



# 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**  
**March 9 & 10, 2022**  
**Online via Zoom**

**Resolution 06/2022**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT BC FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

---

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

---

**SECONDED BY: TYRONE MCNEIL, PROXY, KWAW-KWA-APLIT**

---

**DECISION: CARRIED**

---

**WHEREAS:**

- A. Human-caused climate change and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic social, environmental, and economic injustices by disproportionately affecting First Nations communities in BC.
- B. Climate change threatens the security and way of life of Indigenous peoples across Canada and the world through the escalating impacts of climate-exacerbated disasters and through the breakdown of the ecological conditions under which human civilizations developed.
- C. First Nations have the right to determine and direct their own environmental strategies, regulations and policies concerning the climate crisis and its impacts, as well as the continued development of projects that directly impact the welfare and conservation of their lands, territories, and resources.
- D. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the UN Declaration), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implement through legislation, affirms:

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022**

---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

**Article 8: (1)** Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture; (2) States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:

- (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
- (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
- (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;

**Article 18:** Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

**Article 25:** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

**Article 26 (1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

**(2):** Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

**(3):** States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the Indigenous peoples concerned.

**Article 29 (1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

**Article 32 (1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

**(2):** States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

**(3):** States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such

---

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022



---

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

- E. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified and assessed pathways that are consistent with limiting the effects of global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial average global temperatures in order to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate.
- F. The planet has warmed 1.1°C since the preindustrial era (IPCC, AR6) and the rate for Canada is about double the magnitude of the average warming across the globe (Canada, CCCCR).
- G. Provincial and federal climate mitigation and adaptation strategies are insufficient in meeting Canada's and BC's emission reduction targets, and include overreliance on unproven technologies concurrent with increased support for fossil fuel production.
- H. By Resolution 05/2021, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed Regional Chief and staff to support community-led climate initiatives across BC to:
  - a. enhance First Nations' capacity and build resilience to adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
  - b. place First Nations in a leadership role to advance and benefit from the growth of a new, clean and just economy, which is also premised on respect for First Nations Rights, Title and Treaty Rights.
- I. By Resolution 04/2019, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed Regional Chief, working with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit and the First Nations Leadership Council, to prepare a First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (the "Strategy") aligned with the IPCC's recommendation for reducing GHG emissions to limit global warming to 1.5 °C and to establish the importance of ensuring the climate planning protects traditional ecological knowledge.
- J. The FNLC established an advisory group to guide the Strategy development, engage First Nations leadership, staff, community members and First Nations organizations, and circulated draft versions of the Strategy to First Nations in BC, including presentations at the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly meetings, and updated the Strategy to reflect the input received from First Nations.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully respects and supports First Nations continued exercise and defense of their inherent and constitutionally protected Title, Rights and Treaty Rights and efforts to ensure the protection of their respective territories amid the ongoing climate emergency;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorses the BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as presented on March 10, 2022;

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022**



---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls upon the provincial and federal governments to work collaboratively with the First Nations Summit (FNS), the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and relevant partner organizations to implement the Strategy and First Nations' climate priorities;
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN to work with the FNS and the UBCIC to advocate to the provincial and federal governments for full funding to implement the strategy, in a manner consistent with Article 39 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; and
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN to work with the FNS and the UBCIC as the FNLC to seek funding and organize a climate action session for First Nations in BC that will involve planning towards implementation of the Strategy.

---

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022



---

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief