



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
February 26 & 27, 2025
Online via Zoom

Resolution 02/2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT A BCAFN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Moved BY: CHIEF DANIEL MANUEL, UPPER NICOLA BAND

SECONDED BY: KUKPI7 MARCEL SHACKELLY, NOOAITCH INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Indigenous women and girls possess inherent value, strength, and agency. Support and respect for B.C. women and girls is intrinsic to the values of our unique First Nations cultures and laws;
- B. Violence, poverty, homelessness, isolation, mental and physical health challenges, abuse, discrimination, and lack of access to culture, language, and education are all part of the lived experience of B.C. First Nation women and girls;
- 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:

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

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

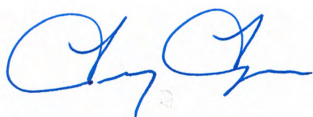
to another group.

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 (2): 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;
- G. The Call for Justice re-affirm the following:
 - 1.4** We call upon all governments, and in particular Indigenous governments and Indigenous representative organizations, to take urgent and special measures to ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are represented in governance and that their political rights are respected and upheld. We call upon all governments to equitably support and promote the role of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people in governance and leadership. These efforts must include the development of policies and procedures to protect Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people against sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and racism within political life;
- H. There is a responsibility by all to redress the systemic racism and to eliminate the gendered colonial violence perpetrated against Indigenous women and girls within Canada;

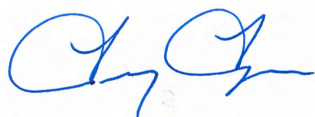
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- I. BCAFN Resolution 01/2018 Support for BC Indigenous Women's Declaration affirms priorities and strategic approaches with respect to advocating and advancing the well-being of First Nation women and girls as directed by female Chiefs, councilors, 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;
- J. 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;
- K. 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;
- L. 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;
- M. The creation of the BCAFN Women's Council will meet commitments of priorities and strategic approaches with respect to advocating and advancing the well-being of First Nation Women and Girls by;
- promoting the full and effective participation of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in political processes;
 - 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;
- N. As per Article 9, BCAFN has an elected BCAFN Women's Representative, who sits at the AFN National Women's Council and advocates on behalf of B.C. First Nations women and girls' perspectives and guidance that are paramount to the leadership, governance, decision-making,

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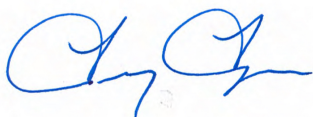
and solutions with respect to issues that disproportionately impact First Nation women and girls and First Nations rights, title, and interests in BC more broadly;

- O. The purpose of the BCAFN Women's Council is to be an advisory body to the BCAFN Women's Representative on priorities and strategic approaches with respect to advocating and advancing the well-being of First Nation women and girls;
- P. The diversity of First Nations languages, customs, legal orders, and traditional knowledge in BC reflects the need for increased opportunities for First Nations women and girls to provide input, guidance, and direction through an adequate regional advisory council for appropriate representation of BC First Nations women and girls;
- Q. First Nations women and girls 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 women and girls in BC; and
- R. First Nations women and girls-led initiatives are chronically underfunded by the provincial and federal governments, creating barriers for First Nations women and girls at the community and regional level to engage on issues that impact them.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

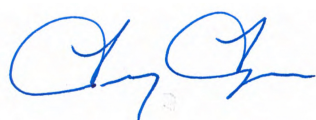
1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the creation of a BCAFN Women's Council that is guided by the direction and leadership provided by BCAFN Women's Representative and First Nations women and girls in BC;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN and the BCAFN Women's Representative to develop concepts and engage with First Nations women and girls across BC at the Women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Dialogue Sessions to inform the scope, mandate and structure of the BCAFN Women's Council;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN, and the BCAFN Women's Representative, with support from staff, to develop a Terms of Reference for a BCAFN Women's 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 Women's 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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