



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 8, 9 & 10, 2024

Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 30/2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS TOURISM BRITISH COLUMBIA TO DEVELOP A FIRST NATIONS-LED TOURISM DESTINATION FUND

MOVED BY: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHLAHT FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JAMES HOBART, SPUZZUM FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations in BC are the stewards of their lands, whose inherent and constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights include sovereignty over economic activities within their territories.
- B. The Indigenous Tourism Destination Fund (ITDF) was established by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) to support Indigenous tourism growth through flexible contributions from partner businesses, which are directed towards development, marketing, partnerships, and leadership with a goal of enhancing economic and sociocultural well-being for Indigenous businesses.
- C. ITAC administers the ITDF to invest in infrastructure, human resources, and development and marketing projects that benefit Indigenous communities and businesses in addition to supporting ITAC's core funding.

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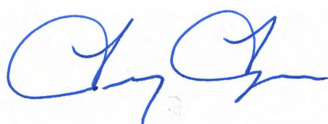
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- D. ITAC has not adequately engaged nor consulted with First Nations in BC, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), or Indigenous Tourism British Columbia (ITBC) in developing and implementing the ITDF.
- E. The ITAC administration of the IDTF lacks financial transparency with no mechanism to report to the Chiefs-in-Assembly, ITBC, or stakeholder organizations.
- F. The promotion of the ITDF cites economic reconciliation for partner businesses as a primary outcome, without direct benefits to local First Nations, who may not benefit from the ITDF.

ITBC established in 1997 as the Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC, is the provincial organization supporting Indigenous cultural tourism by providing training, product development, and marketing for Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs.

- G. ITBC and the FNLC entered into a Declaration & Protocol of Recognition, Support, Cooperation and Coordination in 2008.
- H. ITBC, as the provincial organization supporting the Indigenous tourism sector in BC, wishes to explore the development of a BC Indigenous Tourism fund to support tourism businesses with engagement and consultation from First Nations in BC and other Indigenous Peoples doing business in BC.
- I. First Nations in British Columbia must be active participants in the development of any fee programs within their territories, with established reporting to the Chiefs-in-Assembly.
- J. Not all rights are uniform or the same among or between Indigenous peoples and the extent to which they can be validly exercised depends on the context. A proper distinctions based approach requires that Crown governments relationship and engagement with First Nations, <Metis and Inuit individuals and organizations in BC must include different approaches or actions and result in different outcomes;
- K. 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 4:** Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy of self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous function.
 - Article 20: (1)** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

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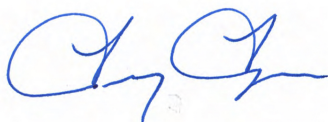


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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports Indigenous Tourism British Columbia's efforts to develop a distinctions based, local First Nations and provincial approach for a BC based and First Nations led "BC First Nations Tourism Destination Fund," as an alternate solution to the Indigenous Tourism Association Canada's Indigenous Tourism Destination Fund.
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and staff to work with Indigenous Tourism BC to support the development of the BC first Nations led "BC First Nations Tourism Destination Fund" to ensure its development, analysis and implementation are fully aligned with the UN Declaration and support the advancement of First Nations Title and Rights in BC.

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