



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

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

Resolution 23/2023

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTORS OUR CHILDREN OUR WAY SOCIETY

MOVED BY: CHIEF JAMES HOBART, SPUZZUM FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: PROXY SEMPULYAN GONZALES, SQUAMISH NATION

DECISION: ABSTENTION: PROXY SABRINA CAMPBELL, AHOUSAHT FIRST NATION
OBJECTIONS: CHIEF KUKPI7 CASIMIR, TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC, KUKPI7 DARREL DRANEY, SKEETCHESTN
CARRIED

WHEREAS:

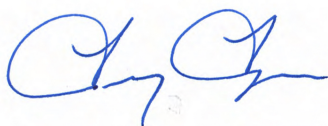
- A. First Nations have an inherent right of self-determination, including jurisdiction relating to the children and families of those Nations;
- B. First Nations' inherent right of self-determination will only be achieved through the recognition of our inherent jurisdiction for our children and families,
- C. Aboriginal People, as defined under Section 35 of the Constitution of Canada, recognize that our children and families are the cornerstone of our Nations' futures;
- D. under an interim delegation model, over 120 First Nations communities (over 60% of the First Nations communities in BC) created their own Indigenous Child & Family Services agencies;

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- E. the 120+ First Nations communities affiliated with an Indigenous Child & Family Services agency have endorsed their agencies through Band Council Resolutions as their child & family service providers as an interim measure while they determine their pathways to resume jurisdiction and stand up their respective laws, legal orders and inherent and treaty rights regarding their children;
- F. those Indigenous Child & Family Services agencies have operated for decades under colonial legislation and with inadequate funding, they have nonetheless developed culturally-based programs and services to support wellness among First Nations children and families;
- G. First Nations have accumulated extensive experience and expertise through the operation of their Indigenous Child & Family Services agencies and benefit from the broad-based expertise and mutual support of the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society;
- H. those First Nations that remain unaffiliated with an Indigenous Child & Family Services agency have not been supported to develop their own expertise in the development of child and family services;
- I. the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society has created a Secretariat to provide centralized support for operations, practice, governance and research related to Indigenous child & family services, and is building the Secretariat into a regional centre for excellence in Indigenous child & family services;
- J. the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society has expanded its membership criteria to include Nations not affiliated with an ICFSD agency, and membership remains optional for First Nations;
- K. in 2017, the Government of Canada (represented by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)), the Government of British Columbia (represented by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)), and the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), working collectively as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) signed a Reconciliation Charter that committed the parties to work in partnership to achieve First Nations child welfare reform via a Tripartite Working Group (TWG) made up of Canada, the Province, and the FNLC to implement concrete actions to support legislative reform, program and policy

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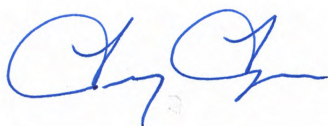
development and an effective fiscal model to support First Nations children and families in BC;

- L. through resolutions at the Chiefs' Assemblies (UBCIC Resolution no. 2017-06, FNS Resolution #0217.19, BCAFN Resolution 06/2017), the Chiefs in BC endorsed and supported the work on Child Welfare reform under the Tripartite process between BC, Canada, and the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit (FNS), and Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), working together as the First Nations Leadership Council, and effectively and fully collaborating with First Nations Sectoral Councils, Delegated Agencies and the First Nations Directors Forum; and
- M. In June 2023, Chiefs supported the development of a long-term funding agreement, that ensures the holistic transformation of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) to a new fiscal framework, which supports First Nations' resumption of jurisdiction over their children and families and realizes the intention and spirit of the UN Declaration and recent legislation and judicial decisions, through UBCIC Resolution 2023-26.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chief-in-Assembly recognize the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society as a source of expertise in the development and delivery of Indigenous child & family services;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN, working with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the First Nations Summit (FNS) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and with BC and Canada as the Tripartite Working Group on Children and Families (TWG), to support the Our Children Our Way Society in their work to be an optional resource available to support all First Nations in BC in accessing and delivering culturally-based child & family services;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada and British Columbia to provide the resources needed for the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society to provide operations, practice, governance and research support to all First Nations in BC who wish to access services from the Our Children Our Way Society; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the BCAFN, working with UBCIC and FNS as the FNLC, and Canada and British Columbia as the TWG, to collaborate with the Indigenous Child and Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society in the TWG's ongoing

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work planning for the resumption of jurisdiction by Nations including developing policy and fiscal frameworks required for this resumption of jurisdiction.

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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