



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
September 21, 22 & 23, 2022
Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 28/2022

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE WOMEN, GENDER-DIVERSE AND 2SLGBTQIA+ DIALOGUE SESSION REPORT

MOVED BY: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLÛPS TE SECWEPENC, STK'EMLÛPSEMC TE SECWÉPENC

SECONDED BY: CHERYL CASIMER, PROXY, ?AQ'AM

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Indigenous women from the BC region, met for the first Women's Dialogue Session hosted by the BC Assembly of First Nations on March 16-17, 2017 on the traditional territory of the Musqueam people, and on November 1-2, 2017 on the traditional territory of the Sts'ailes. The purpose for the sessions was to bring together First Nations women in leadership to discuss challenges, successes, and strategies to support and enhance the wellbeing and development of ourselves and our communities. The Women's Declaration that was developed during these sessions was supported by the BC Chiefs-in-Assembly via Resolution 01/2018 *Support for BC Indigenous Women's Declaration*;
- B. On January 24, 2020 another Dialogue Session was held on the traditional territory of the Musqueam people to build on the Declaration from 2017, support one another, and gain strength to thrive in the political, business, family, and community contexts we live and engage in. During this dialogue important conversations emerged regarding being inclusive of people with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, those experiencing homelessness, those

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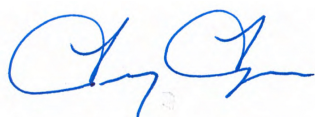
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- experiencing addictions, and youth. The 2020 iteration of the Declaration that was developed based on this session was supported by the BC Chiefs-in-Assembly via Resolution 11/2020 *Support for Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People Declaration and Strategy*;
- C. The 2021 Dialogue sessions were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on April 13, 14, 15, and 22, 2021 and revolved around the themes of gender identity, allyship, self-care, wellness, and reclaiming our distinct roles and responsibilities. In response to dialogue at the 2020 Dialogue Sessions, the 2021 sessions were entitled, the *Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Sessions* in recognition of BCAFN's efforts to hold space that is inclusive of diverse genders and sexualities, and upholds the diversity of unique identities. The 2021 iteration of the Declaration that was developed based on this session was supported by the BC Chiefs-in-Assembly via Resolution 28/2021 *Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Session Recommendations*;
- D. Based on the 2021 Dialogue Sessions, the BCAFN prepared the *Report on the BC Assembly of First Nations 2021 Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Sessions: Nourishing Hope and Belonging*, which includes 13 recommendations that represent next steps where BCAFN can direct advocacy toward provincial and federal governments, undertake organizational level work, and support capacity and resources for First Nations in BC;
- E. BCAFN held its 2022 Dialogue Sessions event, entitled, *Women, Gender-Diverse and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Sessions: Stories Connect Us*, on April 26th and 27th, and June 23rd, 2022. The three sessions revolved around themes of storytelling, allyship, and taking action, and resulted in recommendations and key take-aways in the areas of reclaiming space in male-dominated sectors, inclusion in politics and advocacy, revitalizing and removing barriers to accessing First Nations languages and cultures, and community leadership. The sessions also enabled participants to provide feedback on the draft vision, principles, and strategies of the BCAFN First Nations Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Declaration Action Plan.
- F. Based on the Dialogue Sessions, the BCAFN prepared the *Report on the BC Assembly of First Nations 2022 Women, Gender-Diverse and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Sessions: Stories Connect Us*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the Dialogue Sessions and the recommendations and key take-aways gathered in the *Report on the BC Assembly of First Nations 2022 Women, Gender-Diverse and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Sessions: Stories Connect Us*, and call on the Regional Chief, BCAFN Women's Representative, and staff to support their implementation and expression.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief