



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Resolution 26/2019

Musqueam Community Centre, Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Vancouver, BC
September 18-20, 2019

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BC FIRST NATIONS FOREST STRATEGY

MOVED BY: CHIEF HARVEY MCLEOD, UPPER NICOLA INDIAN BAND

SECONDED BY: CHIEF CHASITY DANIELS, GITWANGAK INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Premier John Horgan sent a mandate letter, July 18, 2017, to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) setting out priority areas of work that included reviewing forest policies, programs and legislation to determine how to bring the Principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) into action in BC;
- B. In 2018, as part of their commitment to reconciliation and the implementation of the UN Declaration in engagement sessions with BC First Nations the MFLNRORD committed to developing a revised BC First Nations Forest Strategy, in collaborations with BC First Nations, building on recommendations received from First Nations in 2015 and 2017;
- B. in January 2019 the development of a revised BC First Nations Forest Strategy was included as a priority in the MFLNRORD Action Plan to support the implementation of the UN Declaration and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action in the program

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Teegee".

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

areas of work of the ministry;

- C. the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implement, affirms:

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used or acquired, 2) have a right to own, use, develop and control lands, territories...

Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resource; and

- D. The BC First Nations Forest Strategy has been informed by direct feedback received from several engagement sessions with BC First Nations in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019 led by the First Nations Forestry Council. The Implementation Plan provides an outline of the priority areas of work, identified by the Nations, to be advanced in years 1 to 5, as a starting point for the long term and on-going implementation of the Forest Strategy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports the draft BC First Nations Forest Strategy and Implementation Plan (2019), which affirms joint decision-making and an increased role of First Nations in the governance and stewardship of forest lands and resources;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the First Nations Forestry Council to report to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly and the Regional Chief regarding progress on the full support and implementation of the draft BC First Nations Forest Strategy and Implementation Plan; and
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Province of BC to consult in good faith for the full implementation of **Article 19** of the UN Declaration which states:
States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief