



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

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

Resolution 11/2022

SUBJECT: BCAFN MANDATE ON HUNTING AND WILDLIFE

MOVED BY: CHIEF ED HALL, KWIKWETLEM FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LEE SPAHAN, COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations in British Columbia have been stewards of their lands and waters since time immemorial, upholding the sacred responsibility, reflected in Indigenous laws and legal orders, of protecting and managing their territories including the wildlife species that reside within;
- B. The Province has not consistently treated or regarded hunting as the immensely important aspect of the Nations' Title, Rights, culture, and livelihoods that it is, and has instead sought to control Indigenous hunting through prohibitive provincial policy and legislation, denying Aboriginal Title and Rights, and disregarding and disrespecting traditions, laws, and protocols;
- 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 B.C., committed to implement, affirms:

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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.

Article 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources.

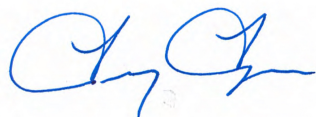
Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources; (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions 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, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources;

- D. The BC *Wildlife Act* remains an outdated and colonial piece of legislation that regulates First Nations hunting in the Province;
- E. On January 10, 2022, the Ministry provided BCAFN with draft language for its currently proposed amendments (the *Wildlife Act* "Consultation Draft"), and the BCAFN, as part of the FNLC, provided a written submission, including proposed revisions to the Consultation Draft, to the Ministry on January 27, 2022;
- F. The BCAFN has previously passed three resolutions that would support the creation of this mandate, namely Resolution No. 19/2021, Support to Advocate For Meaningful Involvement of First Nations in the Restructuring of the Provincial Government's Natural Resource Sector, Resolution No.20/2018, Tsilhqot'in Nation Wildlife Management and First Nations Jurisdiction, and Resolution No.11/2009, Regulation of Hunting Territory;
- G. Following discussion held at the February 4th BCAFN Board of Directors meeting, in which the BCAFN Board expressed the need to treat hunting as a priority issue, and to dedicate a specific mandate to advancing hunting and wildlife rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN Regional Chief and staff and work with like-minded organizations including the UBCIC and FNS to continue to strongly advocate and advance the recognition of First Nations rights, title, treaty rights and ancient respected protocols related to hunting and wildlife management, specifically related to

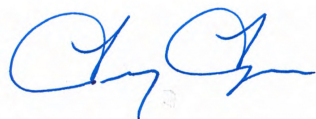
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the Provincial *Wildlife Act*, ensuring that any amendments to the *Wildlife Act* are aligned with standards articulated in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

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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