



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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**BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**September 19, 20 & 21, 2023**  
**Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom**

**Resolution 22/2023**

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION OF KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 12 EDUCATION  
TRANSPORTATION FUNDS**

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**MOVED BY: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLUPS TE SECWÉPEMC**

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**SECONDED BY: CHIEF DON TOM, TSARTLIP FIRST NATION**

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**DECISION: CARRIED**

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. First Nations, particularly in rural and remote communities across British Columbia, rely on K-12 school transportation for their children and youth to get safely from their homes on and off reserve, to school, and to extracurricular activities. School transportation services are essential to enabling access to education, overcoming financial barriers, and supporting families and parents to work outside of the home;
- B. The *BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA): Supporting First Nations Student Success* between the Province of British Columbia, the First Nations Education and Steering Committee (FNESC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), collectively known as "the Parties", sets out the foundation for further growth and changes to support the enhancement of the BC public education school system;
- C. As a component of the BCTEA, the Parties agreed to establish a First Nations Student Transportation Fund to address the transportation needs of First Nations students who live on reserve and attend BC Public schools;

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023**

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

- D. The *First Nation Student Transportation Fund: Planning, Policy and Procedures Guide for 2023-2024* (the Guide) was jointly developed by FNEC, BC and ISC, and states that the “Board of Education and the individual First Nation will identify transportation needs and services to get all First Nations students enrolled in BC public schools to and from those schools,” as well as provide funding to enhance participation by First Nations in extracurricular activities;
- E. Current funding administration of both the school and extracurricular activity streams is administered via a paternalistic top-down approach through the School Boards, which assumes that First Nations communities cannot effectively administer transportation funding for their membership;
- F. 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 14(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning;

**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; and

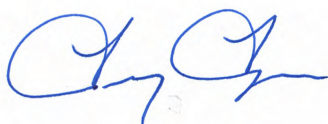
- G. First Nations communities are best suited to know their unique community and family transportation needs.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports and upholds First Nations’ jurisdiction, self-determination and decision-making around administration and service-provision of K-12 transportation between home, school, and extracurricular activities; and
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Province of British Columbia to respect First Nations’ jurisdiction and decision-making surrounding K-12 transportation needs and to administer funds directly to First Nations who wish to exercise their jurisdiction over transportation in a timely manner to appropriately support our families.

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023**



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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**