



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
March 9-10, 2023
Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 13(c)/2023

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR T'KEMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC BID TO HOST THE 2027 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

WHEREAS:

- A. Indigenous peoples have a rich tradition of sport and tremendous athletes who have contributed to sport history in Canada;
- B. Canada's policies of forced assimilation banned cultural practices and created lasting barriers to health and well-being, including barriers to Indigenous sport and participation in the Canadian sport system. Despite attempts to stifle this history, Indigenous peoples remain strong in our culture and traditions of sport;
- C. the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) is the largest multi-sport and cultural event hosted in Canada and the United States specifically targeted for Indigenous populations. The North American Indigenous Games will bring together more than 6,000 athletes, coaches and team staff from 756+ Indigenous Nations celebrating, sharing and reconnecting through sport and culture with the help of 3,000 volunteers;

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- D. the vision of the NAIG Council is to improve the quality of life of Indigenous Peoples by supporting self-determined sport and cultural activities which encourage equal access to participation in the social, cultural, and spiritual fabric of the community in which they reside, and which respects Indigenous distinctiveness;
- E. Tkémlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) along with the City of Kamloops, have won the right to represent British Columbia, competing against Calgary, to host the 2027 North American Indigenous Games;
- F. the TteS bid is the only Indigenous-led bid competing to host the 2027 NAIG;
- G. 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, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security. **(2):** States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities;

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;

- H. Indigenous communities in British Columbia are committed to building stronger and healthier communities and acknowledge the important role that sport can play in building self-esteem, leadership skills and achieving positive social change;
- I. the NAIG Council estimates an economic impact of \$20 million for the region that hosts the games;

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- J. the chance for Tíkemlúps te Secwépemc to host the 2027 NAIG represents an opportunity showcase diversity and pride in our Indigenous cultures;
- K. the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples in sport and state:

88: We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel;

90: We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:

- a. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
 - b. An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
 - c. Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples; and
- L. the Tíkemlúps te Secwépemc are committed to safely hosting the 2027 NAIG Games, in a manner that upholds the cultural integrity of our people, provides economic opportunities to our business people and artisans, as well as showcases the talent of British Columbia's First Nations athletes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly will be provided regular updates on the progress of the North American Indigenous Games if Tíkemlúps te Secwépemc and City of Kamloops win the bid;
2. The Tíkemlúps te Secwépemc and City of Kamloops bid Committee, and subsequent NAIG Society, will continue to work with BCAFN and like-minded organizations to ensure that, if the TteS Bid is selected, that they have the opportunity to showcase the diversity of First Nations cultures across BC; and
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports Tíkemlúps te Secwépemc and the City of Kamloops in their pursuit of hosting the 2027 North American Indigenous Games.

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