



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN 18th ANNUAL SPECIAL CHIEFS MEETING
March 9 & 10, 2022
Online via Zoom

Resolution 07/2022

SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF THE “WHAT WE HEARD REPORT” AND CALL TO DEVELOP A RENEWED COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED FIRST NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE CAPACITY SUPPORT STRATEGY

MOVED BY: CHIEF HARVEY MCLEOD, UPPER NICOLA INDIAN BAND

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JAMES HOBART, SPUZZUM FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. There is an ongoing significant need for Indigenous-designed support for BC First Nations to assist them to build capacity in their administrations, so they can effectively and efficiently carry out their expanding decision-making powers by exercising their jurisdiction, authority, and administration;
- B. The First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS) was established in 2008 as a provincial-level body mandated to create and implement a collective plan to support First Nations communities and organizations in BC as they pursue excellence in capacity building and human resource development;

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- C. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the Government of Canada has adopted without qualifications, and has, alongside the Government of BC committed to implement, affirms:

Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

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 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programs affecting them, and as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.

Article 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards;

- D. Since its re-establishment in 2017, FNPSS has consistently delivered effective, accessible and relevant training and capacity building activities in alignment with its existing mandate and goals - these activities have received high-level participation from First Nations in BC;
- E. By Resolution 14/2019 “Support for the First Nations Public Service Secretariat” the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly identified its support for the First Nations Public Service Secretariat and its work to strengthen and enhance public service capacity in BC First Nations communities and organizations, on an individual and Nation level;
- F. FNPSS is currently not supported by any sustained or long-term funding, and is solely reliant on short-term project-based proposal funding;

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- G. Since the development of the FNPSS 2010 capacity building strategy, First Nations in BC have made significant strides in reasserting their inherent rights through self-government, jurisdiction, and other means;
- H. While the Governments of Canada and British Columbia have committed to work in partnership with First Nations on the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and on various initiatives in support of First Nations self-determination and a new Government-to-Government relationship, the governments have not provided sufficient, necessary capacity support to First Nations to be full participants, neither through fiscal resources nor through support for First Nation institutions to provide coordinated capacity support;
- I. As part of its ongoing work, from May to September of 2021, FNPSS undertook engagement with BC First Nations about their current and future administration and governance capacity building needs, and the role of FNPSS. The summary of these discussions is captured in the FNPSS 2021 *What We Heard Report*;
- J. The *What We Heard Report* reinforces the need for comprehensive, coordinated, culturally relevant and accessible capacity building support for First Nation governments, and will guide FNPSS to renew and update its strategy for comprehensive and coordinated First Nation public service capacity development support in collaboration with BC First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorses the First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS) *What We Heard Report*, which summarizes FNPSS 2021 engagement with BC First Nations regarding First Nations' current and future administration and governance capacity building needs;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS) to use the *What We Heard Report* to develop, in collaboration with BC First Nations, a renewed comprehensive and coordinated First Nations public service capacity support strategy; and

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3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the federal and provincial governments to provide the necessary long-term funding supports for FNPSS to continue to deliver public service capacity building for BC First Nations with tangible and sustainable funding.

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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