

## **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 27/2019

DECISION:	CARRIED
SECONDED BY:	CHIEF DON TOM, TSARTLIP FIRST NATION
MOVED BY:	CHIEF BYRON LOUIS, OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT TO WILD SALMON SUMMIT COMMITTEE

## **WHEREAS:**

- A. Wild Pacific salmon are an integral keystone in the culture, economy and livelihood of First Nations throughout BC;
- B. The steadying decline of healthy and abundant wild salmon stocks has reached a crisis point;
- C. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the governments of Canada and British Columbia have adopted without qualification and committed to implement, affirms:

**Article 26**: Indigenous peoples have the right to own use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use...;

**Article 29:** Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources [...];

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- D. First Nations in BC have diverse interests, perspectives and priorities with respect to the management, rehabilitation and protection of wild salmon, and as self-determining Nations, share a responsibility to manage resources in a manner that respects the interdependence we have with one another;
- E. First Nations in BC have a common interest in increasing decision-making and control with respect to the regulation, policy, planning, management, protection and rehabilitation of wild salmon, salmon habitat and salmon fisheries;
- F. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), a collaborative working partnership between the UBCIC, the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), hosted the "Wild Salmon Summit: In a Time of Reconciliation a Summit to Protect and Restore Wild Salmon Through Indigenous Jurisdiction and Authority" ("Wild Salmon Summit"), with the following goals:
- 1. Conduct an environmental scan of the mandates and operations of First Nations Fisheries Organizations in BC in relation to wild salmon;
- 2. Discuss the current state of wild salmon health and identify barriers to ensuring healthy wild salmon populations; and
- 3. Develop a shared strategic vision for wild salmon in BC
- G. Delegates at the Wild Salmon Summit proposed the following recommendations as they relate to the protection, rehabilitation and management of wild salmon, wild salmon habitat and wild salmon fisheries:
  - 1. Develop a shared political vision, and strategic pro-active provincial plan, amongst BC First Nations, for the rehabilitation, protection and management of wild salmon/salmon habitat and fisheries through the implementation and recognition of our inherent jurisdictions, authorities, titles, rights and responsibilities:
    - a. FNLC strike a Political Steering Committee to develop/identify recommended immediate province-wide priorities (FNLC, BC First Nations representatives, Pacific Salmon Commission, FNFC);
    - Governance Models: Tier 1 (First Nations-Intertribal relations), Tier 2 (Nation-to-Nation, government-to-government: Tripartite Processes/DFO-FNLC MOU/BC Wild Salmon Advisory Council); and
    - c. Access equitable, sustaining funding sources.
  - 2. Complete an environmental scan and develop a plan to recognize, coordinate and activate the technical knowledge, Indigenous knowledge and experiences of our own Indigenous

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Fisheries Organizations and Nations in relation to the political table/governance model;

- 3. Suggest purposes and priorities that the shared table can bring forward; and
- 4. Short Term Goals: Implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy.
- H. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorsed the recommendations arising out of the 2018 Wild Salmon Summit via resolution 14/2018 at the BCAFN 2018 AGM October 22-24, which also directed the BC AFN to:

work collectively with the FNLC to identify interim political and technical representation to populate a, "Political Steering Committee on Wild Salmon".

## THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BC Assembly of First Nations, working with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit as the FNLC to work to secure funds to support the Political Steering Committee on Wild Salmon, and to work with the First Nations Fisheries Council to provide staff support for this Committee;
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly appoints the following political representatives to the Political Steering Committee on Wild Salmon:
  - 1. Chief Colleen Jacob, Xaxli'p
  - 2. Tyrone McNeil, Stolo Tribal Council
- 3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly appoints the following technical representative to the Political Steering Committee on Wild Salmon:
  - 1. Jordan Point, FNFC
- 4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the BCAFN representatives to the Political Steering Committee on Wild Salmon to provide regular updates to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly.

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To Table 20 Paris and 61