



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

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

**Resolution 31/2021**

---

**SUBJECT:** A BC FIRST NATIONS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

---

---

**MOVED BY:** KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLUPS TE SECWEPEMC

---

---

**SECONDED BY:** CHIEF COUNCILLOR ELAINE MOORE, NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITWINKSIHLKW

---

---

**DECISION:** CARRIED

---

### WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states:

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 20: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

Article 21: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 15th day of September 2021**

---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**


- B. The BCAFN Is mandated by Resolutions (Resolution 7(E)/2019 -Fair And Equitable Access For First Nations To Credit Rating System; Resolution 07(F)/2019 - Right To Access International Markets And Trade; Resolution 15/2019 - Support-In-Principle For Protocol On Cooperation And Communication Between The First Nations Leadership Council, First Nations Tax Commission, First Nations Financial Management Board, First Nations Finance Authority, Lands Advisory Board, Aboriginal Financial Officers Association Of BC, New Relationship Trust And First Nations Public Service Secretariat; Resolution 15/2021 - Support For The Development Of A Memorandum Of Cooperation Between the BCAFN and First Nations Business Development Association; Resolution 13/2020 - Support For First Nations In BC Food Security, Sovereignty And Economic Development; Resolution 13/2017 - Support For The BCAFN Sustainable Economic Development And Fiscal Relations Strategy;
- C. The BCAFN has been working with First Nations rights holders, Crown agencies and partners to support First Nations fiscal and economic self-determination and create regulatory changes needed for First Nations wealth management, including but not limited to, creating and implementing the BCAFN Black Books, annual First Nations economic development forums and workshops, creation of initial report on First Nations wellness (non-GDP) indicators;
- D. The global COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated the challenges First Nations businesses and entrepreneurs have in accessing capital, conducting business online and receiving supports from First Nations led entities or organizations in BC;
- E. There does not exist a dedicated, First Nations-led institution in BC to support the economic development of First Nations across all sectors;
- F. The BCAFN proposes to work with First Nations rights holders, First Nation organizations and partners to create a First Nations Centre of Excellence for Economic Development (Centre of Excellence).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to work towards developing and implementing the concept for a BC First Nations Centre of Excellence for Economic Development.
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to ensure a transparent process is developed and implemented in the creation and implementation of the Centre of Excellence, including regional representation by First Nations experts and leaders, and annual reporting to the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 15th day of September 2021**



---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**