



# BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road  
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3  
Website: [www.bcafn.ca](http://www.bcafn.ca)

## BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

**Resolution 12/2020**

Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 101 Gordon St., Nanaimo, BC  
March 4 & 5, 2020

---

**SUBJECT:** ENDORSEMENT OF THE FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE STRATEGY

---

**MOVED BY:** CHIEF RALPH LEON, STS'AILES

---

**SECONDED BY:** DEBORAH BAKER, PROXY, SQUAMISH NATION

---

**DECISION:** CARRIED

---

### WHEREAS:

- A. The national crisis in Indigenous Peoples overrepresentation in jails continues to deepen, with over 30% of inmates across the country being Indigenous;
- B. The BC First Nations Justice Council was established in 2016, by resolutions of the BC First Nations Summit, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, and the BC Assembly of First Nations to:
  - i. Identify the policy and program changes and resource realignments required to address the magnitude of issues contributing to the disproportionate patterns of children and youth in care and incarceration of First Nations people; and,
  - ii. Hold the BC Government responsible and accountable to engage respectfully and work with the BC First Nations Justice Council on concrete strategies and actions to direct meaningful, fundamental change in these systems;
- C. The BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) and the Province of British Columbia (BC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on September 7, 2017, committing to the development and implementation of a joint justice strategy to transform the criminal justice system and the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the criminal justice system;

---

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Snuneymuxw, Nanaimo, BC

A blue ink signature of Terry Teegee, written in a cursive style.

---

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- D. The BC First Nations Justice Council extensively engaged with First Nations leadership and subject matter experts throughout 2018-2019 to gather understandings and direction regarding the development of the Strategy; and
- E. The draft BC First Nations Justice Strategy has been produced through this joint work and represents a comprehensive and integrative approach to address the crisis in First Nations overrepresentation in custody. The Strategy pursues two tracks of change at once: (1) Reform of the existing Justice System; (2) Transformation through the rebuilding of First Nations Justice Systems.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorse the joint BC First Nations Justice Strategy as presented on March 4, 2020;
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the BC First Nations Justice Council in its activities to implement the Strategy; and
- 3. The BC First Nations Justice Council will update the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on the activities of the Council and progress of the strategy at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting in September 2020.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Snuneymuxw, Nanaimo, BC**



---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**