



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 28, 29 & 30, 2025
Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 29/2025

SUBJECT: BC FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL'S INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S JUSTICE PLAN
PRIORITY STRATEGIES

MOVED BY: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLUPS TE SECWEPEMC

SECONDED BY: KUKPI7 RHONDA PHILLIPS, XATSULL FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. the B.C. First Nations Justice Council's (BCFNJC) Indigenous Women's Justice Plan (IWJP) is grounded in foundational reports and inquiries and does not seek to duplicate existing First Nations' efforts or compete for funding for Indigenous communities or other likeminded organizations working in this space;
- B. First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ justice is inseparable from environmental justice. The militarization of First Nations lands as a violent means of advancing the Crown's two-fold project of controlling lands and resources and undermining First Nations title and rights and sovereignty is part of a colonial legacy of deploying armed police forces to invade First Nations lands and targeting, criminalizing, and disempowering First Nations land defenders, especially First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+;
- C. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (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:

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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.

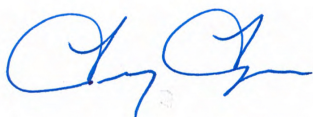
Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their own distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 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 24(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right;

- D. the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' (National Inquiry) Calls for Justice, *Red Woman Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*, and *Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report* provide concrete actionable recommendations and a clear path to creating systemic change and ending violence by calling on government as well as industries and extractive industries;
- E. the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice 13.1, 13.2, 13.4 and 13.5 call upon resource extraction and development industries to address the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, and for governments to approve and monitor development projects to complete gender-based socio-economic impact assessments on all proposed projects as part of their decision making and ongoing monitoring of projects, to fund further inquiries and studies into resource extraction, development and violence against Indigenous women, and to recognize increased demand on social infrastructure due to resource extraction;
- F. on October 30, 2024, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) reviewed the tenth periodic report of Canada and issued Concluding Observations which call on Canada to: take action on increased rates of gender-based violence and conflicts over land and criminalization of Indigenous women in relation to extractive industries and environmental degradation (41.b; 41.c); eradicate gender-based violence against Indigenous women and girls, including environmental violence that is attributable to extractive industries (42.b); strengthen its legal framework to ensure that mining and extractive industries are subject to free, prior, and informed consent with affected Indigenous women (42.c); ensure Indigenous women are fully consulted (42.d); and develop mechanisms to prevent criminalization of land defenders and to ensure Canadian extractive companies are held accountable for human rights violations (42.e);

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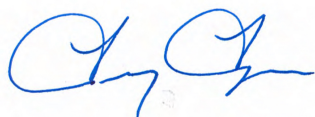
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- G. in 2020, the BCFNJC developed the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy (the Strategy), which contains 25 individual strategies and 43 lines of action, and which was endorsed through BCAFN Resolution 38/2024 Strategy 11 of the Strategy calls for the creation of an Indigenous Women's Justice Plan (IWJP) as well as a strategy to address the challenges of intimate partner violence;
- H. in fall 2023, the BCFNJC engaged with title and rights holders across B.C., holding 17 in-person engagements and three virtual sessions, to develop an IWJP that reflects the needs, priorities and vision of First Nations and uplifts work towards self-determination and reclamation;
- I. on April 8, 2024, at the 3rd Annual BCFNJC Justice Forum, the IWJP–Final Draft was presented. The IWJP–Final Draft includes 15 individual strategies and 42 lines of action calling for systemic transformations across many sectors, including policing, accountability, prevention, gender-based violence, and safety;
- J. the IWJP is a living document that is responsive to the unique needs and priorities of title and rights holders and can be updated to meet future needs, this version is termed the “Final Draft” to reflect both its readiness for implementation and adaptability;
- K. of the 15 strategies within the IWJP, three strategies were identified as implementation priorities. The three strategies were agreed to and endorsed by the Province of B.C. through the Bilateral Joint Implementation Plan between the signatories of the Strategy, the Ministry of Attorney General, and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The three priority strategies are:
 - a. Strategy 8: Man Camps, Resource Extraction, and Land Exploitation
 - b. Strategy 9: Crisis Response
 - c. Strategy 15: Legislation and Policy (as it relates to Strategy 8 and 9); and
- L. the IWJP focuses on self-determination and autonomy, revitalization of legal traditions, respect for rights, values of Indigenous peoples, specifically Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+. With the current political landscape and passing of provincial legislation in 2024 *Intimate Images Protection Act* and the *Victims, Family and Community Healing and Safety Act* and federal legislation in 2022 *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, through a broad advocacy coalition framework, BCFNJC will be co-developing implementation plans with concrete action items with partners across First Nations allied organizations and governments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the First Nations Summit (FNS) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to fully endorse the B.C. First Nations Justice Council's (BCFNJC) Indigenous Women's Justice Plan (IWJP) priority Strategies 8 (Man Camps, Resource Extraction, and Land

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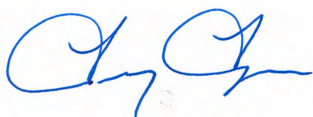


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Exploitation), 9 (Crisis Response), and 15 (Legislation and Policy [as it relates to Strategy 8 and 9]) as a framework to protect and prevent Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ from the impacts of man camps, resource extraction, and infrastructure development and the continued MMIWG2S+ genocide through de-siloed crisis response planning, long-term reliable funding, legislative alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and policy change;

2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the BCFNJC to continue working collaboratively with title and rights holders and likeminded organizations in their priority strategies and lines of action implementation plans to uplift ongoing work and avoid duplication;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the governments of Canada and B.C., including the B.C. Human Rights Commission, Environmental Assessment Office of B.C., and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to provide resources to support BCFNJC with the co-development of mandatory education and training models to be administered to government, employers and workers in resource extractive industries, first responders, the Independent Investigations Office, and justice authorities with whom families, grassroots activists, First Nations, and First Nations communities interact with during incidents involving man camps, resource extraction, land exploitation, and crisis response. Mandatory education must include gender-based violence prevention and cultural training, education on the MMIWG2S+ crisis, ongoing cultural awareness, anti-racism, anti-violence, and gender-equality training; and
4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the UBCIC and FNS as the FNLC, to utilize the B.C. First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan to advocate for the prioritized implementation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice 13.1, 13.2, 13.4, and 13.5, which are centered on ensuring safety and security and reducing impacts to Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples throughout man camps, resource extraction, and land exploitation.

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