



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

Resolution 33/2023

SUBJECT: SUPPORT TO ESTABLISH A BCAFN YOUTH COUNCIL

Moved BY: TAYLOR BEHN-TSAKOZA, PROXY, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF KEN WATTS, TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), which has been adopted without qualification by the Province of British Columbia (Bill 41) and the Government of Canada (Bill C-15), states:

Article 5

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 18

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions

Article 22

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1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration

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.

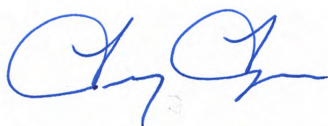
2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

- B. First Nations youth disproportionately represent the child welfare system, youth incarceration system, youth homelessness and youth suicide rates in BC.
- C. First Nations youth perspectives and guidance are paramount to the leadership, governance, decision-making, and solutions with respect to issues that disproportionately impact youth and First Nations Rights, Title, and Interests in BC more broadly.
- D. The diversity of First Nations languages, customs, legal orders, and traditional knowledge in BC reflects the need for increased opportunities for First Nations youth to provide input, guidance and direction through adequate regional representation.
- E. First Nations youth require increased capacity-building and leadership opportunities to be meaningfully engaged in policy and governance initiatives in BC in spaces that promote unified regional, national, and international priorities and advocacy on issues affecting First Nations youth in BC.
- F. First Nations youth-led initiatives are chronically underfunded by the provincial and federal governments, creating barriers for First Nations youth at the community and regional level to engage on issues that impact them.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN staff to engage with First Nations youth across BC to inform the scope, mandate and structure of the BCAFN Youth Council, pending adequate resources;
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the creation of a BCAFN Youth Council, pending adequate resources, as guided by the direction provided by First Nations youth in BC;


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3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN staff to identify and advocate for funding from the provincial and federal governments to adequately resource and support the establishment of a BCAFN Youth Council; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN staff to support the development of a Terms of Reference for the BCAFN Youth Council in partnership with the newly established council members and provide the administrative capacity to support the BCAFN Youth Council in fulfilling its mandates, pending adequate resources, and bring back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for ratification.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief