



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

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

Resolution 25/2023

SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION BY FIRST NATIONS IN BC (2023 – 2030)

Moved by: DEPUTY CHIEF HARLAN SCHILLING, DAYLU DENE FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LYNDA PRICE, ULKATCHO FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Resolution 24/2021 established the need for a BC First Nations Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, recognizing the importance of First Nations' full and equal participation in emergency management decision-making and implementation processes in their territories.
- B. the United Nations Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction guides disaster risk reduction efforts, acknowledging the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, especially in light of climate change. The Framework emphasizes a people-centered and inclusive approach to disaster management, particularly for historically marginalized communities disproportionately affected by disasters.
- C. the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction further states that Indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning.
- D. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, adopted by the government of Canada without qualifications, affirms the rights of Indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making processes, maintain their traditional lands, territories, and resources, and determine priorities for their development.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- E. as directed, the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Emergency Services Society engaged an independent contractor, Four Directions Management Services, to prepare a draft Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in BC (2023 – 2030) that identifies 30 Calls to Action to strengthen disaster risk governance, invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience, enhance disaster preparedness, and ensure a "Build Back Better" approach in recovery and reconstruction.
- F. the draft Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in BC (2023 – 2030) was presented at the 20th Annual General Meeting September 19-21, 2023 for adoption.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorses the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2023 – 2030), recognizing its significance in advancing disaster resilience, preparedness, and recovery for First Nations communities in British Columbia.
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN Regional Chief and Staff, working with the First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs Executive and staff, working as the First Nations Leadership Council, along with the First Nations Emergency Services Society, prepare an implementation plan to give effect to the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, and that the Implementation Plan not limit, interfere or prohibit First Nations or First Nation organizations from advancing at their own pace nor their locally developed mandates, priorities, strategies, authorities and representative organizations.
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call for the new *Emergency Program Act Modernization* legislation, policies and regulations to respect, empower and enable the 30 Calls to Action and intentions of the BC First Nation Regional Action Plan and any locally developed action plans or strategies.
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support formally recognizing and adopting the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, initiated in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly, held every October 13th, promotes a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction, celebrating efforts to reduce exposure to disasters and raise awareness about risk management. Utilizing this day for annual recognition and promotion will foster preparedness planning and encourage training drills/exercises to enhance community awareness among First Nations in BC.
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly urgently request the provincial and federal governments to acknowledge the persistent underfunding of First Nations in emergency management and move towards rectifying historical and ongoing systemic challenges through the establishment and consistent replenishment of a "First Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Fund." We call for the creation of this dedicated First Nations DRR Fund to enable the meaningful implementation of the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in BC (2023 – 2030). A dedicated First Nations DRR Fund, jointly funded by both levels of government, is an investment in disaster

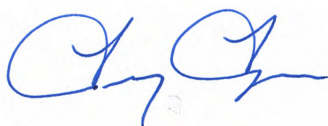
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resilience for First Nations communities and will serve as a demonstrable commitment to upholding the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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