial "duty to consult, accommodate and obtain consent" is not creating legal certainty for anyone. Relying on the courts for legal certainty is like relying on pharmaceuticals for good health. Both are reactive and symptomatic and have no foresight. It is also a burden tying up financial and human resources that can be better used to advance similar interests to generate wealth together.

The past two years serving as the BC Regional Chief have been challenging and satisfying as, together with many of our Nations' leaders, we have made political, economic and social justice progress on many fronts. Over the next year, I look forward to building stronger relationships with our Nations' leadership and members and we will continue to bring forward BC First Nations' values and voices as we forge a healthy and prosperous future for everyone.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee, BCAFN

Regional Chief Teegee is from Takla Lake First Nation, a member of the Lax Gibuu clan, and carries the hereditary name of Maxweeum Tsimghee. He has been married for 13 years to Rena Zatorski, and they have two children, daughter Rylie and son Rowan. Together they live on the Lheidli T'enneh reserve, located 22 kilometres from the city of Prince George.

BCAFN ACTIVITY

NATIONAL PORTFOLIO

Fisheries

As Co-chair of the National Fisheries Committee, there has been work underway to develop a secretariat regarding the implementation of Supreme Court of Canada decisions as they relate to our fishing rights.

Six resolutions were recently passed at the AFN Annual General Assembly in Fredericton in July including:

- 07/2019: First Nations Oceans Priorities at the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- 08/2019: Species at Risk and Aquatic Species;
- 09/2019: International Year of the Salmon;
- 10/2019: Rebuilding Fish Nations: Advancing a First Nations Fisheries Reconciliation Strategy;
- 11/2019: Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Fisheries;
- 12/2019: The Ocean Supercluster.

We are monitoring the Big Bar Rockslide and the impacts to migrating salmon up the Fraser River. Extensive work has been done to assist migrating salmon with multiple movement strategies being implemented. Progress is being made as more and more salmon make their way north.

We are deeply concerned about impacts of climate change and mounting challenges for dwindling salmon populations. We continue to work with our partners in advocating and advancing our collective Aboriginal Rights and Title as it relates to fisheries.

NATIONAL PORTFOLIO

Justice

The national AFN Justice Portfolio is shared between the BC Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Quebec Regional Chief Ghislain Picard. Together, they continue to advocate and promote for fundamental change in the Canadian Judicial system. BC is fortunate to have a First Nations Justice Council (FNJC), with the mandate to represent and advocate on behalf of First Nations in the province for structural transformation of the BC Judicial System.

The FNJC recently brought together First Nations leaders, First Nations organizations, practitioners, and subject matter experts with an in-depth understanding of Indigenous justice issues to discuss opportunities for transformative change. They will be sharing insights they have gathered from BC First Nations leaders and community for the purpose of the provincial Indigenous Justice Strategy development.

We were pleased to provide a number of important submissions to the Provincial Government as it relates to advocacy regarding:

- The overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the Criminal Justice System;
- The promotion of Unbiased policing and associated principles;
- The Review of the Police Complaints Process.

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry presented its report and **231** Calls for Justice on June 3, after two years of hearings and evidence gathering. The final report speaks to what many of us already know as lived realities. Now is a time for action, and to hold governments to account and to ensure the Calls to Justice are acted upon and implemented.



Activity Update

NATIONAL PORTFOLIO

Economic Development

Under the National Portfolio, the Regional Chief has been involved in a number of discussions, negotiations and initiatives including the new "North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)." The Assembly of First Nations were involved in negotiations, which resulted in the inclusion of protections and beneficial provisions for Indigenous peoples. However, there is no Indigenous chapter or mention of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, as proposed by Canada. The impact of the new NAFTA depends on this future implementation.

In addition, furthering trade relations, promoting opportunity for First Nations, and building capacity are top priorities, and through efforts such as establishing a First Nation's advisory committee to work with Global Affairs Canada, and proposing procurement legislation that carves out space for First Nation's businesses. Indigenous Skills and Training Services (ISETS), previously ASETS, is a new file created by the Assembly of First Nations.

Provincially, there have been two key deliverables that have seen some exciting developments recently. First, the *BCAFN Business Forum 2019* was held on February 19th and 20th in Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George and was well attended with a total of 120-130 people attending the event. Panels and experts presented their insights on a range of topics from trade, and entrepreneurship to accessing capital and financing. There was a strong emphasis on the work of women and youth in the world business.

Second, the *BCAFN Economic Development Toolkit*, or *BlackBooks* were also brought to regional sessions throughout the province during the Fall/Winter of 2018. Incorporating productive feedback, this Toolkit was revised into a final version and released. We look forward to presenting this to our communities as a tool to support the tremendous work taking place across the province in First Nations business and economic development.

NATIONAL PORTFOLIO

Cannabis

As the Chair of the AFN's Chiefs Committee on Cannabis we are working in three priority areas - Jurisdiction, Licensing, and Legal Implications. To facilitate greater dialogue, policy discussions, planning and capacity considerations, as result of the Cannabis Act, we have:

- developed a literature review of Medical Cannabis,
- conducted an environmental scan of Cannabis Legislation across Canada,
- completed preliminary research on economic and jurisdictional aspects of cannabis,
- developed AFN Excise Tax Committee, and
- held preliminary discussions with NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee on adding medical cannabis to the formulary.

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Cannabis held its inaugural meeting on September 4. The AFN National Cannabis Summit was held on September 4 & 5 in Vancouver to further discuss how First Nations rights and interests can be implemented in relation to non-medical cannabis. Additional initiatives include meeting of NCO with Minister of Health and Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction; distribution of cannabis infographics and informational materials; and a final report to Health Canada.

BCAFN continues to support the participation of the FNLC on the Joint Cannabis Working Group with the Provincial Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat. On March 27, 2019 the FNLC hosted the first BC First Nations Cannabis Forum to discuss and share information on jurisdiction and law, health and social impacts, and economic development opportunities in the cannabis sector. Based on this work the FNLC and community representatives on the Working Group will be advancing a work plan with the Province, with some of the first priorities being aimed at enhancing First Nations participation in the economic market and supporting First Nations in promoting health, safety, and awareness in their communities. The FNLC is also working to elevate and advance regional and national conversations with regard to jurisdiction.

PRIORITY AREA

Shared Territories and Overlaps

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), First Nations Summit (FNS), and BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), have initiated planning to convene a three-day province-wide All Chiefs' Forum for First Nation leaders to come together for a solutions-oriented, strategic dialogue on shared territories and overlaps. At recent meetings of the FNS, UBCIC and BCAFN, First Nations leaders have passed a number of resolutions that mandate the organizations to explore constructive approaches to addressing boundary, overlap and shared territory issues. This dialogue will

build upon existing principles and recommendations that came from All Chiefs' Forums in 2008 and 2014, as well as the May 2019 UBCIC Symposium: Implementing our Title and Rights - Upholding Self-Determination through Nation-to-Nation, Consent-Based Negotiations and Agreement-Making by providing an opportunity to discuss, evaluate, and recommend options for the resolution of boundary, overlaps and shared territory issues. The BCAFN held a preliminary discussion on this topic in preparation for the forum at the BCAFN AGM September 18-20, 2019.

PRIORITY AREA

Climate Emergency

First Nations are leaders demonstrating how to respond to the rest of the world, using our knowledge passed down through many generations. There are a number of successful examples throughout BC of First Nations working hard to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and developing and implementing adaptation actions to prepare for a warming climate.

In recognition of the climate crisis, the BCAFN passed Resolution no. 04/2019: Climate Emergency and Support for the Development of a BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy (March 2019). The resolution mandates the BCAFN to work with the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to:

- Develop a Just Transition Plan/First Nations Climate Change Strategy.
- Host a First Nations-led climate action session.
- Advocate that future provincial and federal climate change plans must be developed in conjunction with Indigenous peoples and recognize and respect First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected Title, rights and Treaty Rights.

The resolution also supports BCAFN's participation in ongoing engagement on climate change with the Government of Canada, and the Province.

The climate emergency is a priority for BCAFN and for Regional Chief Terry Teegee. For this reason, we are actively working to accomplish the climate change mandate as directed by the Chiefsin-Assembly, while advocating for the recognition of our inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights.

Ongoing activities led by the BCAFN/FNLC include:

- Delivery of an online climate change survey to all First Nations in BC, which seeks input from leadership, Elders, youth and technical staff to inform the First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (the "Strategy"). The survey is available online (on "SurveyMonkey") until the end of September 2019. The analysis will be available in October 2019.
- Development of a Climate Change Proposal (the "Proposal").
 We are currently seeking funding to support the development of the Strategy and a First Nation led climate change session.

PRIORITY AREA

Women's Wellbeing and Leadership

The BCAFN's Women's Representative and Councillor for Heiltsuk Nation, Louisa Housty-Jones, recently participated in the 2019 Women Deliver Conference and a reception in Victoria regarding that National Inquiry into MMIWG. The BCAFN continues to work with like-minded organizations to advance the wellbeing and leadership of First Nations women and girls and engages on the Coalition on MMIWG. The Regional Chief and BCAFN Elder Representative, Dr. Gwendolyn Point also released statements in support of the implementation of Bill S-3, An Act to amend the

The Proposal will be submitted to the Provincial and Federal governments. The Strategy, informed by First Nation priorities and knowledge, will guide climate emergency response and communicate to partners about our priority areas.

• Engagement with CLEANBC. In December 2018, BC released CleanBC, a plan for a new low-carbon economy. However, CleanBC was developed without the meaningful involvement of Indigenous communities or representative organizations. More recently, staff from the province and FNLC opened a dialogue to establish a BC - FNLC Technical Working Group. A proposal and Terms of Reference for this Working Group has been drafted. Financial support from the province is required if this initiative is going to proceed.

Ongoing activities led by the BCAFN:

- Connect with every First Nation in BC because we believe that this important global issue will only be advanced through collective collaboration amongst First Nations. In this regard, a Climate Change Distribution List (CCDL) has been created to facilitate information to First Nations and also to receive information from First Nations to help us shape the activities that will accomplish our mandate. If you are interested in being added to the Distribution List, then please contact BCAFN's Regional Climate Change Coordinator Patricia Rojas (250-859-1511 or Patricia.Rojas@bcafn.ca).
- Facilitate information sharing through BCAFN briefing notes which summarize and analyze important developments internationally, nationally and provincially on climate change. Four briefing notes were delivered in July and more are on the way. We will also be convening climate change webinars, which will be announced shortly.
- Integrate climate change into the BCAFN's economic development portfolio, given the economic opportunities arising from emissions reduction efforts and climate change adaptation.
- At the National Level, we continue to liaise with other Regions in Canada through the AFN National Office, and the AFN's Regional Climate Change Coordinators Network and the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE). Regular meetings will continue through 2020. The following resolution was passed at the AFN Annual General Assembly in Fredericton in July - 06/2019: Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency.

Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in Descheneaux v. Canada, and the removal of discrimination against First Nations women from the Indian Act. Going forward, BCAFN will be holding another Women's Dialogue Session for women and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals in leadership to come together on January 24, 2020, build upon the Women's Declaration that was endorsed at BCAFN's first Dialogue Session in 2017, and engage in supportive and equipping activities.

Activity Update

PRIORITY AREA

First Nations Children and Families

Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019, National Indigenous Peoples Day. This legislation affirms the inherent jurisdiction over children and families held by First Nations and is a critical step in addressing the humanitarian crisis that exists surrounding Indigenous child welfare. The devastating impacts of separating children from their families, communities and cultures will be diminished as Indigenous children's best interests will be prioritized under the jurisdiction of their own communities. Keeping children connected to their families and to their culture will work to make Indigenous communities and Nations stronger and healthier.

Sustained collaboration respecting First Nations child and family well-being is intended to support the mutual goal of improving outcomes for First Nations children and families. With commitment from the federal and provincial governments, the established Tripartite Working Group will work towards this goal by:

- Supporting improved relations and engagement between First Nations, the Province and Canada 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 has established and supported a Reconciliation Charter, Terms of Reference and a work plan which outlines short, medium, and long-term objectives. A number of current priorities include development of a political accord with MCFD which will set a pathway for implementation which supports rights and title holders, and ensuring provincial alignment and negotiations regarding funding models.

We will continue to work and advance our interests in this area. On October 9 & 10, 2019 the FNLC will be hosting an All Chiefs Meeting on Children and Families to bring together leadership to discuss Bill C-92, its implications for First Nations in BC and to hear directly from Nations who have begun this work.

PRIORITY AREA

Language and Culture

Regional Chief Terry Teegee was happy to attend and provide a keynote speech at HELISET TTE SKÁL - Let the Languages Live (June 24 – 26th) international conference for Indigenous people celebrating the UNESCO 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages. This designation and celebration recognizes the significance of Indigenous languages to matters of sustainable development, peace building and reconciliation. At this conference National Chief Perry Bellegarde highlighted the success that the AFN and many other Indigenous language supporters across the country achieved with the recent passing of Bill C-91, An Act respecting Indigenous languages, which will establish an Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous languages, and facilitate collaboration between federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments to deliver supports for Indigenous languages.

First Peoples' Cultural Council hosted attendees from around the globe to share knowledge and support each other in revitalizing our languages. Indigenous language experts and advocates from New Zealand, Germany, Norway, the United States, and many other places met to share their knowledge and learn by hearing and telling stories about keeping their languages thriving. Multiple collaborative working sessions and story-telling topics included local BC language advocates Kukpi Ron Ignace and Dr. Marianne Ignace, Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams, Dr. Onowa McIvor, Dr. Lolehawk Laura Buker, Elizabeth Phillips, Willow Mussell, Kai Thompson, and Elder Siyamiyateliyot.

In March 2019, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the Regional Chief, through Resolution 03/2019, to call on the Government of BC to co-develop and implement legislation to support the revitalization and protection for Indigenous languages in BC. Staff are currently working on developing the concept of this Provincial legislation.





BC First Nations **Business Forum**

Friday October 11, 2019

Westin Bayshore 1601 Bayshore Drive, Vancouver

Go to bcafn.ca to REGISTER

For more information call 1-877-621-1603 or contact derek.hansom@bcafn.ca



6th Annual BC Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering



November 5 & 6, 2019
Reception November 4, evening

Vancouver Convention Centre West







BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHARLES MORVEN

Chief Coucillor

Chief Charles Morven is the elected Chief Councillor of the Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw. He was elected to the BCAFN Board of Directors on October 12, 2017. Charles is a member of the Nisga'a Nation and belongs to Wilps Axdii Wil Luugooda and Ksim Xsaan. He currently holds the Nisga'a name, Daaxheet. Chief Councillor Morven originates from the community of Gitlaxt'aamiks and is currently serving as the Chief Councillor on the Gitwinksihlkw Village Government. Charles holds the responsibility for Economic Development and Finance to the Village Government. He also has responsibilities to Nisga'a Lisims Government where he sits on the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and where he chairs the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Committee.



WILLIE BLACKWATER

Chief

Simo'oogit (Chief) Djiiwuus (Willie Blackwater) originates from the Gitxsan Nation in British Columbia. His authentic home community is Kispiox First Nation and he is a registered member and Elected Chief Councillor of the Gitsegukla First Nation. He is the wing Chief next to Sim'ogit (Hereditary Chief) Tsa Bux; Wilp'sTsa Bux is one of many Lax'gibuu (Wolf Clans) within Gitxsan First Nation.



REBECCA DAVID

Chief

Chief David was elected Chief of Pauquachin First Nation in October 2014 at the age of 33, with a vision of applying her experience and education in the hope of improving the quality of life of Pauquachin First Nation members.



MARILYN SLETT

Chief

Marilyn Slett is a member of the Heilsuk Nation and is serving her ninth year as elected chief councillor. Marilyn has also served two consecutive terms as an elected tribal councillor and is a former executive director of the Heilsuk Tribal Council. She has completed the certificate in administration of indigenous governments and diploma in public sector management with the University of Victoria. Her regional representation currently includes: President of the Coastal First Nations/Great Bear Initiative and, BCAFN's Women's Representative on the AFN's Women's Council.



HARVEY MCLEOD

Chief

Chief Harvey McLeod is the elected chief of the Upper Nicola Band. He was elected to the BCAFN Board of Directors on October 12, 2017. Chief McLeod was first elected to Upper Nicola Band council in 1982. He was elected Chief in March of 2014 and re-elected in 2017.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

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

The BCAFN Board of Directors are pleased to present the Annual Report for the fiscal year of 2018-2019 to the 16th Annual General Meeting and to the Chiefs in Assembly. We continue to carry out the resolutions and mandates provided by the Chiefs in Assembly from our prior Annual General Meetings and Special Chiefs Assemblies, in coordination with the Regional Chief's mandate, while foundationally upholding the vision and mission of our organization.

The past year has been one of exciting opportunities and legislative changes that will provide lasting effects to our First Nations communities now and into the future. As we continue to uphold our Aboriginal Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights through collective advocacy and strategic efforts, we support the work of Regional Chief Terry Teegee along with his policy staff in their continued efforts to ensure that the assertion of rights, title and jurisdiction are paramount and in the forefront of all engagements.

The work of BCAFN continues to be guided by the tenets of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. Utilizing those foundational principles in our engagement and negotiations, work continues in the areas of children and families, women's wellbeing and leadership, language and culture, justice, economic development, cannabis, emergency management, environmental assessment, climate change, fisheries, and shared territories and overlaps.

Moving forward, in correlation and coordination with our resolutions and mandates from First Nations in BC, the Board of Directors are committed to continuing to work with our partner organizations, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit, collectively as the First Nations Leadership Council in advancing our shared objectives and commitments as well as supporting our member First Nations in the assertion of their rights and title.

The Board of Directors have been working within the revised BCAFN Constitution and Bylaws and Governance Manual that was approved and adopted at our last AGM. Work has also been completed through external engagements that will strengthen our assemblies and provide for a safe space for our leadership to discuss, debate, and work towards our common goals.

Thank you to the Chiefs in Assembly for providing us the opportunity to work on your behalf with the Regional Chief and the staff at BCAFN.

Chief Marilyn Slett, Chief Harvey McLeod, Chief Councillor Charles Morven, Chief Willie Blackwater, and Chief Rebecca David

BCAFN Board of Directors

BCAFN REPRESENTATIVES



DR. GWEN POINT

Elder Representative

Dr. Gwen Point holds a BEd from UBC, an MEd from the University of Portland, a Doctorate in Education from SFU, and an honorary doctorate from UVic. Her connections to our University stretch back decades. She's been a student, a member of the Board of Governors, a faculty member, and an Aboriginal Curriculum Coordinator, to name just a few of her roles. Dr. Point has also held a number of provincial government and regional posts supporting education, child and family services, and First Nations communities. She is a respected Stó:lő leader, mentor, and cultural advisor who has contributed her cultural knowledge and experience to numerous books, conferences, workshops, and communities, and earned many accolades and awards. Her ceremonial experience as BC's Chatelaine for five years will serve her well in this role.

Dr. Point is a well-respected and recognized Stó:lō leader, mentor, and cultural advisor. She has contributed her deep cultural knowledge and experience to numerous books, conferences, workshops and communities, often as an invited keynote contributor.

Dr. Point has received numerous prestigious awards. In 2012, the University of Victoria awarded her an honorary Doctorate in Education. UFV (then UCFV) awarded her the Betty Urquhart Community Service Award in 2003. She has also received the Ambassador Award from Aboriginal Tourism BC, and was recognized as Honorary Witness by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. She has received a number of community awards for her contributions to Stó:lō language and cultural education, including recognition by the Stó:lō Nation, the Seattle Art Museum and others. In 2006, the Chilliwack School District set up two bursaries in her honour.

CHIEF DR. ROBERT JOSEPH, O.B.C.

Elder Representative

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, O.B.C. is a true peace-builder whose life and work are examples of his personal commitment. A Hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation, Chief Joseph has dedicated his life to bridging the differences brought about by intolerance, lack of understanding and racism at home and abroad.

His insights into the destructive impacts these forces can have on peoples' lives, families and cultures were shaped by his experience with the Canadian Indian Residential School system.

As one of the last few speakers of the Kwakwaka'wakw language, Chief Joseph is an eloquent and inspiring Ceremonial House Speaker. He shares his knowledge and wisdom in the Big House and as a Language Speaker with the University of British Columbia, an internationally recognized art curator and as co-author of "Down from the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast".

In 2003, Chief Joseph received an Honorary Doctorate of Law Degree from the University of British Columbia for his distinguished achievements in serving BC and Canada. In 2012, he was presented The Diamond Jubilee Medal by the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. In 2014, he received the Jack P. Blaney Award for Dialogue from Simon Fraser University and an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Vancouver School of Theology for his work in reconciliation and renewing relationships between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians. In 2015, Chief Joseph was presented a Deputy Ministers' Recognition Award for Collaboration and Partnerships and was appointed to the Order of British Columbia, the Province of British Columbia's highest honour. In 2016, Chief Joseph received the Wallenberg-Sugihara Civil Courage Award and the Indspire Lifetime Achievement Award.

BCAFN ELDERS' UPDATE

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

The following highlights meetings and committees I worked with:

The AFN Elders Council held meetings during the AFN Annual General Assembly and the Special Chiefs' Assembly. The Elders were assigned different portfolios. I was assigned Education portfolio and the AFN Elders Term of Reference. This year the AFN Elder's Council held a retreat to update the AFN Elder's Terms of Reference to be adopted this year.

Again, this year I attended meetings for the Chief Committee on Education (CCOE). The CCOE meets a minimum four times a year. The CCOE reviews recommendations made by the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and National Task Teams. I am always impressed with the representatives attending the meetings and the 'tset tsel ey ta yoyes" the very good work done on the national level in all the areas including Post-Secondary, Kindergarten, K4/K5, and Language to name a few. I am also impressed with the AFN staff from the Director to the each of the staff who ensure the meetings are well organized to support the regional representatives and the Regional Chief to make decisions.

This year, I attended the First Nation Directors of Education National Forum 2019 on the traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The following explains, "The First Nation Directors of Education National Forum is an event that brings together over 600 First Nation directors of education, educators, administrative government officials, leaders, and those actively engaged in First Nations education cross Canada. The Forum provides a unique opportunity for participants to gather and share perspectives, engage in critical dialogue, network with each other, and build positive and constructive relationships." The forum was well-attended and the sharing, the dialogues, and the networking support First Nation education and educators.

I appreciate the opportunity to witness the good work done both on a provincial and a national level and I wish everyone the very best in the upcoming year.



Governance



ANGELA CHARLIE

Female Youth Representative

Sel Ya:altenot is my traditional, Xwelmexw name and my English name is Angela Charlie. I come from Sts'ailes and Musqueam where Halqemeylem is the traditional language. I was raised in a very respectable, culturally strong, and close-knit family and was groomed to be Xwem Xwem Sqwel Wel, which is to be strong and proud of who you are and where you come from.

I have worked with a diversity of youth in Sts'ailes as a cultural youth advocate and also worked as a youth worker since the age of 16. At the age of 17 I worked for Sto:lo as a A.C.T.T (Aboriginal Career Training Team), team leader. I have also worked as a receptionist at Snowoyelh, which is the child and family services office in Sts'ailes where I assisted in hosting cultural camps such as puberty camps, traditional food preserving and women's and men's healing programs.

In my spare time I enjoy playing soccer, participating in traditional war canoe races and taking part in cultural events.

JOHNNY HANUSE

Male Youth Representative

Johnny Hanuse, is a member of the Klahoose First Nation. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for Qathen Xwegus Management Corporation, which deals specifically with economic development ventures and partnerships that operates within arm's reach of the Klahoose First Nation. He has five years' experience as a communications coordinator where he further developed his interest in writing, research and photography.

Johnny has been a youth worker intermittently since he was 16 years old. In 2014 he completed the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program where he worked at the Ministry of Environments: BC Parks as a project coordinator for nine months. Johnny and his supervisor worked with youth councils to plan youth based events with the initiative to be active and to get outdoors. During the last three months of the internship he went up to Haida Gwaii and worked with the Old Massett Youth Group. They hosted cultural camps and their very own potlatch.

In his spare time Johnny plays acoustic/electric/slide guitar and writes his own songs; skateboards and writes short stories.

LOUISA HOUSTY JONES

Women's Representative

In 2018 Louisa Housty-Jones, a member and Councillor for the Heiltsuk Nation, was elected by the BC Chief's in Assembly as BCAFN's Women's Representative. Louisa plays a key role in supporting BCAFN's mandate with regard to women and in pursuing new avenues of involvement. She also represents BC on the AFN's Council of Women.

Louisa continues to be extensively involved in supporting women and families within her community. Her goal is to build wellness so that women are honoured and empowered in a sustained way. Some initiatives include facilitating the creation of a Haítzaqv women's declaration, organizing her community to participate in the National Inquiry, teaching of cultural practices, and working directly with people and non-profits to meet a range of needs. She is raising daughters and a granddaughter who know their amazing worth, and a son and grandson who honour and respect women and matriarchs.

YOUTH **UPDATE**

In March 2019, the BCAFN hosted a three-day Youth Forum in the traditional territory of the Musqueam First Nation, at the Westin Wall Centre in Richmond, BC. The event brought together over 30 youth, ages 18-29, from across British Columbia to discuss ways for youth to effectively engage with each other while building their individual capacities to take on leadership roles within their communities. The event was facilitated by Zandra Ross with input, guidance, and participation by the BCAFN Youth Representatives, Johnny Hanuse and Angela Charlie over the three-day event.

Regional Chief Terry Teegee opened the conference by sharing his story and then provided an overview of the BCAFN. Next was the keynote speaker, youth role model Trent Seymour. The group then broke into smaller groups to discuss what the Youth needed to be resilient leaders in all four quadrants: physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Zandra Ross then provided a brief workshop on one of the most important tools for leadership professionally and personally - emotional intelligence.

For next steps, the youth identified the importance that the youth leadership continue to meet and learn about the various aspects of contemporary and traditional leadership. The participants also talked a lot about emotional intelligence and wanting to learn more about managing and understanding emotions. Staying connected was also a topic of discussion. One of the tools put forward was a BCAFN Youth Facebook page and section on the BCAFN website. This could include content about how to lead in First Nations communities.

The Youth Representatives both have the opportunity to participate in provincial and national forums that bring the voice of the youth to the table. Last year, Johnny Hanuse was a key component for the planning of the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC) Youth Forum that took place in Squamish at the Cheakmus resort. The basis of the forum was around Reconciliation, but with a spin on the term as the youth were aware that the word can be triggering. It was then called the "R" word. The main question posed to the youth was "How does the "R" word represent me?" as this would allow for self-introspection and connection to the larger concept. Above all, the goal was to bring together as many youth from around the province as possible.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances out of their control, the original planned session for February 2019 had to be postponed due to poor weather. The session was then moved to June 2019 for logistical and financial reasons. As a result of high school and class schedules, retention of staff to attend proved problematic. The UAYC and everyone else was understanding about the decreased participation: "Those that were able to make it, were the ones who were supposed to be here," said the traditional welcome drummer.

The Youth Representatives also had the opportunity to participate in the AFN AGM in Fredericton this past July. Participation was impacted due to flight changes and Youth Representative Johnny Hanuse was unable to participate in the national AFN Youth Council Meeting and subsequent election for new youth co-chairs. Although there were concerns about the level of commitment and participation at national level meetings by BC, Johnny was able to stress the importance of accessing ample funding to support effective engagement and regional representation. Johnny described his personal involvement with funding negotiations with the provincial Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) so that when he is sitting at these tables, he is able to put forth a more accurate voice which is representative of the youth from all regions of BC.



BCAFN CHIEF OF STAFF

Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Elders, Youths, First Nation members and honoured guests,

I am honoured to report to you as the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Chief of Staff. I would like to first acknowledge the leadership of the BCAFN provided by our Regional Chief Terry Teegee, our

Board of Directors, and our Elder/Youth/Women's representatives. Through their guidance, support, and continued focus on finding ways to better the lives of our BC First Nations, BCAFN has continued to move forward in a positive direction. The following report will be a brief review of the work completed over the past year, a reflection of accomplishments, and the identification of a path forward over the next year.

When I last reported to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the BCAFN AGM in 2018, I remarked that our organization was, and has been for a number of years, in a state of transition. Organizational growth and stability have been the focus of our efforts over the past year. Our office infrastructure has strengthened as further developments have occurred in both our Regional Chief/Administrative Office located in the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and our Policy Division Office located in Vancouver. Although the distance between the two offices comes with its own unique issues, internal streamlined strategies have been adopted to further cement and support a strong cohesive BCAFN team.

One of the key initiatives that was undertaken over the past year was an assessment of BCAFN's information management systems. As an organization that has historically seen a high level of change as a result of the transition from one Regional Chief to the next, this has resulted in an information management system that is not as efficient or secured in a manner that promotes maximum benefit to its users. Through this process that was led by an external records and information management consultant, strengths and weaknesses were identified along with a strategic plan on how to improve systems. The underlying goal of this work is to not only improve efficiencies for current leadership and staff, but to develop an information and records management legacy that will support future Regional Chiefs and their administrations.

Another key undertaking that has occurred is the development of a Strategic Communication Plan. The development of this plan was led by an external consultant who engaged the Regional Chief, Board of Directors, and staff in the determination of opportunities for advancement to strengthen both our internal and external communications. Although we are in a time where communication advancements allow for immediate dissemination of information, we need to remain cognizant that many of these advancements are not readily available in all of our First Nations communities. In light of this reality, options have been identified that will

meet the needs and capacity of our member First Nations which include the development and distribution of standard print materials, utilization of online and interactive platforms, and increased contact with leadership through innovative text messaging programming.

In a parallel process to the Strategic Communication Plan, BCAFN is currently revamping our website as this is a key source for information and historical documents pertaining to mandates provided to the BCAFN along with information about specific policy areas. The purpose for the website overhaul is to not only make esthetic changes, although visual changes are always positive, but to also ensure ease of access by the user to all relevant information. This will ensure that our First Nations leadership and communities can keep abreast of issues and the outcomes of meetings and engagements through a medium that is easily accessible.

In moving forward, BCAFN will be reviewing recommendations and strategies to further streamline our operations so that we are in the best positions to serve our First Nations members and leadership to maximum benefit. BC First Nations and the BCAFN are progressing through historic times as many exciting opportunities have presented themselves through positive collaborative relationships with both provincial and federal governments. Significant progress has been made as a result of many legislative changes which places BC First Nations in a position to initiate



Administrative staff: Sam Seymour, Viki Austin, Mel Lyons, Vanessa West & Anne Schroeter

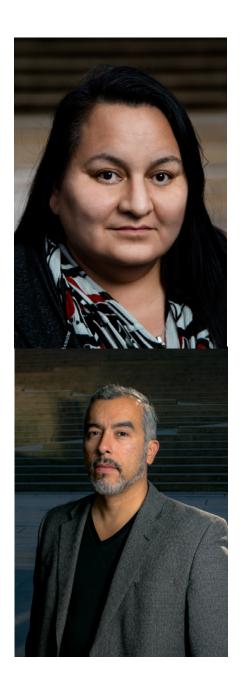
positive change for their communities. Significant progress has been and will continue to be achieved through the guidance of your leadership, through the mandates provided by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, through resolutions passed, and through the voices and stories shared by our people.

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the BCAFN staff. I have had the opportunity to work within First Nation organizations through my entire working career and I can attest that the staff of the BCAFN are some of the hardest working individuals I have had the honour of working with. For them, this is not simply a job but an opportunity to support positive change for our First Nations now and into the future. For all of their hard work, long hours, and dedication, I am thankful.

On behalf of the BCAFN Administrative and Policy Staff, I look forward to continuing our work with our BC First Nations and leadership as we forge a path forward, for the betterment and benefit of our First Nations people through the advancement of our collective rights, title and jurisdiction.

Vanessa West, BCAFN Chief of Staff

BCAFN STAFF



VANESSA WEST

Chief of Staff

Vanessa is a member of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and had served as an elected member of Council from 2001 to 2009 and from 2015-2019. She previously worked as the Treaty Office Manager for the Lheidli T'enneh Treaty Office for nine years from 1998-2007. Prior to taking on the role of Chief of Staff for the BC Assembly of First Nations, she worked with Positive Living North, an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS non-for-profit service organization, transitioning her career from First Nations politics to the social services field. Initially managing the street-level HIV/AIDS/HCV Prevention Program, the Fire Pit Cultural Drop-In Centre in 2007, she then moved into the role of Executive Director, which she held from 2008 to 2018. To expand her knowledge and understanding around addictions and street-involved populations, she began working for the AIDS Prevention Program/Needle Exchange in Prince George from 2008 to 2013 as an after-hours Intake/Support Worker. During this time, Vanessa also volunteered as a Board Member for the Canadian AIDS Society and served two terms with this national organization.

Vanessa is the proud mother of three children, Jordan, Alexandria and John-Michael. She currently lives in her community with her partner of ten years, Randy, and joined the BCAFN team in April 2018.

JAIME SANCHEZ

Special Advisor to the Regional Chief

Jaime has spent over 14 years working with First Nations in BC focused on building capacity, policy and strategic advice, natural resource management and negotiations with the Crown and industry. Some of his accomplishments include establishing a centralized mapping office, providing certified aboriginal land use planning training, co-designed and delivered a First Nations Referrals Officer Program, as well as assisting with multi-million-dollar negotiations for energy projects and reconciliation agreements.

Jaime is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP), and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), having graduated from the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in 2005 with a degree in Environmental Planning, with a focus on First Nations Community Planning.

As a first-generation Canadian living with his two sons in Snuneymuxw territory (Nanaimo), Jaime is passionate and dedicated to being part the reconciliation needed in Canada. His own family was displaced due to the military dictatorship in Chile in the 1970s, which has informed his drive and passion for seeking solutions to conflicts and restitution of historic wrongs.

Governance



MAUREEN BUCHAN

Senior Policy Advisor

An Anishinaabe from Bearskin Lake First Nation in Northern Ontario, Maureen has over 16 years of experience working for First Nations Political Organizations. She has a Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance from the University of Victoria as well as an Advanced Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government from the University of Manitoba.

Maureen was formerly an Associate Faculty Member at the University of Victoria and has worked as a Policy Analyst and Specific Claims researcher for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC). Recently, she was appointed by the BC Attorney General to the Law Foundation of BC Board of Governors. Other experience includes research work for various organizations including the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, and Musqueam Nation. As co-founder of Sparrow-Grant Consulting, Maureen has provided policy, political, and strategic advice for a number of BC First Nations.

A proud mother of two, Maureen currently resides on Musqueam Territory.

MELANIE LYONS

Finance Manager

Melanie is a Certified Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) and a member of Katzie First Nation in Pitt Meadows, BC but grew up on Katzie IR#2 in Langley, BC. Katzie is a part of the linguistic family that is the known as the downriver dialect of Halkomelem, the language shared by the peoples residing on the rivers and shores of the Salish Sea. **'qíca'y** means "the land of the moss," and is also the name of the village site on the Fraser River near the present day community of Port Hammond.

Melanie has worked with Alberta First Nations in an audit role and as a Financial Controller. Melanie has also worked with many First Nations throughout B.C. and across Canada in her previous role with the First Nations Financial Management Board. Melanie currently lives in Prince George, B.C. and joined the BCAFN team in May 2018.

DEREK HANSOM

Economic Development Policy Analyst

Derek has spent the last twenty years working for non-profit Aboriginal organizations. Six years of this time was dedicated to engaging Aboriginal people and communities to restructure child and family services. listening to experiences and opinions to transform the way these services could be provided. He spent another six years working with a delegated aboriginal agency in different roles. Furthering his work in Community Development, Derek completed an MBA in Indigenous Business and Leadership and has completed a number of roles and projects that enhance the capacity of the economic landscape.

Derek is an elected Councillor for Skowkale First Nation, and holds the Health, Education and Child and Family Services portfolios. Prior to his move into politics, Derek sat on the Board of Sto:lo Service Agency as part of the first non-political group overseeing the agencies operations. He currently lives on Skowkale First Nation with his wife and three young daughters.



VICTORIA AUSTIN

Executive Assistant to the Regional Chief

Victoria is Gitxsan/Wet'suwet'en from the village of Hagwilget. She is Gilseyhu from the Yikh Ts'iwit'an House and has a matrilineal link to Stellat'en First Nation. She has resided in Prince George for twenty-one years and has been working with First Nations in the central interior for the past nineteen years. Victoria has found it to be a great experience to work for the BC Assembly of First Nations under the leadership of Regional Chief Terry Teegee and is proud to be part of a team that is making progress and advancing BC First Nations rights and title.

PATRICIA ROJAS

Regional Climate Change Coordinator

Patricia is the BCAFN's Regional Climate Change Coordinator. She has worked for over 15 years with indigenous peoples focusing on the protection of collective rights, social and environmental justice, and self-determination. Her experience providing technical and strategic support to indigenous communities includes: policy analysis and political advocacy related to mining, climate change and environmental issues; engagement with mining companies and governments; and, reform to Peru's water protection and governance laws. Other experience includes measuring carbon footprints, teaching and curriculum development.

She received a Master's Degree in Sustainability, with a speciality in Policy Analysis, from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Barcelona, Spain); and a Master's Degree in Social Management from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, and a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Cajamarca.

Patricia is a first-generation Canadian from Peru. She lives in the unceded territory of the T'exelc (Williams Lake Indian Band) with her husband and her two beautiful daughters.

ANNETTE SCHROETER

Communications Officer

Annette was born to Anishinaabe and German parents in Prince George, BC and is a member of the Muskrat Dam First Nation located in northwestern Ontario. Most recently she worked for the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council as the Communications Coordinator and has also worked with First Nations communities in northern Ontario in a liaison capacity. Annette has a Master of First Nations Studies and Bachelor's Degree in History and Antrhopology from the University of Northern British Columbia. She also holds a Bachelor's of Design from Emily Carr University of Art & Design.

Governance



SARAH FROESE

Policy Analyst

Prior to joining the BCAFN Sarah completed her Masters in Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia. Here, she developed skills in policy analysis and interdisciplinary technical knowledge, focusing on issues of jurisdiction, governance, and community engagement in the context of the climate crisis, environmental impact assessments, and renewable energy. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Psychology from the University of Manitoba. Her aim is to make a valuable contribution toward the goals of First Nations in BC and develop skills to continue serving our communities in the future.

Sarah grew up in a Mennonite community located in Treaty 1 territory before moving to Vancouver. She is now grateful to be residing on the unceded territories of the Xwməθkwəy əm, Skwx wú7mesh and Səlilwətał peoples. Sarah enjoys being active in her community and building relationships, listening and learning, and spending time outdoors.

SAMANTHA SEYMOUR

Administrative Support Worker

Samantha Seymour has just started as the Administrative Support Worker at the BCAFN. She is a proud member of the Lheidli T'enneh Band and recently finished a position as a Community Engagement Intern for the Lheidli T'enneh Treaty team. Samantha attended school at Kelly Road Secondary and graduated in 2015. Her goal is to acquire more knowledge in administrative duties and further develop a work ethic that will benefit herself and her community.



FMMY BFATON

Special Advisor, Policy and Government Relations

Emmy brings 13 years of experience encompassing a variety of roles across the public sector, including working within the Crown Corporation and the federal and provincial governments. Her area of expertise is building trust and productive relationships between governments and First Nations by developing and leading both strategic and operational initiatives. Her focus is building partnerships with various levels of government, industry, and First Nations communities on collaborative governance; and creating mechanisms that support First Nations' communities to incorporate their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and laws into natural resource management.

In her work with BCAFN, Emmy applies her nine years of post-secondary education, which focused on political and social factors related to Indigenous language shift and language loss, the interrelationship between policies and laws and the ongoing reconciliation processes between Indigenous communities and governments, and developing culturally competent dispute resolution processes. She holds an undergraduate degree in linguistics with a focus on Aboriginal language revitalization; and a Masters of Arts in dispute resolution from the University of Victoria.

As a mixed-heritage woman with settler and non-affiliated Cree ancestry, Emmy is grateful to be living on the unceded territory of the Lekwungen-speaking Coast Salish peoples.



MAGGIE MILLS

Economic Development Policy Analyst

New to BCAFN, Maggie is a second-generation Danish settler, raised on Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas territories. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Guelph and is currently working towards a Master of Environmental Studies degree from Wilfrid Laurier University. Her experience has involved partnering with Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario and the Northwest Territories to assess food security improvement projects, environmental quality and financial feasibility studies using two-eyed seeing approaches.

Maggie currently resides on Musqeaum Territory and looks forward to contributing to BCAFN's objectives in the capacity of Economic Development Policy Analyst.

JOANNA PRINCE

Administrative Project Support

Joanna is a member of Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation and has worked with indigenous groups and people for the last 23 years in a variety of roles that include administrative positions, an intake worker for family support, resource social work, aboriginal group home support worker, aboriginal child in care liaison, office management, and event coordinator. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge related to social issues and stigmas that Indigenous peoples have experienced on and off reserve, particularly related to the youth

Joanna has also worked in a variety of physically demanding jobs such as tree plant nursery work, residential frame carpentry, and collecting pine seeds in the forests in Northern BC

Joanna's hobbies consist of hiking, snow shoeing, snowboarding, camping, mountain biking and travelling the globe.



BCAFN VISION & MISSION

VISION

The 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.

MISSION

We are proud, progressive and innovative BC First Nations advocating for and implementing our Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights through exercising our inherent laws and jurisdiction.

MANDATE

THE BCAFN works to:

- 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 economic, social, education, health and cultural matters; and
- Collaborate with other organizations that advance the rights and interests of Indigenous People.

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ABOUT

First Nation leaders (Chiefs) from coast to coast to coast direct the work of AFN through resolutions passed at Chiefs Assemblies held at least twice a year. The AFN National Executive is made up of the National Chief, 10 Regional Chiefs and the chairs of the Elders, Women's and Youth councils. Regional Chiefs are elected every three years by Chiefs in their regions. Chiefs, who are elected by the citizens and members of their respective communities, elect the National Chief every three years.

The role of the National Chief and the AFN is to advocate on behalf of First Nations as directed by Chiefs-in-Assembly. This includes facilitation and coordination of national and regional discussions and dialogue, advocacy efforts and campaigns, legal and policy analysis, communicating with governments, including facilitating relationship building between First Nations and the Crown as well as public and private sectors and general public.

The term "First Nations" refers to one of three distinct groups recognized as "Aboriginal" in the Constitution Act of 1982. The other two distinct groups characterized as "Aboriginal" are the Métis and the Inuit. There are 634 First Nation communities (also known as reserves) in Canada, with First Nation governments. First Nations are part of unique larger linguistic and cultural groups that vary across the country. In fact, there are over 50 distinct nations and language groups across the country.

First Nations have a unique and special relationship with the Crown and the people of Canada as set out in the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and manifested in Treaties, the Constitution Acts of 1867 and 1982, Canadian common law and International law and as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This special relationship between First Nations and the Crown is grounded in First Nation inherent and Aboriginal rights and title, Treaties and negotiated agreements with a view toward peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, recognition and the equitable sharing of lands and resources. Many Treaties, reflected in written documents, wampum and oral understanding, were entered into between First Nations and the British Crown (the Government of Canada after Confederation) between 1701 and 1923. Treaty promises and agreements included non-interference, protection of hunting and fishing rights, sharing of lands and resources, health and education benefits, economic tools and benefits for the duration of the Treaty relationship.

Read the AFN Charter at: www.afn.ca/about-afn/charter-of-the-assembly-of-first-nations/ $\begin{tabular}{ll} \hline \end{tabular}$





FINANCIAL REPORT BREAKDOWN

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

And Independent Auditors' Report thereon

Year ended March 31, 2019

Index to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2019

Management Responsibility for the Financial Statements	24
Independent Auditors' Report	25 - 27
Financial Statements	
Statement of Financial Position	28
Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus	29
Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets	30
Statement of Cash Flows	31
Notes to Financial Statements	32 - 40

Photo left: David Luggi, Stellat'en First Nation

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 Canadian 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

Manessa West



KPMG LLP 177 Victoria Street, Suite 400 Prince George BC V2L 5R8 Canada Telephone 250-563-7151 Fax 250-563-5693

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations ("BCAFN"), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2019
- the statement of operations and accumulated surplus for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net financial assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the BCAFN as at March 31, 2019 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.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the BCAFN in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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



Page 2

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the BCAFN's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the BCAFN or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the BCAFN's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



Page 3

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 the BCAFN's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the BCAFN's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the BCAFN's to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other
 matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit
 findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we
 identify during our audit.

Report on Other legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting financial statements in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

Chartered Professional Accountants

KPMG LLP

Prince George, Canada July 28, 2019

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018
Financial assets: Cash Accounts receivable (note 2)	\$ 1,185,782 1,061,804	\$ 1,270,263 208,929
	 2,247,586	1,479,192
Liabilities: Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred revenue (note 3)	661,811 1,606,029	411,774 965,977
	 2,267,840	1,377,751
Net (debt) financial assets	(20,254)	101,441
Non-financial assets: Tangible capital assets (note 4) Prepaid expenses and deposits	365,865 17,840 383,705	85,528 - 85,528
Accumulated surplus (note 5)	\$ 363,451	\$ 186,969

Director

Director

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations:

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

Year ended March 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

		Budget		2019		2018
Revenue:						
Indigenous Services Canada						
("ISC")	\$	1,500,814	\$	1,365,015	\$	1,198,189
Ministry of Indigenous Relations	*	1,000,011	•	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	•	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
and Reconciliation ("MIRR")		2,298,925		1,237,523		1,047,708
Assembly of First Nations		,,		, - ,		, - ,
("AFN")		613,882		613,883		386,918
Other income		356,557		4,132		28,895
Rental revenue		, -		, -		3,780
Union of British Columbia Indian						
Chiefs ("UBCIC")		248,299		56,100		253,985
New Relationship Trust ("NRT")		-		-		50,000
Donations and sponsorship		200,000		352,826		27,129
Total revenue		5,218,477		3,629,479		2,996,604
Expenses:						
Administration		1,501,598		1,317,244		1,082,849
Cultural events		285,000		312,693		82,556
Legislation		1,640,924		420,652		705,685
Policy development		1,790,955		1,402,408		1,119,962
Total expenses		5,218,477		3,452,997		2,991,052
Annual surplus	\$	-	\$	176,482	\$	5,552
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year		186,969		186,969		181,417
Accumulated surplus, end of year	\$	186,969	\$	363,451	\$	186,969

Segmented information (note 6)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	Budget	2019	2018
Annual surplus	\$ -	\$ 176,482 \$	5,552
Acquisition of tangible capital assets Amortization of tangible capital assets	(3,000)	(326,135) 45,798	(19,887) 31,601
	(3,000)	(280,337)	11,714
Use of prepaid expenses and deposits	_	(17,840)	-
	-	(17,840)	-
Change in net financial assets	(3,000)	(121,695)	17,266
Net financial assets, beginning of year	101,441	101,441	84,175
Net financial assets (debt), end of year	\$ 98,441	\$ (20,254) \$	101,441

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018	
Cash provided by (used in):			
Operating activities:			
Annual surplus	\$ 176,482	\$	5,552
Items not involving cash:			
Amortization	45,798		31,601
	222,280		37,153
Change in non-cash operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(852,875)		439,023
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	250,037		15,444
Deferred revenue	640,052		711,992
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(17,840)		_
	241,654		1,203,612
Capital activities:			
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(326, 135)		(19,887)
	(326,135)		(19,887)
(Decrease) increase in cash	(84,481)		1,183,725
Cash, beginning of year	1,270,263		86,538
Cash, end of year	\$ 1,185,782	\$	1,270,263

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2019

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.

Donations and other revenue are recognized when the cash is received.

(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.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2019

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

(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:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Building	Straight-line	10 years
Furniture and equipment	Straight-line	5 years
Computer equipment	Straight-line	3 years
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	5 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.

Items subject to such estimates include the carrying amount of accounts receivable, tangible capital assets, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and deferred revenue. 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.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2019

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

(f) Pension plan:

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

2. Accounts receivable:

Accounts receivable by funding source is summarized as follows:

		2019		2018
AFN	\$	156,616	\$	42,798
MIRR	Ψ	670,333	Ψ	81,000
NRT		-		10,000
UBCIC		121,832		-
GST rebate receivable		94,568		73,878
Other		1,000		1,253
Due from employees		2,684		-
Due from Regional Chief		14,771		-
	\$	1,061,804	\$	208,929

3. Deferred revenue:

Deferred revenue consists of the following:

	2019	2018
ISC (formerly INAC) MIRR UBCIC	\$ 350,727 1,211,402 43,900	\$ 502,034 463,943
	\$ 1,606,029	\$ 965,977

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2019

4. Tangible capital assets:

		Land		Furniture &		Computer		Building	
2019	impro	ovements		Equipment	E	Equipment			Total
Cost:									
Balance, beginning of	\$	-	\$	36,822	\$	126,176	\$	- \$	162,998
year									
Additions		55,358		18,676		63,958		188,143	326,135
Balance, end of year		55,358		55,498		190,134		188,143	489,133
Accumulated									
amortization:	•		•	44.070	•	00.000	•	•	77 470
Balance, beginning of	\$	-	\$	14,372	\$	63,098	\$	- \$	77,470
year Amortization		6 505		6,550		22 270		10.074	4E 700
		6,595		•		22,379		10,274	45,798
Balance, end of year		6,595		20,922		85,477		10,244	123,268
Net book value	\$	48,763	\$	34,576	\$	104,657	\$	177,869 \$	365,865
		Land		Furniture &		Computer		Building	
2018	impro	ovements		Equipment		Equipment		Dullullig	Total
Cost:									
Balance, beginning of year	\$	-	\$	36,102	\$	107,009	\$	- \$	143,111
Additions		_		720		19,167		-	19,887
Balance, end of year		-		36,822		126,176		-	162,998
Accumulated amortization:									
Balance, beginning of year	\$	-	\$	8,759	\$	37,110	\$	- \$	45,869
Amortization		-		5,613		25,988		-	31,601
Balance, end of year		-		14,372		63,098		-	77,470

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2019

5. Accumulated surplus:

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

	2019	2018
Unrestricted (deficit) surplus Invested in tangible capital assets	\$ (2,414) \$ 365,865	101,441 85,528
	\$ 363,451 \$	186,969

6. 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 and supports our adherence to the BC Societies Act.

(ii) Cultural Events:

Cultural focuses on the integration of funding initiatives that incorporate Indigenous knowledge and its role in the support of legislative and policy development. This takes a reconciliatory approach in melding Indigenous concepts into present-day systems for the betterment of all parties.

(iii) Legislation:

Legislation is responsible for policy analysis, advice, engagement and development of required information tools to inform the BC First Nations Leadership of pending and current legislation relating to specified policy such as: Children and Families, Cannabis, Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2019

6. Segmented information (continued):

(iv) Policy Development:

Policy is responsible for policy analysis, advice, engagement and development of required information tools to inform the BC First Nations Leadership on issues currently facing BC First Nations requiring the revision or advancement of regional, provincial or federal policy. This has included policy review relating to: Housing, Economic Development, Climate Change, Governance, and Youth.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2019

6. Segmented information (continued):

2019	Administration	Cultural events	Legislation	Policy development	Total
Revenues:					
MIRR	↔	· •	\$ 313,332	\$ 924,191	\$ 1,237,523
INAC	811,715	45,256	54,308	453,736	1,365,015
AFN	496,089	10,000	•	107,794	613,883
UBCIC		•	56,100		56,100
Donation revenue	352,826	•	•		352,826
Other income	204	1	1	3,928	4,132
Total revenues	1,660,834	55,256	423,740	1,489,649	3,629,479
Expenses: Salaries, benefits and consultants	585,389	1,800	114,950	308,802	1,010,941
Advisory, technical and					
professional	97,032	45,791	118,416	464,359	725,598
Office	168,668	257,436	2,012	218,472	646,588
Travel	157,405	7,204	28,568	231,368	424,545
Amortization	45,797	•	•		45,797
Meetings and assemblies	262,953	462	156,706	179,407	599,528
Total expenses	1,317,244	312,693	420,652	1,402,408	3,452,997
Annual surplus	\$ 343,590	\$ (257,437)	\$ 3,088	\$ 87,241	\$ 176,482

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2019

Segmented information (continued): 6

2018	Administration	Cultural Events	Legislation	Policy Development	Total
Revenues: MIRR	· ₩	•	\$ 200,000	\$ 847,708	\$ 1,047,708
INAC	811,716		251,701	134,772	1,198,189
AFN	224,111	70,600	•	92,207	386,918
NRT		•	•	20,000	50,000
UBCIC		•	253,985		253,985
Rental income	3,780		•		3,780
Donation revenue	27,129	•	•		27,129
Other income	16,939	11,956	1		28,895
Total revenues	1,083,675	82,556	705,686	1,124,687	2,996,604
Expenses: Salaries, benefits and consultants	564,351			167,353	731,704
Advisory, technical and					
professional	93,178	10,694	245,021	556,322	905,215
Office	195,254	867	298,073	118,097	612,291
Travel	142,868	57,663	146,806	160,908	508,245
Amortization	31,601	•	•		31,601
Meetings and assemblies	55,597	13,332	15,785	117,282	201,996
Total expenses	1,082,849	82,556	705,685	1,119,962	2,991,052
Annual surplus	\$ 826	· \$	€	\$ 4,725	\$ 5,552

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2019

7. Pension:

BCAFN provides a defined contribution plan for eligible members of its staff. Members are required to contribute 6% of their basic salary. BCAFN contributes 6% and the contributions are directed to the member's contribution account. During the year, BCAFN contributed \$31,405 (2018 - \$24,573).

8. Employee remuneration:

For the fiscal year ending 2019, BCAFN paid total remuneration including taxable benefits of \$557,071 to 5 employees, each of whom received total annual remuneration including taxable benefits of \$75,000 or greater.

9. 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, 2019 - 5.95%, in aggregate). The credit facility was not utilized as at March 31, 2019.

10. Comparative figures:

Certain 2018 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year. These changes do not affect prior year annual surplus.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 OCTOBER

World Indigenous Business Forum

Vancouver October 8 - 10

BCAFN Business Forum

October 11 Vancouver

All Chiefs Meeting on Children and Families October 9 & 10

Vancouver

NOVEMBER

First Nations Leaders and BC Cabinet Meeting

Vancouver Convention Centre November 5 & 6

DECEMBER

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly

December 3-5 Ottawa

2020

Joint Gathering January 21 - 23

Vancouver (tentative)

BC Natural Resources Forum

January 28-30 Prince George

BCAFN Business Forum

Winter Prince George



