



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road  
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3  
Website: [www.bcafn.ca](http://www.bcafn.ca)

### BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 8, 9 & 10, 2024

Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

**Resolution 27/2024**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FIRST NATIONS MULTILATERAL WORKING GROUP ON FOOD INSECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY**

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**Moved BY: CHIEF BYRON LOUIS, OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND**

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**SECONDED BY: CHIEF VICTOR ISAAC, NAMGIS FIRST NATION**

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**DECISION: CARRIED**

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- A. Food security and food sovereignty are foundational human rights, and secure and robust First Nations food systems are vital to ensuring the well-being of First Nations in BC.
- B. Household food insecurity is associated with poorer mental health, higher rates of infectious and non-communicable diseases and injuries, increased health care utilization, and premature mortality.
- C. Statistics Canada study: Food Insecurity among Canadian Families found that 48% of Indigenous families living in the provinces and off-reserve experienced food insecurity, with 18% being the average for Canadian families.
- D. The provincial and federal governments critically underfund First Nations food security initiatives, exacerbating the disparity in food security for First Nations families.
- E. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food is non-partisan and does not address BC First Nations' inherent title and rights to the land, air, and water, which are critical in addressing food insecurity and food sovereignty.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024**

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

- F. 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 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 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

Article 21(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.

- G. Under BC's Declaration Act Action Plan, the Provincial Government commits to the following:

4.48-Work with the B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food and other Indigenous partners to identify opportunities to strengthen Indigenous food systems and increase Indigenous participation in the agriculture and food sector. (Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

- H. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

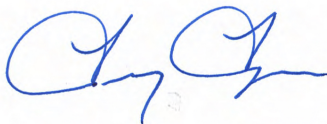
Article 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

- I. BCAFN Resolution 13/2020 mandates the Regional Chief to call on the Province of British Columbia to support First Nations in addressing food security, sovereignty, and economic development, by advocating for equitable sharing of resources and creating opportunities for sustainable food systems within First Nations communities

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support First Nations engagement in the creation of a multi-lateral working group with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to address food insecurity and sovereignty for BC First Nations; and
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to advocate for the Provincial and Federal Governments to:
  - a. Call for dedicated capacity funding for First Nations Governments and organizations to support the work of the multi-lateral working group;
  - b. Advocate for increased funding to First Nations governments and organizations in BC to

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024**

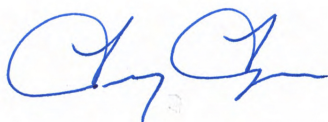


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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

- address the disparity in food insecurity for First Nations families.
- c. Advocate for future programming to address food insecurity to be meaningfully co-developed.

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**