



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

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

**Resolution 04/2025**

**SUBJECT:** CALL FOR FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS AND TITLE TO BE UPHELD IN CANADA-U.S.  
TRADE CONSIDERATIONS AND COUNTERMEASURES

---

**MOVED BY:** KUKPI7 RHONDA PHILLIPS, XATSÜLL FIRST NATION

---

**SECONDED BY:** CHIEF JAMES HOBART, SPUZZUM FIRST NATION

---

**DECISION:** CARRIED

---

### WHEREAS:

- A. Recognizing and upholding First Nations rights and title in Canada-U.S. trade policies and any countermeasures developed by the governments of Canada and British Columbia (B.C.) is fundamental to economic reconciliation, ensuring that First Nations in B.C. are consulted and engaged in decisions that directly impact First Nations' territories, economies, and communities;
- B. The governments of Canada and British Columbia developed and announced countermeasures to the threat of the Trump Administration's tariffs without adequate consultation and engagement with First Nations in B.C.;
- C. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (The UN Declaration), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:
  - 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;

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025**

---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

**Article 4:** Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

**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 8(2):** States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:

(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

**Article 18:** Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

**Article 19:** States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

**Article 26 (1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise 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. **(3):** States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the Indigenous peoples concerned;

- D. The Declaration Act Action Plan, developed in partnership with rights and title holders and the Province of BC, commits to 89 long-term, cross-ministerial actions to support the provincial implementation of the UN Declaration, which includes the following action items to be achieved by 2027:

**1.2.** Shift from short-term transactional arrangements to the co-development of long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination, decision-making and economic independence.

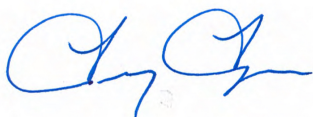
**1.5.** Co-develop and implement new distinctions-based policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing and other fiscal mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples.

**2.6.** Co-develop strategic-level policies, programs and initiatives to advance collaborative stewardship of the environment, land and resources, that address cumulative effects and respects Indigenous Knowledge. This will be achieved through collaborative stewardship forums, guardian programs, land use planning initiatives, and other innovative and evolving partnerships that support integrated land and resource management

**4.15.** Incorporate Indigenous experiences and knowledge of poverty and well-being into ongoing poverty reduction efforts and the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy. The strategy will recognize

---

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025



---

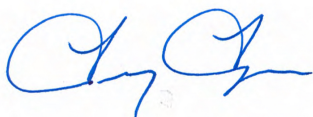
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

the ongoing impacts of colonialism and include Indigenous-identified actions and progress measures;

- E. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan, which was developed in partnership with rights and title holders and the Government of Canada, commits 181 long-term cross-ministerial actions to support the federal implementation of the UN Declaration, which includes the following action items to be achieved by 2028;
- 33.** Develop and implement actions to increase the economic participation of Indigenous peoples and their communities in natural resource development.
  - 53.** Respond to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R. v. Desautel*<sup>1</sup> by undertaking exploratory discussions with section 35 rights holders to contribute to addressing the impacts of colonialism on Indigenous groups affected by international borders.
  - 72.** Co-develop with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis right holders or their national designates distinctions-based, whole of government policy guidelines on fully and effectively engaging Indigenous peoples on international issues affecting them, with a commitment to explore the development of policy in specific areas where appropriate. This work will seek to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples in decision-making on matters which would affect their rights and to advance Canada's contribution to the work of the entities of the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations in their implementation of article 41.
  - 74.** Building on the work from the National Indigenous Economic Development Board Report on Economic Reconciliation, as well as the First Nations Financial Management Board's Roadmap Project and the National Indigenous Economic Strategy, advance economic reconciliation through engagement on key aspects for Indigenous economic development such as initiating discussions on an Indigenous-led investment and financial asset management regime, and address persistent economic barriers for Indigenous businesses and communities, including the impacts of colonization and inequitable policies.
  - 87.** Support Indigenous peoples' food security, sovereignty and sustainability through:
    - Funding and other program measures
    - Promoting food-focused research to better understand the intersection of Indigenous peoples' food security, sovereignty and sustainability
    - Promoting trade in Indigenous peoples' food products and removal of barriers to that trade.
- F. BCAF Resolution 07(f)/2019 *Right to Access International Markets and Trade*, and Resolution 28/2024 *Support for First Nations Participation in International Trade and Economic Self-Determination* called on the governments of Canada and B.C. to fully engage and consult with First Nations on international trade and access to global markets, existing and future trade discussions, free trade agreements, and international economic development initiatives and ensure that First Nations rights and title are respected;

---

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025



---

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

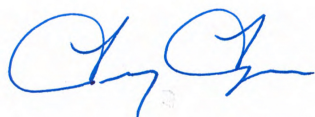
- G. In February 2025, President Trump announced a 25% tariff on all Canadian goods, with the exception of energy products, which have a 10% tariff (Tariffs). In response, the governments of Canada and B.C. proposed various retaliatory actions and measures, including relief measures.
- December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs, along with the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and the Honourable Ya'ara Saks, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, released Canada's Border Plan, which includes a \$1.3 billion investment to bolster border security.
  - February 1<sup>st</sup>, President Trump announced tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China to address the movement of people and contraband goods across the border.
  - On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Prime Minister Trudeau announced 25% tariffs on up to \$155 billion of goods in response to the threat of U.S. tariffs.
  - February 1<sup>st</sup>, Premier Eby announced countermeasures, including the fast-tracking of 18 resource projects and the halting of liquor imports from "Republican" states.
  - February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, the governments of Canada and the U.S. paused tariffs and countermeasures for a 30-day period.
  - February 6<sup>th</sup>, Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions, announced new legislation to empower the B.C. Energy Regulator with authority over renewable energy projects to accelerate the expansion of the electricity grid and meet demand from mining, port electrification, hydrogen and fuel processing, and shipping projects currently being considered.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirms First Nations' inherent, unextinguished, and unceded title and rights are inclusive of social, and economic rights, rights of self-government and jurisdictional authority to conduct commerce both domestically and internationally and freely enjoy all benefits derived from our lands and resources;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Government of B.C. to seek and secure free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from First Nations that have fast-tracked projects in their territory, ensuring First Nations' rights, title, and economic interests are upheld;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Government of British Columbia to reconsider any proposed legislation would expand the powers of the B.C. Energy Regulator to fast-track energy infrastructure projects, ensuring that First Nations' rights, title, and jurisdiction over their lands and resources are upheld through full consultation and free, prior, and informed consent;
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief, working with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) as the First Nations Leadership Council, to

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025**



---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

strengthen relationships with Tribes in the U.S., including enhancing inter-tribal trade mechanisms that respect First Nations sovereignty and governance;

5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), as the First Nations Leadership Council to call on the governments of B.C. and Canada to uphold First Nations' rights in all trade negotiations, countermeasures, and economic relief policies, ensuring First Nations are full participants in domestic and international trade discussions, free trade agreements, and economic development initiatives; and
6. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), as the First Nations Leadership Council to call on the governments of B.C. and Canada to provide adequate resources to First Nations governments and organizations in B.C. to increase capacity to participate, engage, and consult on trade considerations.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025**



---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**