



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 30/2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE STRATEGY

Moved BY: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT FIRST NATION

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

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), which the government of BC has implemented into provincial law with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, affirms:
- 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 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person
- Article 15: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information. 2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 29th day of October 2025

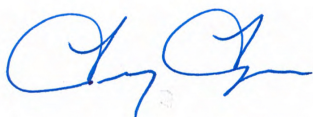
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.

- B. Historical and ongoing systemic inequities found in Canada's justice system target and disproportionately impact First Nations Peoples, with various studies, reports, inquiries, and commissions pointing to the systemic anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination in Canada's justice system, resulting in over-criminalization, and over-representation of Indigenous peoples in correctional institutions.
- C. First Nations across Canada, working at the community level and collectively, have been developing solutions to the urgent concerns of the Canadian justice system.
- D. Justice Canada and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) carried out three years of concurrent engagement with First Nations stakeholders, regions, and legal scholars across Canada, to gather expertise and input into the development of the First Nations-specific components of the Indigenous Justice Strategy.
- E. On June 11, 2025, the AFN released the National First Nations Justice Strategy (FNJS). The FNJS aims to address long standing issues within the justice system under two main paths and twenty-five corresponding strategies with specific action items. These strategies provide flexible, First Nations-driven approaches, developed over five years of extensive engagement and co-development with title and rights holders, and Canada's Department of Justice.
- F. The National First Nations Justice Strategy was developed with substantial input and support from the BC First Nations Justice Council, after developing and implementing the BC First Nations Justice Strategy in March of 2020.
- G. In 2020, the BCAFN Chiefs in Assembly passed Resolution 12/2020, Endorsement of the First Nations Justice Strategy, affirming the implementation of the provincial BC First Nations Justice Strategy.
- H. In December of 2024, the AFN passed Resolution 83/2024, *Ensure Full Implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy First Nations Chapter*, endorsing the development and implementation of the National First Nations Justice Strategy.

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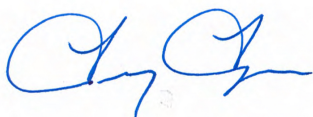


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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call for the national implementation of the National First Nations Justice Strategy, a distinctions-based strategy imbedded within the larger Indigenous Justice Strategy;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the government of Canada to allocate long-term, adequate and sustainable funding to ensure the meaningful implementation of this strategy; and
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and the BC representatives on the AFN Chiefs Committee on Justice to work alongside the BC First Nations Justice Council and the AFN to advocate for the implementation, funding and rollout of the National First Nations Justice Strategy.

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