



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

**BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**  
**March 7 & 8, 2024**  
**Online via Zoom**

**Resolution 01/2024**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR BCAFN TO IMPLEMENT THE FIRST NATIONS GENDER EQUITY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

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**Moved BY: CHIEF LYNDA PRICE, ULKATCHO FIRST NATION**

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**SECONDED BY: CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN FIRST NATION**

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**DECISION: CARRIED**

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### WHEREAS:

- A. Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQIA+) individuals possess inherent value, strength, and agency. Support and respect for women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are intrinsic to the values of our unique First Nations cultures and laws;
- B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states:
  - a. Article 7.1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person. 2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
  - b. Article 21.2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure the continuing improvement of their economic and social

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**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024**

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

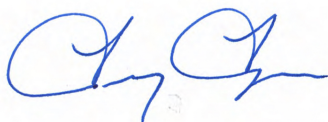
conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities.

c. Article 22.1. 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. 2. States shall take special measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

- C. The ongoing tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is a direct result of systematic racism, sexism, colonialism, and poverty. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) acknowledged that this national crisis is genocide, a fact that Indigenous peoples and their allies have known and declared for decades;
- D. Indigenous women, survivors, family members, loved ones, and members of front-line, grassroots, and Indigenous and women's organization have dedicated their lives to ending this tragedy, and have been on the front-lines of this work for decades, bringing deep knowledge, experience, and expertise. These advocates brought national attention to the crisis of MMIWG, which led to the National Inquiry;
- E. In particular, those along the Highway of Tears and in the Downtown Eastside have been active in drawing attention to this issue and working to end this violence.
- F. The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is a member of the Coalition on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is an alliance of organizations that came together in 2010 at the time of the Oppal Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. The Coalition includes the February 14th March Committee, one of the first organizations in Canada to bring the crisis of violence against Indigenous women to public attention, and a broad range of organizations representing Indigenous women and their allies in women's anti-violence, human rights, and labour organizations.
- G. Since 2017, BCAFN worked to develop an "evergreen" Strategic Action Plan and to develop BCAFN has been hosting regular annual Dialogue Sessions to engage First Nations women, Two Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender and sexually diverse people on their priorities and provide space for connection;
- H. Out of these sessions a Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Declaration was developed that affirmed a number of truths about the valuable identities and visions of First Nations women and Two Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender and sexually diverse people;

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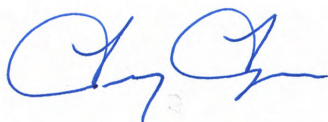
- I. This Declaration represents a powerful coming together and a call for action resulting in the mandate to develop a Strategic Action Plan to implement the Declaration through BCAFN Resolution 11/2020.
- J. Based on resolution 2020/11, the Strategic Action Plan intends to support the BCAFN and like-minded organizations in implementing the Declaration, as well as the BCAFN What We Heard Report on MMIWG2S+, and previous BCAFN Dialogue Session reports. Rooted in these documents, a three-part vision guides the purpose of this Plan:
  - First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ representation and leadership
  - Wellness, healing and identity are reclaimed and restored, and
  - Ending systemic discrimination
- K. The implementation of the BCAFN Strategic Action Plan is in alignment with BCAFN Resolution 21a/2019 and 11/2011 which provided a mandate for ongoing action, advocacy, and collaboration with Indigenous, front-line, grassroots, women's organizations, and like-minded organizations to implement the 231 Calls for Justice and the National Action Plan;
- L. BCAFN has worked with like-minded organizations to action and bring attention to the critical and devastating issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and has been mandated by the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly to continue this work via Resolutions 10h/2017, 01/2018, 03d/2018, 16/2018, 07g/2019, 21a/2019, 11/2020 (SCA), and 06/2020;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support and call to implement the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan as presented on March 7, 2024;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the BCAFN Women's Representative and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative and BCAFN staff to ensure that the title and rights, sovereignty, culture and rights are thoroughly recognized, upheld and incorporated into the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the need to implement the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan to address the issues and calls to action identified in the Women's Declaration;
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN Women's Representative and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative to collaborate with the AFN Women's and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Councils, regional partners, and others to create opportunities for implementation on the

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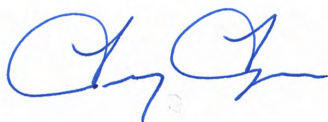
**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan that are in alignment with the nine principles that form the foundation of this plan:

- Sovereignty
  - Healing and hope
  - Culture
  - Collaboration and partnership
  - Intersectionality:
  - Using best practices and tools
  - Action and accountability
  - Representation and Leadership
  - And ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach;
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN to advocate to the provincial and federal governments for full funding to implement the strategic action plan, in a manner consistent with Article 7.1, 21.2 and 22.1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
6. Finally, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN Women’s Representative and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQA+ Representative to oversee the implementation of the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan and to report on progress at the BCAFN Annual General Assembly in 2025.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is written over a horizontal line.

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**