



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
November 17 & 18, 2020
Online via Zoom

Resolution 20/2020

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR BCACCS AND INDIGENOUS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE
FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGY

MOVED BY: CHIEF MAUREEN LUGGI, WET'SUWET'EN

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LEE SPAHAN, COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

DECISION: ABSTENTIONS: KUKPI7 WAYNE CHRISTIAN, KUKPI7 RON IGNACE
CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations peoples have always maintained jurisdiction over the care their children, which includes the care, teachings and responsibility of children in early learning and childcare settings;
- B. The federal government has committed to, and been engaged with, First Nations with respect to a national Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework for First Nations decision making and control in the delivery of affordable, high quality, flexible, and fully inclusive care and educational supports for First Nations children and their families;
- C. 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:

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- i. Article 13(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons; and
 - ii. Article 14(1) Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning. (2) Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination. (3) States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language;
- D. By Resolution 04(b)/2015, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly recognized that with limited resources, the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) has played a critical and essential role in First Nations Early Childhood Development and Care policy development, research, training and education and service delivery since 1996, and supported BCACCS becoming a Centre of Excellence for Aboriginal Early Childhood Development;
- E. By Resolution 14/2017, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supported the BCACCS to develop a province-wide First Nation engagement process on a national IELCC Framework, and to carry this framework through approval and implementation processes such that it will be a basis for First Nations and their communities to exercise their authority to determine the systems and structures, as well as the programs and services, that provide ELCC supports to them - in ways they develop and control, by way of capacities provided and developed for the purpose; and
- F. BCAACS has now developed a BC-Regional IELCC framework including options for an implementation strategy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully provide continued support to the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) as the regional lead agency in the ongoing development and implementation of a regional IELCC strategy;

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2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on BCACCS Board of Directors and staff to inform IELCC framework implementation, subject to ongoing engagement and partnership development for regional First Nations leadership via advice and direction from Chiefs, community leaders and key stakeholders;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and staff to work with the BCACCS, and with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to support ongoing engagement and implementation processes in BC, as well as help provide the political leadership for the regional partnerships that will be required to ensure the IELCC framework best responds to and supports First Nations children, families, and communities in ways they determine.

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