



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Newsletter

BC Assembly of First Nations

Spring/Summer 2022

Message from Regional Chief Terry Teegee

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

This year First Nations peoples in British Columbia have seen real progress in our work towards reconciliation and decolonization. As you'll read in the pages of this newsletter, the BCAFN continues to execute the will of BC First Nations leadership through our continuing advocacy, research, and engagement.

Recently I had the opportunity to bring BC First Nations' priorities directly to the assembled premiers of provinces and territories at the Council of the Federation meeting in Victoria. We discussed implementing the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and returning jurisdiction of children and families to First Nations communities through the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (C-92). Additional concerns, including health care, were raised and discussed but we are focussed on these two critical areas where progress is urgently needed.

In March of this year, the province released an action plan to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The BCAFN staff and leadership were instrumental in developing the plan, and we continue to push behind the scenes to ensure that the province meets their commitments laid out in it.

The BCAFN has seen some amazing movement towards our Economic Development Centre of Excellence – and we'll be sharing an announcement in the near future.

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Regional Chief Terry Teegee at the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls event held at the Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park.

again being held in person around the province, and dozens of staff and leadership from our nations are making connections and learning best practices to build economic independence.

We are also leading the way in helping First Nations transition into a low-carbon future while preparing for the inevitable climate impacts. The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan was endorsed during our March 2022 Special Chiefs Assembly and is now moving towards implementation. We are also holding a series of Climate Action Webinars to help build capacity among First Nations, and working to leverage carbon rights and carbon offsets towards conservation and economic development.

The BCAFN has been holding engagement sessions with our communities to determine how best to implement the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Plus National Action Plan. These recommendations have informed our advocacy, which resulted in the announcement of Provincial funding this year to develop Indigenous-led community solutions to improve safety for women, girls, and two-spirited people.

I also want to acknowledge the hard work that Chiefs from BC and across Canada put into the AFN Annual General Assembly in July. I want to express gratitude to the leadership shown by BC Chiefs in ensuring that there was a constructive resolution to some of the concerns at the national organization. We entered that assembly in conflict, but left with a renewed pathway forward.

On the whole, First Nations have made some great strides in the last year, from the highest ever graduation rates for First Nations students, to a number of First Nations in BC beginning to take back jurisdiction over children and families. These are the kinds of achievements we dreamed of years ago, and we saw them to reality through our dedication. And its these achievements that I want to focus on, even as we know that there is so much more work to do.

I am honoured to represent BC First Nations, and inspired by the achievements we are making together.

Mussi Cho,
Regional Chief Terry Teegee



Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Dr. Joe Hermer speaking on the City of Prince George Anti-Homelessness bylaw at a media event held in Prince George in March.

Economic Development

The past two and a half years presented unique challenges between the Covid-19 pandemic, climate-driven natural disasters, inflation, and dramatic increases in the cost of living. Across the Province of British Columbia, the Chiefs, Councillors, Knowledge Keepers, and leaders have held a line for First Nations citizens during this storm. As we look to the future of economic reconciliation, it's with the resilience and innovation of our citizens at the helm.

As we continue to enact DRIPA and UNDRIPA, there will be new opportunities for BC's First Nations to ensure their citizens are receiving adequate and equitable funding and enjoying full economic participation. Regional Chief Terry Teegee shows leadership and dedication to advancing First Nations' financial reconciliation. His direction at the BCAFN and AFN helped shape policy, programs, funding, and legislation that will continue to serve First Nations for many years.

At the BCAFN, we have continued to work on realizing the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in First Nations Economic Development. We look forward to a formal announcement this summer. The CoE is needed more than ever to address the increasing demands on time and resources from First Nations for participation across commerce, industry, and government. This new entity will stand as a non-partisan body dedicated to supporting First Nations' economic development in BC. We look forward to sharing more as this new venture comes to life.

Currently, the BCAFN is working on developing a baseline economic participation report for First Nations in BC. The report will synthesize information from many sources to examine the existing gaps in economic participation and create a usable set of data points for First Nations in BC. We look forward to sharing the report in November 2022. In addition to the economic participation report, the BCAFN will publish a paper on First Nations food sovereignty in August 2022. Our final publication for this year is a First Nations Trade backgrounder, which will establish opportunities in international trade for First Nations in BC in collaboration with the Province of BC in the fall of 2022.

On May 16th and 17th, the BCAFN hosted over 150 participants in Vancouver and virtually at our Economic Development Forum. The participants enjoyed two full days of speakers, panels, and cultural performances. Mussi Cho to everyone who had the opportunity to join us. In response to the feedback from the first four Black Books sessions, the final session was deferred from June 22, 2022, to September 14th, 2022. The last session will be hybrid, with a total travel subsidy for the first 25 registrants.

If you have any questions about any of these initiatives contact Sarah Behn, Economic Development Policy Analyst - sarah.behn@bcfn.ca



BCAFN Black Books: Economic Toolkit Regional Session held in Prince George in May with presenters Michael Bonshor (Visions Financial Services) and Dan George (Four Directions Management Services).

Non-medical Cannabis Legalization and Regulation

First Nations have continued to innovate at the leading edge of cannabis-related business and governance. Recent months saw the opening of William Lake First Nation's farm-to-gate location, [Sugar Cane Cannabis](#) – a first of its kind in Canada; as well as a new section 119 [agreement](#) by Lhtako Dene First Nation. In January, the province of BC also launched the BC Indigenous Cannabis Product [program](#) to highlight cannabis products from BC-based Indigenous producers in private retail stores and BC Cannabis Stores as well as online.

At the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly on March 9-10, 2022 the Chiefs-in-Assembly provided in-principle support for the BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy Framework. The Framework was also supported by Chiefs at meetings of the UBCIC and FNS. The mirrored resolution mandates the FNLC organizations to advocate for, and pursue effective collaboration and funding for the implementation of the Strategy. The priority areas include:

- Advance the recognition of First Nations inherent jurisdiction over cannabis, Advance First Nations taxation and revenue sharing jurisdiction,
- Support First Nations cannabis businesses and entrepreneurs through collaborative partnerships and ongoing economic development advocacy work,
- Prioritize community safety,
- Strengthen health and wellness advocacy work through First Nations institutions,
- Advance the development of the necessary infrastructure, institutions and other supportive resources that BC First Nations require to be successful in the cannabis market provincially, nationally, and internationally.

The [DRIPA Action Plan](#) also identified an action related to cannabis for the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General: Action 4.47 - Advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction between First Nations and the Province that reflects common objectives to protect youth, prioritize public health and safety, strengthen First Nations governance capacity and secure economic benefits for First Nations.

BCAFN is currently undertaking work in partnership with the UBCIC and FNS to establish the appropriate

structures and ensure capacity funding in order to move work under the BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy Framework and DRIPA Action Plan forward. Based on in-principle support of the Strategy Framework, BCAFN will also work to support finalization of the Strategy itself and will report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly regularly.

Finally, there is progress on the development of a Strategic Partnership Initiative on Cannabis, which will see First Nations and Indigenous entrepreneurs benefit from an equity fund and sector-specific expertise targeted toward cannabis-related community engagement and business initiatives. Exploratory work is also underway to leverage loan opportunities. Through cooperative work, funding commitments have been secured from BC and Canada, and it is anticipated that this funding program will be up and running by fall 2022 through an Indigenous-led program administrator.



Check out BCAFN's publication - [Cannabis Tool Kit](#)



Women's Representative Update

Greetings! My name is Louisa Housty-Jones. I come from the Heiltsuk Nation where I also serve on Council. I am passionate about the wellness and leadership of women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and I am honoured to continue working for safety, justice, and equity for First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

As I reflect on the past months, I'm inspired by the strength of those I've been able to work alongside and witness. Our work is yielding results and the changes we are making will support a new reality for our children. At the same time, I know progress is coming much too slowly, and that we continue to experience many forms of trauma. Barriers and setbacks seem to be everywhere. It is important that we remain grounded in our strength, our culture, and our truths, and continue this good work. We are not alone. We are seeing new leaders take their rightful place, and every day we gain allies. This is a movement of love and we will not be turned back.

On June 23, 2022 we hosted the Report Back - Listen and Take Action session as the third and final component of this year's Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Sessions. This session served to focus on the key action areas and what we took away from our 2-day gathering in April. BCAFN received important direction on how we can better support the priorities of First Nations women and gender diverse people, including on:

- safety,
- preventing and addressing violence,
- representation in leadership,
- and ensuring the legislative and systemic reforms include the voice of First Nations women and

2SLGBTQQIA+ People. This is critical as we look to implement the Declaration Act on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Police Act reform.

These sessions are a key way that BCAFN supports dialogue among First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and one forum that helps ensure our advocacy is inclusive and representative of the experiences and priorities of women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. I look forward to sharing the 2022 session report shortly and ensuring the priorities and experiences that were shared contribute toward concrete change.

I also continue to lead advocacy and work related to the implementation of the National Inquiry Calls for Justice, developing tools for First Nations approaches to Gender-Based Analysis Plus, and the development of the Strategic Action Plan for the Indigenous Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Strategy.

I also participate on the AFN Women's Council. The AFN Women's Council will be holding a strategic planning session later this year to determine our priorities and strategize on how to mobilize action on the Calls for Justice. I look forward to bringing the issues raised in our region forward in this forum.

You can find more in-depth updates on all of these activities under specific sections in this newsletter. As always, please feel free to connect with me at any time. I believe we are stronger when we work together. The support of our political leadership is so important to bringing about transformative change.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ (MMIWG2S+)

First Nations are pressing for action to implement the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice. Family members, advocates, grassroots organizers, front-line workers and First Nations governments continue to bring awareness to this issue and are doing incredible work with limited support. BCAFN works to bring systemic change through transforming law and policy, and ensuring appropriate support for those doing the important work of preventing and addressing violence, and supporting those who have lost family members.

On the third anniversary of the release of the National Inquiry's [Final Report and Calls for Justice](#), the FNLC [stated](#) that we are deeply troubled by the lack of progress to implement the Calls for Justice. Despite the finding of [genocide](#) made by the National Inquiry, and the horrific experiences of systemic discrimination and violence that were brought to light, the Canadian and British Columbian governments' work on this issue has been marked by a lack of committed resources, poor communication and coordination, and inadequate partnership with First Nations people.

[Federal budget 2021](#) provided for \$2.2 billion over 5 years and \$160.9 million per year on-going to respond to the Calls for Justice; however, we have yet to see changes on the ground that point toward transformative change and there is not transparency regarding how these funds are being allocated. While there were broad commitments to address gender-based violence in Budget 2022, there were no additional funds specifically earmarked to address the disproportionate violence against Indigenous women and girls.

One of the province's key commitments within the [Path Forward](#) was the establishment of a \$4.55 million community fund to support the need for safe spaces and safety plans, and Indigenous community-led solutions. The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres was selected to manage the fund, and will be engaging communities on collaborative next steps, including the establishment of an advisory committee. While the fund is a positive development that will hopefully support family and grassroots-led efforts, increased multi-year funding commitments and initiatives that target systemic shifts are required.

In 2021 the [National Action Plan on MMIWG2S+](#) was released. It identified several immediate next steps, however failed to set forth an implementation plan with measurable actions and timelines, and grapple with the systemic transformation required to end genocide.

The immediate next steps were:

1. Immediate support services for survivors and family members,
2. Continued involvement of survivors and family members in the implementation of the National Action Plan,
3. Create an oversight body,
4. Public awareness and training,
5. Immediate development of an implementation plan,
6. Missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls federal-provincial/territorial table,
7. Create accountability mechanisms for the reporting of the 231 Calls for Justice and the 62 Calls for Miskotahâ.

In 2022 the [National Action Plan Progress Report](#) was released. It provided many anecdotal accounts of important work being carried out at the community level. However, it found that progress on the identified priorities was limited. The federal government failed in its responsibility to coordinate and lead the establishment of foundational oversight, accountability, and implementation measures in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. The Progress Report made several recommendations aimed at re-establishing a proper foundation for this work, including repeating the immediate priorities set out in the original 2021 Action Plan.

In 2021 BCAFN held a series of [engagement sessions](#) to discuss how the Calls for Justice could be implemented in the BC region. Priority areas for action included:

- Human and Indigenous Rights and Governmental Obligations,
- Culture,
- Health and Wellness, and health and wellness service providers,
- Police Services.

The recommendations received inform BCAFN's advocacy in matters such as policing and justice reform, and the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of

by the AFN Women's Council for integration into national-level [advocacy](#).

BCAFN regularly raises the importance of these issues to provincial and federal counterparts through official and political level meetings, correspondence, engagement sessions, and a [presentation by Regional Chief Teegee](#) to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. BCAFN is also a member of the Coalition on MMIWG2S+ and participated in the annual Tears to Hope Relay and Virtual Run.

Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+

Dialogue Sessions

On April 26-27, and June 23, BCAFN hosted the annual [Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Sessions](#).

On Day 1, we explored the theme, **Stories Connect Us: Storytelling, Inter-connection, and Reclamation**. This session held space for First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in BC to come together, share our experiences, and gain strength, inspiration, and insight. BCAFN also provided an update on the [strategic action plan](#) to implement the Indigenous Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Declaration. On Day 2, we explored the theme, **Everyone Has a Sacred Role: Allyship**. This session cultivated space for First Nations men who are not part of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community to join the discussion regarding the priorities of First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Together, we discussed how men can be allies, and how we can work together to end and address violence.

On Day 3, we explored the theme, **Listen and Take Action**. At this session, we presented the draft 2022 Dialogue Session report and discussed key take-aways and recommendations from the Session. In doing so, we hoped to foster an understanding of -and action on- First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ experiences and priorities.

We look forward to circulating the final report and carrying the dialogue forward in BCAFN's advocacy.

Strategic Action Plan on the Indigenous Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Declaration

At the Dialogue Sessions BCAFN invited feedback on the principles, vision, and process for the Strategic Action Plan to Implement the Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Declaration. Thank you to everyone who provided the time to provide your insight and perspective. A snapshot of this feedback is included in this update and will be integrated as a foundation to the [Strategic Action Plan](#).

In response to the proposed vision, a broad range of experiences and issues were identified. We heard that this Strategic Action Plan should focus on being impactful, and ensuring that existing recommendations are implemented, while not leaving anyone behind.

Regarding the principles of **Representation and Leadership**, we heard that: Diverse, intersectional representation is very important, especially of marginalized communities. Both community leaders and community members must lead the development and implementation of this Strategic Action Plan. This can look like circles, councils, advisories, safe spaces for discussion, engaging youth groups and schools, report outs and opportunities for feedback, supporting engagement with funding, having multiple ways for people to provide input,

On **Collaboration and Partnership** we heard that: Partnership requires being proactive, reaching out, and responding to feedback. It also involves ensuring that partners have the resources they need to participate. It also important to consider who we partner with, to ensure there is inclusion and representation. Duplication is not necessarily a bad thing, as it reflects that fact that something is a priority. However, coordination and information sharing is important to help prevent division and confusion.

On **Holistic Action**, we heard that: We can echo other strategic actions as an exercise in layering rather than duplication. Often, tackling many issues at once can be challenging and confusing. Looking at something holistically might offer clarity. Holistic action means addressing the myriad of systemic discriminations and their impacts. It also means looking at every stage of our lives, and mainstreaming gender considerations into everything.

Action requires concrete, tangible and measurable action plans that should be living documents, in order to ensure they are implemented and do not gather dust. They should be alive indefinitely and should also involve everyone in implementation. There are many previous recommendations that have not been actioned. A key component of action is holding those in power accountable, and ensuring visibility and support.

Regarding **Culture**: Cultural teachings on morals and values should infuse everything. Our actions should be directed at reclaiming our matriarchal traditions. Policy, inclusion, awareness and education should be based on our values, rather than colonial ways of doing policy. While we may not have traditional language to describe all aspects of intersectionality, such as disability, we have other teachings that speak to how nobody is above or below, we are all side by side and we all have a gift to bring to our community. These teachings show us that we need to address barriers.

About **Healing and Hope**, we heard that: Approaching dialogue and work in a trauma-informed way is important. We must also support healthy relationships, healing, and address gendered and lateral violence. Equality is understanding unity. Land based healing is central. There is a big role for healthy role models and decolonizing our processes and interactions.

Additional themes that emerged as key principles and priority areas included:

Accountability: Lack of accountability is a pervasive issue that people experience in virtually every aspect of their lives. People and entities with power must be held accountable for change. They are accountable to community. Action is a key component of accountability, which requires a plan for implementation of recommendations.

Intersectionality: Intersectionality brings in all aspects and dynamics of human diversity, and must include those with lived experience and celebrate each individual.

Sovereignty: The need for community and leadership in the development and implementation of the Strategic Action Plan was highlighted. Given that we all come from different nations there is a need to recognize and

articulate this within the collective, and build capacity and set a foundation for this work. There is also a need to do policy in a way that is based in First Nations ways, including the use of visuals and text. Choice is key in all of this because sovereignty also has the dimension of personal autonomy.

Best Practices and Tools:

- Learning from experts and real-life experiences,
- Medicines,
- Supportive networks and role models,
- First Nations community capacity support,
- Involving those who are most disenfranchised,
- Legislation as a tool for inclusion and accessibility for all, including UNDRIP,
- Concrete, measurable action plans that are living documents,
- Indigenous ways of doing policy that utilize a mix of visuals, text and imagery,
- Decolonize inclusion, awareness and education work,
- Inclusive language,
- Sovereignty,
- Gender Based Analysis Plus and data collection,
- Safe spaces for community discussion,
- Involving youth,
- Ongoing report outs and opportunities for feedback in a variety of ways,
- Ongoing care in case of people being triggered by dialogue,
- Contact families and proactively share information,
- Include all First Nations.

Governance Review to support a safe, inclusive, and representative organization

BCAFN has been engaged in work to support the BCAFN in being a safe, inclusive, and representative organization. The Governance Committee has been working to carry forward an analysis of BCAFN's Governance Manual, By-laws and Constitution that would support these objectives.

As the Governance Committee shared during the 2021 AGM and 2022 SCA, this work, along with other governance considerations, are being dealt with in two phases. At the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly on March 9-10, 2022 the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolution 03/2022 Amendments to the Governance Manual Recommended by the Governance Committee, which

supported the following changes to BCAFN's Governance Manual as part of the phase 1 work:

1. provide for the election of a 2SLGBTQQIA+ representative to serve on the recently established AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council;
2. align with recent amendments to the AFN Charter that renamed the AFN Knowledge Keepers Council (formerly the Elders Council) and call on each region to appoint three Knowledge Keepers, inclusive of male, female and 2SLGBTQQIA peoples;
3. replace gendered pronouns with gender inclusive pronouns;
4. expand the Principles to Combat Bullying and Harassment to cover online harassment, physical violence and discrimination; and,
5. add consistent nomination requirements for elected representatives (Women's Rep, Youth Reps and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Rep);
6. make minor adjustments to election provisions to align with current BCAFN practices, such as making the appointment of scrutineers optional.

These changes to the Governance Manual support 2SLGBTQQIA+ representation, the use of gender-inclusive language, and greater protections against bullying, harassment, violence and discrimination. We look forward to engaging further as this work evolves.

First Nations Approaches to Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

At the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly on March 9-10, 2022 the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolution 01/2022 Intersectional Advocacy and Capacity Building Grounding in First Nations Knowledges. It acknowledged that, "First Nations people and communities are diverse, and this diversity holds and reflects a multitude of dimensions such as age and life stage, sexual orientation, gender, sex, ability, cultural identity, spirituality, connection to family, community, and land, socio-economic experiences regarding employment, education, housing, and mental wellness, the impact of colonialism such as inter-generational trauma and violence, geography and location, among other identity factors; Care for, and inclusion of people that reflect all

dimensions of diversity are central to many First Nations worldviews. First Nations recognize that everything is connected and that holistic approaches are crucial."

The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly also affirmed that, "First Nations governments and organizations have responsibilities and interests in supporting the wellbeing of all First Nations people, in all their diversity, and acknowledge that this requires intersectional, inclusive, equity and justice-seeking approaches to legislative mechanisms, advocacy, policy, and programs;"

This resolution mandated the BCAFN to support and advance dialogue and the development of tools to support First Nations approaches to GBA+, including the development of a toolkit and pilot initiative. BCAFN is in the process of contracting an experienced facilitator and leading practitioner regarding Indigenous Gender-Based Analysis Plus to support this work.



BCAFN women's representative Louisa Housty-Jones speaking at the Women's, Gender Diverse & 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples Dialogue Session held in Vancouver in April 2022.



BCAFN Youth Update

Justen's Update

In March 2022, BCAFN Youth Representative, Justen Peters, attended the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) Action Plan implementation in Victoria BC alongside Chief Jerry Jack who also attended on behalf of BCAFN. Justen emphasized that the 89 actions identified are a useful roadmap for First Nations and BC to commit to the work needed to align with the Declaration Act. Justen noted that he was honoured to participate in the historic release of the Declaration Act Action Plan and looks forward to continuing to advocate for youth in the commitments identified by BC.

Justen also participated in the AFN's Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment meeting in Vancouver in late April. Justen represented BCAFN and offered a youth perspective and insights on environment-related work at the AFN. In May, Justen attended the Indigenous Partnership Success Showcase on behalf of BCAFN. The forum aimed to highlight Indigenous economic development and business initiatives through reconciliation and partnerships. Panelists discussed various topics including Indigenous equity participation, cumulative effects, and land development.

Taylor's Update

As the AFN National Youth Council (NYC) Co-Chair, BCAFN Youth Representative Taylor Behn-Tsakoza continues to support the work of the NYC alongside her fellow Co-Chair, Rosalie Labillois. Both Taylor and

Rosalie participated in the AFN Delegation to the Vatican in a historic visit to Rome in April 2022. The purpose of the trip was to honour the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #58 which calls for a papal apology to the Survivors, their families, and communities of Residential Schools regarding the role that the Catholic Church had in Canada's Residential School system. Taylor reflected on her experience in Rome stating, "Yesterday I heard the Pope's apology with an open heart, and I do remain optimistic and hopeful about our future as sovereign Nations who are entitled to dignity, respect and healing on our own land. Continuing to build on our relationship with the Catholic Church and walking this path together on this long, long journey of reconciliation is what makes me hopeful. But when reality hits I am reminded of the hard work that lies ahead of all of us."

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Funding

In March 2022, Taylor and Justen concluded a First Nations Youth Leadership and Connection Project which was funded by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Through this funding Justen and Taylor sought bring youth leaders together to connect and learn from each other. They worked with BCAFN staff and consultants to plan and host the virtual BCAFN Youth Forum and Gathering which took place on March 19 - 20, 2022 and featured live entertainment including, DJ Kookum, Saltwater Hank and Drezus, as well as, keynote speakers Kendra Jessie and Andre Bear.

Homelessness

As housing costs continue to rise in BC, coupled with the ongoing opioid crisis, housing insecurity continues to be a prevailing issue for many First Nations in BC. Municipalities across BC continue to take retributive action against the de-housed through aggressive decampment strategies, most notably at Crab Park on x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) traditional territories (Vancouver) and the Lower Patricia Encampments on the traditional territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (Prince George).

On August 30, 2021, the City of Prince George (CPG) adopted the Safe Streets Bylaw (Bylaw) to “help make the streets, sidewalks, and alleys of Prince George safer for all residents.” In early 2022, BCAFN commissioned two reports that detail troubling results regarding how this bylaw has been enforced by CPG and how its enforcement enables a systemic lack of accountability and transparency. The first report, entitled “[Experiences with Bylaw in Prince George](#)” surveyed the lived experiences of 13 de-housed and precariously housed residents in Prince George’s downtown population. The report findings concluded that overall, the City of Prince George Safe Streets Bylaw causes Prince George’s streets, sidewalks, and alleys to be less safe for de-housed and precariously housed citizens and threatens their survival.

An [adjacent report](#) was released by Joseph Hermer from the University of Toronto which outlines a preliminary analysis carried out on the bylaw enforcement of the new Prince George Safe Streets Bylaw in its first ninety-nine days of enactment. The analysis examines 427 ‘workflow’ files or bylaw enforcement events that the city staff has identified as being the consequence of Safe Streets Bylaw enforcement. The report concludes with five (5) findings including that the City of Prince George Safe Streets Bylaw enforcement is punitive and reinforces the disconnection from the life-threatening circumstances of the overdose crisis, the pandemic, and the immediate lack of appropriate shelter, housing opportunities and medical assistance.

BCAFN continues to work on developing a Homelessness Strategy to address the ongoing homelessness crisis in BC which was mandated by [BCAFN Resolution 08/2020](#). BCAFN staff are continuing to explore ways to identify adequate funding to fulfill this mandate commitment and will keep Chiefs and leadership apprised of updates and future engagement dates.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee, Dr. Joe Hermer and Juls Budau speaking to the media on the City of Prince George Anti-Homelessness bylaw.

Indigenous Languages

First Nations have been diligent in their work to revitalize our languages. Despite these efforts, due to extremely limited resources, many First Nations languages remain threatened. 2022 marks the start of the [United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#), which is meant to amplify and mobilize efforts in service of Indigenous languages.

BCAFN has been working with the UBCIC, FNS, and the First Nations Education Steering Committee to better understand the patchwork of languages funding and initiatives and inform future work under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan.

The [DRIPA Action Plan](#) includes several actions focused on language revitalization, such as:

4.29: Establish an Indigenous-led working group to develop a strategy for the revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C., including potential legislative supports. (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Education and Child Care, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training)

4.30: Support Indigenous language revitalization through sustainable funding. (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training)

4.31: Develop full-course offerings in First Nation languages and implement the educational Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the K-12 education system. (Ministry of Education and Child Care)

4.32: Co-develop a K-12 First Nations Language Policy and associated implementation plan for the public education system with the First Nations Education Steering Committee, including ensuring that the language and culture of the local First Nation(s) on whose territory(ies) a board of education operates schools are the ones primarily reflected in any First Nations language and culture programs and services of the board. (Ministry of Education and Child Care)

The BC region also has representation on the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages – Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk’etemc, and the alternate is Chairperson Khelsilem.

The BC technical representative on the AFN Technical Committee on Languages is Tracey Herbert, CEO, First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC), supported by Suzanne Gessner, Research and Development Linguist, FPCC.

The AFN, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, and the Department of Canadian Heritage (Heritage Canada), are currently working toward the full implementation of the Indigenous Languages Act at the Joint Implementation Steering Committee (JISC). National level work is underway to develop a National Indigenous Languages Strategy and National Indigenous Languages Funding Model (ILFM). The AFN Language and Culture Sector has been leading work related to the First Nations component, in collaboration with the Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) and Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL).

The AFN undertook a series of engagements to develop and received feedback on a First Nations vision for the ILFM, including regional engagements in January and February 2022 and a national Languages Forum on March 2-3, 2022. The AFN has developed a Position Paper, which sets out First Nations expectations for the First Nations component of the Indigenous Languages Funding Model. This Position Paper was shared during the AFN AGA and a resolution was prepared seeking ratification, which did not go forward to the Assembly due to time constraints. BCAFN has prepared a supplementary briefing note for Chiefs and leadership that provides an analysis of this Position Paper.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee speaking at First Nations Major Projects' Toward Net Zero by 2050 Conference held in April.

Climate Emergency

Planning for an uncertain future

At the BCAFN 18th Annual Special Chiefs Meeting held in March 2022, First Nations leadership in BC fully endorsed the [BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan](#) (the “Strategy”) through Resolution 06/2022. The resolution also mandated the BCAFN to work with the UBCIC and the FNS to ensure the implementation of the Strategy.

The endorsement of the Strategy came at the time when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) brought decision-makers and the general public two new reports which were a dire warning about the consequences of inaction, stating that “further delay in global action will close the window to secure a liveable future” (IPCC Chair, 2022).

The implementation of the Strategy will start with a virtual All-Chiefs meeting held in September where leadership will discuss priority actions through the four pathways

identified in the Strategy: Inherent Title and Rights, Capacity and Leadership, Land and Water Protection and Climate Response and Preparedness. A report from this session will be available in the coming weeks.

What comes next for BCAFN and the FNLC is to secure funding support and build partnerships to implement the most critical actions that would enable First Nations to build capacity and resilience to respond to the unavoidable climate crisis successfully.

Climate Policy and Legislation Advocacy

Regional Chief Terry Teegee and the BCAFN staff continue advocating for affirming First Nations’ Title, Inherent Rights and Treaty Rights in provincial and federal climate-related policy and legislation reform and planning development. Notably, since the start of 2022, BCAFN has met Crown political representatives and technical staff using different venues such as bilateral meetings and processes such as the BC–FNLC Technical Working Group on Climate Change, the AFN–Canada Joint Committee on Climate Action, the First Nations Improved Forest Management Protocol Focus Group, the Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities process, the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment, and others. Some of the leading advocacy issues raised repetitively by Regional Chief Teegee and staff is the need to shift the current consultation approach in climate adaptation and mitigation action to a consent-based decision-making approach grounded in a genuine G2G relationship between crown governments and empowered and self-determined communities.

As part of this advocacy work, BCAFN reviewed and submitted comments and raised concerns on current crown engagement approaches and climate plans, programs and protocol development and delivery, such as the BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, the federal 2030 Reduction Plan, the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan and Budget 2022, the National Adaptation Strategy development process, the federal First Nations Leadership Initiative, the Draft B.C.’S Offset Protocol Policy, and many climate-related program streams.

Check out the [BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan](#)

Support self-determined climate actions

BCAFN is mandated to support First Nation governments' climate initiatives (Resolution 05/2021). BCAFN continues facilitating information sharing through the monthly [Climate Change and Water Newsletter](#) and the Climate Change Distribution List. We are also continuing with our [Climate Actions webinar series](#). On June 13, in collaboration with the Prairie Climate Centre (PCC), BCAFN hosted a second workshop on climate data focused on the use of the [Climate Atlas of Canada](#) for climate action.

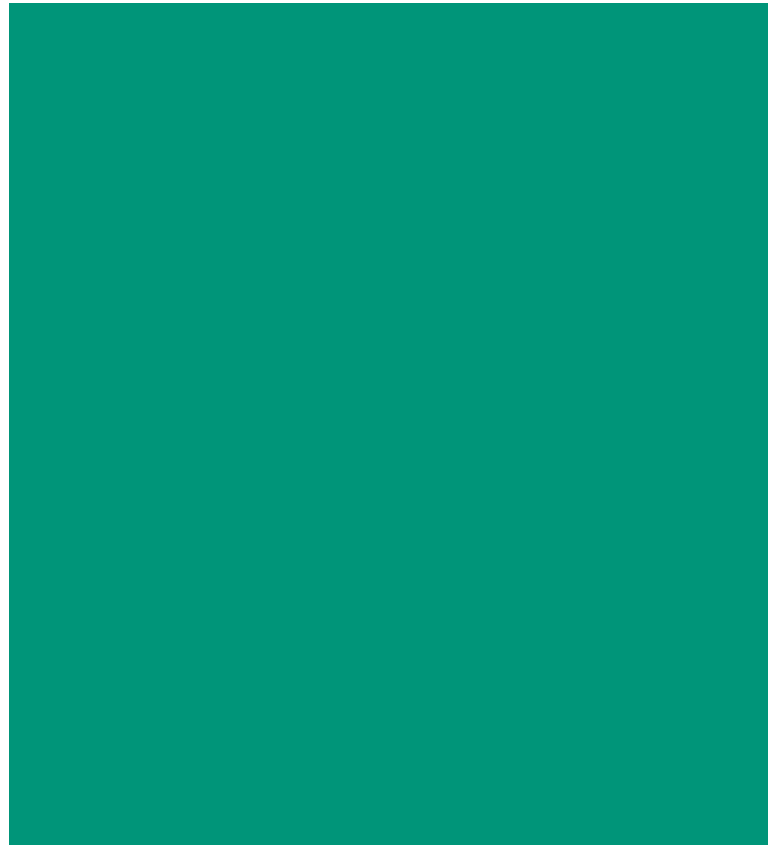
Carbon rights, carbon offsets and economic development

As part of our work to support First Nations-led carbon offset project development, BCAFN prepared the discussion paper [First Nations Carbon](#) and hosted a dialogue on First Nations Land-based Carbon Offsets on April 19 with representatives of communities and organizations. BCAFN also submitted comments to the [Draft B.C.'S Offset Protocol Policy](#) which opened for public consultation in April.

In addition, BCAFN, in collaboration with Ecotrust Canada, has secured the support of the Metcalf Foundation to begin a project called "Enriching BC First Nations Capacity to Develop Forest Carbon Projects." Through this project, BCAFN and Ecotrust Canada want to support First Nations in BC to prepare for and engage in carbon offset projects, achieve conservation and economic goals and protect First Nations' ways of life while affirming inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights. The project has three goals:

- Build and deliver capacity tools for First Nations in BC to protect forests through conservation and carbon offsets;
- Support First Nations to scale up old-growth conservation, assert First Nations' inherent rights, including culture and knowledge; and,
- Increase government and public awareness and support for conservation and carbon offset, including policy and regulation changes.

For more information contact Patricia Rojas, Regional Climate Change Coordinator at patricia.rojas@bcfn.ca



Check out BCAFN's publication - [First Nations Carbon](#)



Regional Chief Terry Teegee speaks at the Women's, Gender Diverse, 2SLGBTQIA+ event held in Richmond in April.



Water

BCAFN Water Dialogue Sessions: Canada Water Agency

In 2021, BCAFN received a [mandate](#) from the Chiefs in Assembly through Resolution 07/2021 which directed BCAFN staff to seek capacity funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to promote a discussion with First Nations in BC on the federal government's proposed Canada Water Agency (CWA). Through this funding, BCAFN hosted a five-part virtual Water Dialogue Series in March 2022 to provide space for First Nations in BC to discuss the potential impacts of the CWA and provide considerations for its development and implementation. Over 275 participants attended throughout the BCAFN Water Dialogue Series, including First Nations Chiefs, leadership, Knowledge Keepers, youth, women, 2SLGBTQQIA+, tribal council representatives, technical experts, and community members. A What We Heard Report will be released to Chiefs and leadership in BC in July 2022.

Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act

As part of the National Class Action Safe Drinking Water Settlement, Canada has committed to repealing the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act (SDWFNA) in March 2022 and replacing the legislation "in consultation with First Nations" by December 2022. The AFN is currently implementing a Joint Working Group to support the co-development process of the legislative reform. The Regional Water Coordinator continues to work with the AFN on the SDWFNA reform and supporting the AFN on developing a long-term National Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater Strategy. Further regional engagements on the SDWFNA will commence in Fall 2022.

FNLC First Nations Water Rights Strategy

In 2021 BCAFN alongside the First Nations Summit

(FNS) and Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) renewed their commitment to advancing First Nations water rights in BC. The Chiefs in Assembly and Chief's Council mandated that the FNLC First Nations Water Rights Strategy be amended to reflect modern priorities towards water security, sustainability, governance, and jurisdiction in BC through BCAFN Resolution 06/2021, FNS Resolution 0621.12 and UBCIC Resolution 2021-43.

In April 2022, the FNLC hosted a virtual Pre-Engagement Session to inform preliminary considerations for the Strategy amendments. First Nations Chiefs, leadership, experts, technicians, and community members from across the province were invited to the session to offer input on the 2013 Strategy and share insights on how a revised strategy could best represent First Nations' water-related interests, concerns, and priorities in BC. The FNLC is pleased to share a [Summary Report](#) of the session. The insights of this report will inform future water-related engagements with First Nations in BC on the amendments of the 2013 First Nations Water Rights Strategy. Further Strategy engagements will be scheduled for 2022/23. The FNLC will keep Chiefs and leadership updated on the Strategy development and apprised of future meeting dates.

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

Emergency Management

It has been just over three years since the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) signed the Emergency Management Services Memorandum of Understanding with BC and Canada, and we are starting to see meaningful progress in providing First Nations with capacity to deal with emergency management, and a recognition that systems at other levels of government need to change.

We have seen increased funding to the First Nations Emergency Service Society for the purchase of equipment, and to increase their capacity to support First Nations communities on the ground. Indigenous Services Canada has also been able to add funding for unqualified costs under Emergency Management BC (EMBC) rules, thereby decreasing the risk of financial hardship for First Nations impacted by emergencies.

After the flooding disasters of last year Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier John Horgan created the Disaster Recovery and Climate Resilience Committee (DRCR). This high-level committee of provincial, federal ministers and the FNLC has meets to discuss the many issues caused by the chronic underfunding of emergency management. This chronic underfunding has led to tens of billions in recovery costs over the past ten plus years. This cannot go on. The time to manage emergencies by

only paying for response and recovery is over. We can move forward in a meaningful way.

At the DRCR, FNLC representatives have pushed to prioritize changes to the Additions to Reserve process for those First Nations that lost lands from their Indian Reserves after the flooding. We also raised the need for improved contracting and procurement to First Nations businesses to benefit from the recovery opportunities – billions of dollars are being spend by government to rebuild from the flooding.

We will continue to work to support the full implementation of First Nations jurisdiction for emergency management, which must include climate resilience. First Nations are at the forefront of impacts from the climate emergency, and we must see billions invested now in management and preparation -- otherwise the costs of recovery will be in the trillions.

The Chiefs at the most recent First Nations Summit and UBCIC meetings provided support for negotiating a new Tripartite Emergency Services Agreement. Under the MOU, we have made some progress in improving jurisdiction and resource allocation for First Nations emergency management – and we know we will see more progress in the years to come.



Regional Chief Terry Teegee in Ottawa attending the Committee of BC and Federal Ministers on Disaster Response and Climate Resilience held in June, 2022

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Canada)

In 2016, the Canadian Government finally fully endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Five years later the federal government passed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (The UN Declaration Act, or UNDA). The UNDA will bring Canada's laws into alignment with the principles found in the UN Declaration. It is important to note that the project to align Canada's laws with the UN Declaration applies equally to past, present, and future legislation. It is also key to remember that this legal consistency and the reporting requirements will be in place in perpetuity (or until the legislation is repealed).

As we have seen in British Columbia, passing an act is just the beginning when it comes to implementing the UN Declaration. The federal government has put a process in place to draft an action plan that includes two phases of engagement, as well as intense policy development. The proposed timeframe has an action plan in place by this time next year.

- Spring/Fall 2022 – Phase I engagement: Indigenous priorities,
- Summer 2022- First Annual Progress Report,
- Fall 2022 – Policy period and development of draft action plan,
- Fall 2022/Winter 2023 – Phase 2 engagement: Validation of draft action plan,
- June 2023 – Second Annual Report,
- June 2023 – Action Plan completed, then tabled in Parliament as soon as practicable and publicly released.

One of the key questions that we as First Nations need to address through this process is how Section 35 of the Constitution relates to the UN Declaration. Canada has indicated that it views Section 35 as foundational to the relationship between the state and Indigenous Peoples. We must take a central role in defining how these two pieces fit together.

Another key area that the BCAFN will be pushing for during the drafting of the UNDA action plan is the creation of a list of priority areas where alignment can begin right away. During the drafting of the DRIPA Action Plan in BC, we brought our own experts to bear on the issue, and developed a priority list.

As the action plan process rolls out, we will be advocating for increased access to resources for engagement, to ensure that our priorities are reflected in the plan. What we have observed in the reporting so far is that it reflects Canada's perspective far more than the perspective of Indigenous Peoples; we will be working to change that as the action plan is developed.

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (BC)

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) has been on the books since late 2019. In the time since its passing, the First Nations Leadership Council has seen real progress in the alignment of BC laws with the UN Declaration.

We have a robust action plan developed in collaboration with the Province, and there is a reporting structure in place to give clarity on progress. Perhaps most significantly, the Interpretation Act was amended to require that provincial laws be interpreted through the lens of Section 35 of the Constitution and the UN Declaration. There is also a secretariat being formed that will be responsible for embedding the Declaration Act in provincial obligations.

There has been progress on legislative alignment in the priority areas we initially brought forward. This includes forestry, children and families, anti-racism data legislation, the Heritage Conservation Act, and the Mineral Tenure Act.

But of course there are also concerns that the BCAFN and the FNLC continue to raise with the Province. First, our organizations are not title holders; the province needs to implement standard processes for consultation with First Nations of BC. We also continue to see legislation introduced that does not adequately align with the UN Declaration. However, on the whole the progress we are seeing outweighs these concerns, and while movement is slow, it remains steady.

Children and Families

Canada's First Nations Child and Family Services Program has for decades been exercising discriminatory funding practices which has led to high levels of First Nations children being placed into care. In 2016, The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal issued its landmark ruling acknowledging said practices and in 2021 the Federal Court of Canada upheld the CHRT ruling. As a result, Canada has committed to negotiate a settlement. Through this process, AFN, and the other parties have been negotiating towards a final settlement.

On December 31st, 2021, there was an announcement made of two Agreements-in-Principle (AIPs) being reached regarding long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program, as well as compensation for children and families who had been impacted by unnecessary removals and the destruction of family systems due to Canada's discriminatory funding programs for First Nations child and family services delivery.

The general terms of this nearly \$40 billion agreement - the largest settlement agreement in Canada's history - includes a significant commitment to compensating victims and long-term reforms of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. These AIPs, and the commitments from Canada, have taken decades of litigation. We are nearing the final agreement stage and we are looking for strong provisions to support and compensate First Nations families and children.

Here in BC, First Nations have been fighting this issue in grassroots advocacy and political efforts for well over 40 years. BCAFN hosted an information session with the AFN team on April 28th and will be hosting another session in late August to discuss long term reform. We have been working diligently toward a full compensation package in a final settlement agreement that will commit Canada to ensuring the discriminatory aspects of these programs do not reoccur in the future. This will include region-specific work by the AFN, and all parties to the final settlement agreement.

Further, the Tripartite Working Group continues to address necessary changes related to Child and Family

Services Act as required by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act which holds that BC must take all measures necessary, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to ensure consistency of laws with the UN Declaration.

Shared Territories and Overlaps

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

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

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

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

A summary of the proceedings are available and a final report is currently being prepared, and will be shared with BC Chiefs. For more information contact BCAFN Senior Policy Analyst, Sarah Froese at Sarah.Froese@bcfn.ca.

Justice and Policing Reform

Regional Chief Terry Teegee continues to Co-Chair the AFN Taskforce on Policing along with Quebec Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, advancing work to establish policing as an essential service and the co-development of the National Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS). Chief Jerry Jack and Chief Dean Nelson are the BC representatives on this Taskforce.

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

An AFN Forum on Policing and Restorative Justice was held virtually on April 6-7, 2022. A report will be forthcoming. Regionally, the BCAFN collaborated with the BC First Nations Justice Council to engage with First Nations in BC on their policing and community safety vision, priorities, and recommended approaches to the federal legislation that will be drafted to establish First Nations policing as an essential service. The [two-day virtual dialogue](#) was held on May 26-27, 2022. We received feedback that it was a very informative discussion and a good step in advancing this conversation. Select recordings of the dialogue were made available to all participants and are available as a resource to First Nations by contacting BCAFN staff. A draft Engagement Report and Legislative Recommendations Report will be circulated for feedback

shortly. BCAFN looks forward to advancing collaborative work based on the recommendations gathered in the reports. The finalized reports will also be conveyed to the national AFN.

BCAFN will also collaborate with the BC First Nations Justice Council on work to engage on, and inform, the National Indigenous Justice Strategy.

BCAFN also supports work hosted by the BC First Nations Justice Council to develop an Indigenous Women's Justice Strategy in alignment with Strategy 11 of the [BC First Nations Justice Strategy](#).

The BC Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act delivered its [report](#) to the legislature by April 28, 2022. The FNLC and the BC First Nations Justice Council responded favourably to several bold recommendations made by the committee to transform policing. However, the recommendations were quite high level and will require close partnerships with First Nations to ensure that implementation is in alignment with the UN Declaration, and to ensure that the priorities of First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people are included.

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



Stories of hope and partnership during the “Wildlife Stewardship: Bringing Back the Caribou” panel at the BCAFN Economic Development Forum in May.

The Papal Visit to Canada

Later in July, the Pope will be visiting Canada to continue the healing process that started with the delegation of Indigenous leaders who went to the Vatican earlier this year. The uncovering of 215 unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School last year has finally pushed the Catholic Church to reflect on its role in the attempted genocide of Indigenous peoples. We welcome this visit from the Pope.

Currently the trip will be to Edmonton, Iqaluit, and Quebec City. In May the BCAFN called for his itinerary to include Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc and the site of the first recovery of unmarked graves at a Canadian residential school. There hasn't been any shift since this call.

Currently the itinerary is as follows:

On July 24 the Pope will arrive in Edmonton and have a brief ceremony at the airport. On July 25, the Pope will meet with survivors at the site of the former Ermineskin

Indian Residential School (south of Edmonton); Ermineskin was one of the largest residential schools in Canada. He will also visit the Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, in downtown Edmonton on July 25.

On July 26, the Pope will hold mass in Edmonton at the Commonwealth Stadium. This same day, he will also journey to the pilgrimage site of Lac Ste. Anne.

The remainder of the Pope's visit will include the following visits:

- July 27. Quebec City
- July 28. Quebec City
- July 29. Quebec City/Iqaluit





RED DRESS DAY
National Day of Awareness for
Missing and Murdered Indigenous
Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People

Took place
May 5, 2022



**British Columbia
Assembly of First Nations**

Watch for future events in 2023

Go to bcafn.ca and check out the *What We Heard* report (2021) on engagement sessions for the national action plan to end the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual people (2SLGBTQIA+)

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Administrative Project Support

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BCAFN Events

BCAFN Annual General Meeting

[REGISTER](#)

September 21 - 23, 2022

Musqueam Community Centre,

Vancouver

BCAFN Forum on Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle

[REGISTER](#)

August 16, 2022, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hybrid: in-person Coast Coal Harbour Vancouver Hotel and online via Zoom

Information and registration for all BCAFN events can be found at events.bcafn.ca

AFN Events

National Forum on First Nations Education

[REGISTER](#)

August 17 & 18, 2022

Toronto, Metro Toronto Convention Centre

National Climate Gathering

[REGISTER](#)

September 27 - 29, 2022

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Information and registration for all AFN events can be found at afn.ca

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