

## **BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**

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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Musqueam Community Centre, X<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əỷəm, Vancouver, BC
September 18-20, 2019

Resolution 21(a)/2019

SUBJECT:	AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS
MOVED BY:	
SECONDED BY:	
DECISION:	

## **WHEREAS:**

CLIDIECT.

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

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

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019, at the Musqueam Community Centre, X<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm, Vancouver, BC

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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

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

## THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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

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

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

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