



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

**BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**  
**March 9 & 10, 2022**  
**Online via Zoom**

**Resolution 15/2021**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE BC FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE  
STRATEGY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST NATIONS  
INFORMATION GOVERNANCE CENTRES**

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**MOVED BY: CHIEF JEN THOMAS, TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION**

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**SECONDED BY: CHIEF ED HALL, KWIKWETLEM FIRST NATION**

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**DECISION: CARRIED**

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### WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations have asserted that all federal, provincial and territorial government investments in First Nations data governance and analysis, information management, statistics and reporting, must align with the self-determined objectives of First Nations to achieve full data governance, to build and maintain across their governments the capacity to collect, store, protect, analyze and utilize data in their decision making and reporting, and to measure their own progress towards the outcomes defined in their community development and nation rebuilding plans;
- B. First Nations data governance and resulting systems are a steppingstone to the resurgence and application of our respective knowledge, governance systems, and laws at the interface of collaborative and shared decision making with other governments;

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

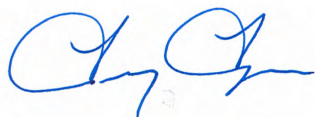
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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

- C. First Nations in BC have recognized that data governance is a building block of systems transformation. Through various forums, leaders have called for timely access to quality data to plan, manage and account for investments and outcomes, management of lands and territories, and social, economic and health outcomes of their members;
- D. 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 BC, committed to implement, affirms:
- 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 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 31: (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
- (2) In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights;
- E. as directed by AFN resolutions, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) has developed a [National First Nations Data Governance Strategy](#) that describes the path forward to achieving the above objectives and includes the development of regional First Nations Information Governance Centres that would serve and be governed by the Nations of that region;
- F. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has committed funding, through the federal Budget 2021, for the First Nations Information Governance Centre to advance the strategy over the next three years, commencing with the next phase of work, which will focus on governance and building human resource capacity, a Data Champions Team, within the BC Region;

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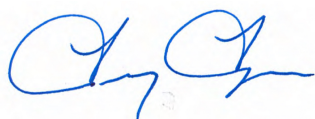
- G. it is intended that plans, processes and timelines will be established by BC First Nations, through which BC First Nations will direct the implementation of the National Data Governance Strategy in BC;
- H. the First Nations Public Service Secretariat has provided the national FNIGC with engagement assistance in the initial round of discussion with BC First Nations in 2021; and
- I. in November 2020 and February 2021, the *In Plain Sight* reports were released and subsequently endorsed by resolutions through the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs. These reports note that current Indigenous data governance processes need to evolve to align with the latest principles in Indigenous data governance, and to produce required data in a nimbler and timely manner. Specifically, recommendation 9 calls to “Accelerate the movement towards a vision of a Nation-governed and mandated regional data centre and alignment with the National Data Governance Strategy.”

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorses the First Nations Information Governance Centre’s National Data Governance Strategy and recognizes that First Nations in BC have provided input by way of the BC First Nations Data Governance Discussion Paper, and acknowledge that the federal government has provided funding to implement the national strategy in BC and across the country;
- 2. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the federal government to immediately release Budget 2021 funding to the First Nations Information Governance Centre to begin implementing the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC, as directed by First Nations in BC;
- 3. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the British Columbia government to recognize BC First Nations’ Data Sovereignty in the DRIPA Action Plan;
- 4. that as soon as funding is available, a BC First Nations Data Governance Working Group supported by a Data Champions Team will be established by BC First Nations to guide the implementation of the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC and to advise on the establishment of a BC First Nations Data Centre;

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5. that until such time as a Data Champions Team is functional, FNIGC will continue to seek assistance from relevant organizations in BC, such as the First Nations Public Service Secretariat, and will report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at regular intervals; and
6. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff, working with the BC First Nation Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, as the First Nations Leadership Council, to work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre, the First Nation Public Service Secretariat, and other relevant organizations to implement the national First Nations Data Governance Strategy in BC and to establish the BC First Nations Data Governance Centre, subject to resources.

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

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**