



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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**BCAFN 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**September 14, 15 & 16, 2021**  
**Online via Zoom**

**Resolution 29/2021**

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**SUBJECT:** "WHAT WE HEARD" REPORT ON MMIWG2SLGBTQQA+

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**Moved BY:** KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLUPS TE SECWÉPEMC

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**SECONDED BY:** CHIEF DON TOM, TSARTLIP FIRST NATION

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**DECISION:** CARRIED

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. The ongoing tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and LGBTQQA+ people is a direct result of systematic racism, sexism, colonialism, and poverty. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) acknowledged that this national crisis is genocide, a fact that Indigenous peoples and their allies have known and declared for decades;
- B. Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and LGBTQQA+ people, survivors, family members, loved ones, and members of front-line, grassroots, and Indigenous and women's organization have dedicated their lives to ending this tragedy, and have been on the front-lines of this work for decades, bringing deep knowledge, experience, and expertise. These advocates brought national attention to the crisis of MMIWG2S+, which led to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;
- C. The National Inquiry made 231 Calls for Justice, and called for these imperatives to be implemented through a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and LGBTQQA people;

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**


- D. The first Call for Justice states “We call upon federal provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous governments (hereinafter “all governments”), in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people”;
- E. The AFN Women’s Council worked with regional elected AFN Women’s Council representatives to host engagement sessions in each region to contribute to the development of the National Action Plan on MMIWG2S+, and was mandated to engage in this work through resolution #67/2019, *Development and Implementation of a National Action Plan on Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA*. This resolution directs the AFN to ensure the Action Plan is respectful of any Nation, women, or regional-led processes in regard to their planning.
- F. Pursuant to BCAFN Resolution 2013-13 *Expanding Engagement on the National Action Plan on MMIWG2S+* the BCAFN hosted a four-phase engagement process to seek insight from survivors, MMIWG2S+ families, and loved ones regarding how the Calls for Justice should be implemented in British Columbia in May and June 2021. Co-facilitators Chasity Davis-Alphonse and Racelle Kooy facilitated these sessions and curated the final *What we Heard* report.
- G. The BCAFN also advocated for improvements to the National Action Plan on MMIWG2S+ development and implementation process, including advocacy to create direct pathways of engagement between MMIWG2S+ advocates and the federal and provincial governments.
- H. On June 3, 2021 the federal government, and a number of provincial governments and Indigenous organizations released their contributions to the National Action Plan. Many valuable contributions were made to this plan by the family members, survivors, and advocates involved. At the same time, the plan did not include concrete components of a plan such as discrete commitments to action, timelines, funding details, or coordination of responsibilities. It was also missing key contributions from those who were not able to complete their contributions in time or who those who are still seeking access to this process.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support and honour the lived experience, perspectives, and recommendations shared as part of the *What we Heard* report.
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the development of a BCAFN strategic action-plan for women, 2S, and LGBTQIA+ justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion which incorporates the recommendations from the *What we Heard* report.

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3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Regional Chief and the BCAFN Women's Representative to support further work to gather input in order to fill gaps identified as part of this engagement process.
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Regional Chief and the BCAFN Women's Representative to advocate for *What we Heard* to be integrated into federal and provincial level initiatives to implement the Calls for Justice, and to advocate for particularly immediate action on the top five priorities identified in the report: A. Human and Indigenous Rights and Governmental Obligations; B. Culture; C. Health and Wellness; D. Health and Wellness Service Providers; E. Police Services
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the BCAFN to continue meaningful, respectful, culturally relevant, and trauma-informed communication and engagement with MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA+ family members and survivors so that updates, implementation progress, and changes are shared and MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA+ family members and survivors to stay informed on processes moving forward.
6. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the federal and provincial government to support the establishment of decentralized advisory and implementation committees/secretariats to guide the implementation of the National Action Plan and ensure accountability. In accordance with recommendations regarding Indigenous-led services and solutions in the "What we Heard" report, this work must:
  - a) be led by Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and LGBTQQIA+ people
  - b) empower community champions and Knowledge Keepers
  - c) be inclusive of youth
  - d) involve transparent, accessible, and consistent communication with all partners, survivors, family members, and loved ones.
  - e) centralize Indigenous knowledge in a way that recognizes distinctions between diverse First Nations
  - f) involve an annual review with the goal of ensuring accountability for implementation on behalf of all partners
  - g) be sustainably funded

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is written over a horizontal line.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief