



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
Moccasin Square Garden, Kamloops, BC
March 27-28, 2017

Resolution 10(h)/2017

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR BILL S-215, AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL CODE (SENTENCING FOR VIOLENT OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN) AND CALL TO ACTION**

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) affirms:
 - a. Article 22, (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B. Indigenous women in Canada, and in British Columbia particularly, are at a higher risk of being victims of violence than non-Aboriginal females, as indicated in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) report titled "Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: 2015 Update to the National Operational Overview;"
- C. Aboriginal women continue to be over-represented among Canada's missing and murdered women given their percentage of the Canadian population (4.3%);
- D. The 2015 RCMP report indicated that Indigenous women accounted for 4.3% of the overall female population in Canada but made up 11.3% of missing females and 16% of all female homicides;
- E. On December 11, 2015, Senator Lillian Dyck introduced *Bill S-215 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women)* in the Senate, a Bill that would require a

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court to take Aboriginal female identity into account during sentencing of offenders to ensure that there are significant consequences for violent offenses against Aboriginal women;

- F. On July 13, 2016, the Assembly of First Nations passed and adopted Resolution 26/2016, a resolution in support of Bill S-215;
- G. On December 12, 2016, Bill S-215 was passed in the Senate, and it was ordered that a message be sent to the House of Commons to acquaint the House that the Senate has passed the bill, to which it desires its concurrence; and
- H. BC First Nations continue to firmly advocate for change in addressing violence against women and girls in our communities, and acknowledge the benefit of collective action in leading to change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BC Assembly of First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly support the passage of Bill S-215: *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women)* in the Senate, and in the House of Commons.
- 2. The BC Assembly of First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly compel all BC Chief and Councils to:
 - a. pass a Band Council Resolution (BCR) in support of Bill S-215; and
 - b. forward the BCR to both Senator Dyck and their local Member of Parliament.
- 3. The BC Assembly of First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Acting Regional Chief to meet with Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould to further express support for Bill S-215.

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