



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
September 14, 15 & 16, 2021
Online via Zoom

Resolution 27/2021

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING ANTI-RACISM LEGISLATION AND FRAMEWORK

MOVED BY: KUKPI7 FRED ROBBINS, ES'KETEMC

SECONDED BY: CHIEF TOM NELSON, QUATSINO FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

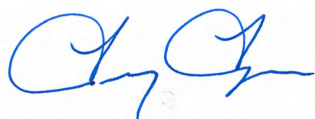
- A. colonialism and Indigenous-specific racism continue to underpin Canadian society, structures, and institutions, creating systems and policies of oppression that undermine the survival, dignity, well-being and safety of Indigenous peoples at both collective and individual levels;
- B. despite current discourse and action around advancing reconciliation, Indigenous peoples continue to experience racism and discrimination – as proven by the continued cases of racial profiling and biased policing that showcase deeply entrenched patterns of colonial violence and intolerance, and by the 2020 [In Plain Sight](#) report on Indigenous-specific racism in BC's health care system, which the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorsed through Resolution 01/2021, calling for full implementation of its recommendations to eliminate anti-Indigenous racism from the BC health care system;

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- 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, amongst other standards:
- Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
- Article 15(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information;
- (2): States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding, and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society;
- D. recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing inequities in safety and wellbeing for Indigenous and racialized groups, by Resolution 10/2021 the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly called for a BC COVID-19 Immunization Plan that would help First Nations gain equitable access to culturally safe vaccination sites, supports, and resources without further racism or stigmatization;
- E. in November 2020, Surrey-Green Timbers MLA Rachna Singh was appointed BC's first Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives and given the critical mandate to work with BC's new Human Rights Commissioner and other stakeholders to introduce anti-racism legislation in the province that will help reduce systemic discrimination and pave the way for race-based data collection essential to modernizing sectors like policing, healthcare and education. The *In Plain Sight* report adopted by the Chiefs includes Recommendation 2, calling for an anti-racism act that aligns with the UN Declaration as required by the Declaration Act;
- F. the Province is set to begin public consultation on the Anti-Racism legislation in fall 2021, and held a preliminary engagement session with Executive members of the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) on May 11, 2021 to gain feedback and direction on the development of the legislation, and where the FNLC explicitly informed the Province that they need to engage directly with the proper Title and Rights holders and that engagement with the FNLC is in no way substitute for consultation with the proper Title and Rights holders; and

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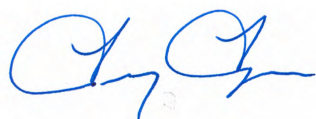
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- G. On September 9, 2021 Secretary Singh announced an engagement strategy to encourage British Columbians to share their stories and experiences using government services in BC which will help inform government how to collect data that is reflective of the needs and experiences of BIPOC communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly stands in solidarity with all Indigenous peoples and racialized minorities who are combatting racism and experiencing grievous harm, fear, trauma, and hate;
2. in recognition of the rising trends of anti-Indigenous and anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the global focus on anti-Black racism through the marches for Black Lives Matter, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly commits to advancing and strengthening a strong anti-racist perspective that is focused on identifying, challenging, and eliminating the structures, policies, and practices that enable and perpetuate systemic racism, and that centers anti-colonialism, eliminating Indigenous-specific racism, and embeds Indigenous human rights;
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls upon the provincial government to ensure that that First Nations Title and Rights Holders provide their free, prior and informed consent and are included as key decision-makers in the development of the new Anti-Racism legislation; and
4. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and staff to work with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit, as the First Nations Leadership Council, to continue engaging with the Province on its Anti-Racism legislation, including ensuring that the legislation addresses the cross-sectoral nature of systemic racism, adopts a holistic, inclusive approach to eliminating the root causes of racism, and establishes an equitable, transparent system for race-based data collection.

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