



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 8, 9 & 10, 2024
Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 29/2024

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL RELATIONSHIP
PROTOCOL WITH UNION OF B.C. MUNICIPALITIES**

Moved BY: CHIEF SHANA THOMAS, LYACKSON

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JAMES HOBART, SPUZZUM INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Cooperation, collaboration and communication between First Nations and multiple levels of government in key priority areas such as economic development, infrastructure, emergency management and climate change can contribute directly to the well-being of First Nations communities.
- B. The B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the First Nations Summit (FNS), working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), in collaboration with the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM), have developed and signed a Relationship Protocol with the objectives of:
 - 1. Building Trust and Understanding: Build trust and understanding between UBCM and FNLC members by fostering positive relationships.
 - 2. Facilitating Communication: Engage in ongoing dialogue and learning that includes exchanging information, communicating interests, and sharing concerns and perspectives on matters of mutual interest.

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3. Promoting Partnership and Collaboration: Facilitate collaboration between First Nations and local governments toward shared goals and priorities that promote social, economic and environmental well-being of communities.
 4. Addressing Common Challenges: Address common challenges facing First Nations and local government by leveraging resources and expertise from both FNLC and UBCM.
 5. Advancing reconciliation: Promote dialogue, cooperation and respectful engagement between local governments and First Nations to advance reconciliation;
- C. The Relationship Protocol is guided by the spirit of cooperation, respect, partnership and the understanding and recognition of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* ("UNDRIP") which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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 choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

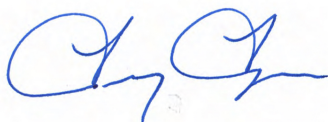
Article 26 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditional owned, occupied or other used or acquired.

(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

Article 29 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environmental and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programs for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination;

- D. The Parties recognize and acknowledge First Nations' legal, spiritual, social and cultural practices associated with the land, environment and natural resources must be respected and share the vision of healthy, resilient communities for current and future generations.
- E. The Parties seek to engage in dialogue to share knowledge, expertise, experience and perspectives in support of promoting effective relationships between First Nations and local governments.
- F. The Parties acknowledge this agreement may be terminated with three months' notice, and this agreement does not create any enforceable legal or equitable rights or any obligation. This agreement is not intended to define or extinguish any First Nations or treaty rights.

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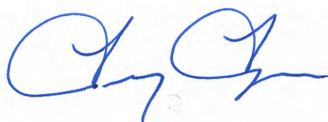
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- G. On September 6, 2024, the BCAFN Board of Directors carried Motion 2024.09.06.03 to support the Protocol between the First Nations Leadership Council and the Union of BC Municipalities and the UBCIC and FNS have supported the Protocol via resolution at their respective assemblies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly support and endorse the September 16, 2024 Relationship Protocol between the BC Assembly of First Nations, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and the First Nations Summit collectively as the First Nations Leadership Council and the Union of BC Municipalities;
2. BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly directs BCAFN staff to clearly articulate to the Union of B.C. Municipalities that the Protocol is not a substitute for direct engagement with First Nations title and rights holders; and
3. BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly direct BCAFN staff working with the UBCIC and the FNS as the FNLC, and the UBCM to meet once annually to discuss issues of mutual concern and provide regular reports on the ongoing collaborative objectives and efforts as identified in the Relationship Protocol.

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