



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
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BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
February 26 & 27, 2025
Online via Zoom

Resolution 01/2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ COUNCIL

Moved BY: KUKPI7 RHONDA PHILLIPS, XATŚŪLL FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: SEMPULYAN STEWART GONZALES, PROXY, SQUAMISH NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Indigenous two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQIA+) individuals possess inherent value, strength, and agency. Support and respect for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are intrinsic to the values of our unique First Nations cultures and laws;
- B. Two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQIA+) individuals encounter unique challenges, including meeting needs for identity and belonging, accessing culture and ceremony, health services, security, economic opportunities, education, and justice. While many 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are reclaiming their identities and roles in community, and are supported by community, they continue to face distinct barriers. 2SLGBTQQIA+ truths are also often excluded from advocacy and discourse around missing and murdered Indigenous women and gender-based violence, despite the high rates of violence this community faces;
- C. 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:

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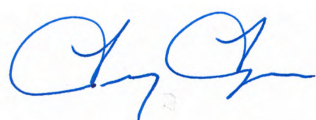
Article 7 (1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person. 2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure the 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;

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;

- D. 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 First Nation people and their allies have known and declared for decades;
- E. On June 3, 2019, the Final Report titled, *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* was published and delivered 231 individual Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians. The implementation of the Calls for Justice must include the perspectives and participation of Indigenous women and girls with lived experience, including the families of the missing and murdered and survivors of violence. BCAFN maintains the need for this approach to the implementation of all Calls for Justice, ensuring that the specific measures taken fully engage these perspectives and this expertise;
- F. The Calls for Justice affirms the following:
 - 18.2** We call upon all governments and service providers to be inclusive of all perspectives in decision making, including those of 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and youth
 - 18.8** We call upon all governments and service providers to support networking and community building for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who may be living in different urban centres (and rural and remote areas), and to increase opportunities for 2SLGBTQQIA+ networking, collaboration, and peer support through a national organization, regional

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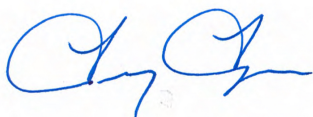
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organizations, advocacy body, and/or a task force dedicated to advancing action to support the well-being of Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons in Canada

18.9 We call upon First Nations, Métis, and Inuit leadership and advocacy bodies to equitably include 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and for national Indigenous organizations to have a 2SLGBTQQIA+ council or similar initiative.

- G . There is a responsibility by all to redress the systemic racism and to eliminate the gendered colonial violence perpetrated against First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people within Canada;
- H. BCAFN Resolution 01/2018 Support for BC Indigenous Women's Declaration affirms priorities and strategic approaches with respect to advocating and advancing the well-being of First Nation women and girls as directed by female Chiefs, councilors, elected tribal leadership, and those in leadership positions within our communities who participated at the BCAFN Women's Dialogue Sessions in March and November 2017, the Declaration was written to reflect the spirit and intent of the sessions;
- I. BCAFN Resolution 11/2020, Support for Indigenous Women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People Declaration and Strategy which directed the BCAFN to develop a strategic plan for addressing the Women's Declaration and other issues that impact Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, which specifically includes the development of a plan to support the full and equitable participation of women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in political roles and in the workforce;
- J. BCAFN Resolution 01/2024 BCAFN Support for BCAFN to implement the First nation Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan, to implement all goals and activities listed in the First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan including Vision 1, Goal 1.1: Strong Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representatives, Councils, and Grassroots Initiatives, which affirms the importance of women's council;
- J . The First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan [formerly known as the Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People Strategy], was developed based on the Women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People Declaration and Strategy and further developed and engaged on since 2020 Women in Leadership Dialogue Sessions;
- K. The creation of the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council will meet commitments of priorities and strategic approaches with respect to advocating and advancing the well-being of First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ People by;
- promoting the full and effective participation of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in political processes;

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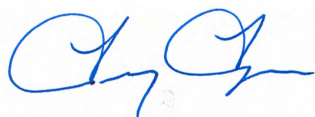
- to have Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people sitting at all levels of government;
- to supporting one another to address the unique challenges that face Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ leaders; and
- to create space, encouragement and mentorship for young Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to become involved in political processes and to flourish;

- L. As per Article 9, BCAFN has an elected BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, who sits at the AFN National 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council and advocates on behalf of B.C. First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples' perspectives and guidance that are paramount to the leadership, governance, decision-making, and solutions with respect to issues that disproportionately impact First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ People and First Nations rights, title, and interests in BC more broadly;
- M. The purpose of the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council is to be an advisory body to the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative on priorities and strategic approaches with respect to advocating and advancing the well-being of B.C. First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ People;
- O. The diversity of First Nations languages, customs, legal orders, and traditional knowledge in BC reflects the need for increased opportunities for First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to provide input, guidance, and direction through an adequate regional advisory council for appropriate representation of BC First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;
- P. The purpose of the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council is to be an advisory body to the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative on priorities and strategic approaches with respect to advocating and advancing the well-being of First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;
- Q. First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ people require increased capacity-building and leadership opportunities to be meaningfully engaged in policy and governance initiatives in BC in spaces that promote unified regional, national, and international priorities and advocacy on issues affecting First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in BC; and
- R. First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ led initiatives are chronically underfunded by the provincial and federal governments, creating barriers for First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ people at the community and regional level to engage on issues that impact them.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the creation of a BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council that is guided by the direction and leadership provided by BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative and B.C. First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ People;

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2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative to develop concepts and engage with B.C. First Nations 2SLGBTQQIA+ People across the province at the Women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Sessions to inform the scope, mandate and structure of the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN, and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative, with support from staff, to develop a Terms of Reference for a BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council and bring back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for approval; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN to identify and advocate for consistent multi-year funding from the provincial and federal governments to adequately resource and support the establishment of a BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council that is in alignment with their commitment for the Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C. and the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People commitments to implement the 231 Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry.

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