



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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**BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**October 28, 29 & 30, 2025**  
**Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom**

**Resolution 24/2025**

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ FLAG**

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**Moved BY: CHIEF DARCY PAUL, SKOWKALE FIRST NATION**

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**SECONDED BY: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT FIRST NATION**

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**DECISION: CARRIED**

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. Before colonization, many First Nation communities celebrated gender diversity, by recognizing that 2SLGBTQQIA+ people had important social and ceremonial roles. However, the arrival of colonizers brought with it the enforcement of colonial beliefs and laws, which imposed gender binaries and disapproved of gender diverse identities. This led to the criminalization of First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, forcing them into social and cultural hiding. Many 2SLGBTQQIA+ people were oppressed, forced into conforming to gender norms, or punished for their existence through violence, exclusion, or imprisonment. First Nation gender diversity was branded as “unnatural” by colonizers, erasing the understanding that gender was often fluid and sacred within First Nation teachings, beliefs, and ways of being and knowing;
- B. First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people continue to face discrimination and marginalization both within their own community and in broader society. In some cases, First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are subject to violence and exclusion from both the mainstream 2SLGBTQQIA+ and their First Nation community. In many First Nations, especially where colonial influence has been strongest, there’s a long-standing reluctance to reclaim or celebrate the First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ identity openly due to lingering colonial attitudes. Furthermore, Two-Spirit people often experience

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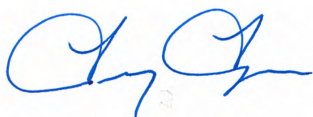
**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

intersecting forms of discrimination, which includes racism, homophobia, transphobia, and colonialism that often compound their struggles;

- C. The BC Assembly of First Nations acknowledges and recognizes the significant discrimination, erasure, and historical harm that is deeply intertwined with colonialism and misinterpretation/cultural suppression that began decades ago and continues today, which has compounded into an endless struggle that is unknown by BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;
- D. 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 BC, passed legislation committing 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 to another group.
  - Article 22(2): States shall take 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.
  - Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them, and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions;
- E. The BC Assembly of First Nations stands along the side of BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and works to uplift BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ voices, experiences, and leadership through efforts that reclaim space and revitalize traditional roles;
- F. In 2022, BC Assembly of First Nations began the work to develop a BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Flag – this meant engaging with BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in person gatherings like the Dialogue Session and virtually through online surveys that enhanced further feedback on a Flag design that symbolizes reclamation and resistance of BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nation People;
- G. In some countries, the pride flag or the progressive flag is legal or face policy-based restrictions as the flags are used as a symbol of pride, visibility, and support for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community. The power and meaning behind the Pride and Progressive flags are within their ability to represent visibility, recognition, and inclusion for marginalized groups within the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community;
- H. These flags are now more than just symbols as they are beacons of identity and resilience in the face of discrimination, erasure, and historical harm. The original rainbow flag, created by Gilbert Baker in 1978, was designed to celebrate the diversity and unity of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community,

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symbolizing life, love, healing, and spirit. Over time, the community's understanding of identity deepened, additional flags like the Trans Pride (1999, Monica Helms), Intersex Pride flags (2013, Morgan Carpenter), "More Color, More Pride" flag (2017, Amber Hikes), the Progress Pride flag (2018, Daniel Quasar), and most recently the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride flag (2021, Valentino Vecchietti) have emerged to give a voice to those whose experiences were often overlooked and to further expand the visibility and representation within the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community. Each iteration reflects the growing recognition of intersectionality and the push for more inclusive symbolism;

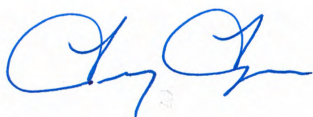
- I. In 2024, BC Assembly of First Nations concluded engagement on elements/features that BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nation People wanted to be included in the flag and moved forward with administering a Call for Concepts for a BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ artist design and sought submissions for a Flag design that uplifts the values not only from engagement with BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nation People but traditional art forms;
- J. Carrielynn Victor's flag design was selected by BCAFN Representatives/Knowledge Keepers and BCAFN Board of Directors to complete revisions and the final design that represents the diversity and inclusivity of the BC Assembly of First Nations; and
- K. Carrielynn Victor has prepared and presented her design for the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Flag to the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby adopt the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Flag as presented at the BCAFN 22nd Annual General Meeting.

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