



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

Resolution 36/2023

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE FNLC RELATIONSHIP PROTOCOL WITH THE MINISTRY OF
CITIZENS' SERVICES**

Moved BY: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LYNDAL PRICE, ULKATCHO FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. 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 B.C., committed to implement, affirms:

Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

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 13: Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions,

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philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 31: 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.

- B. the Government of British Columbia has created the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ) to provide a wide range of services to British Columbians across the province, both in person and online. Within CITZ, the BC Data Service (BCDS), leads cross-government data policy development and provides data analysis, tools, platforms, training, and support. The BCDS provides trusted data management, data analysis, and statistics about people in B.C. and is responsible for two major government priorities: implementation of B.C.'s *Anti-Racism Data Act* and delivery of the BC Data Plan, which includes co-development commitments on Indigenous data sovereignty and a framework for using Indigenous languages when interacting with the Government of B.C.
- C. The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan* commits the Province to the following actions that fall within the responsibility of CITZ:
 - Action 3.14:** Advance the collection and use of disaggregated demographic data, guided by a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous data sovereignty and self-determination, including supporting the establishment of a First Nations-governed and mandated regional data governance centre in alignment with the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.
 - Action 3.15:** Adopt an inclusive digital font that allows for Indigenous languages to be included in communication, signage, services, and official records.
- D. The Province enacted the *Anti-Racism Data Act* with goals that include clarifying a purpose for collecting, using, and disclosing personal information to identify and eliminate systemic racism, and building trust with Indigenous peoples and racialized communities.

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- E. the UBCIC, the BC Assembly of First Nations, and the First Nations Summit, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council, have developed in collaboration with CITZ a draft Relationship Protocol which aims to create a process for joint dialogue, action, and cooperation that respects and recognizes the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and advances joint commitments described in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan* and the *Anti-Racism Data Act*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief to sign the draft Relationship Protocol between the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the BC Assembly of First Nations, and the First Nations Summit, working collectively as the First Nations Leadership Council, and the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ);
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief to clearly articulate to the CITZ that the Protocol is not a substitute for CITZ to engage directly with Nations and is not a delegation of authority in any way; and
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief working with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, and CITZ to provide regular reports to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on the ongoing collaborative objectives and efforts as identified in the attached Relationship Protocol.

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