



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1992 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

BCAFN ANNUAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

October 28, 29 & 30, 2025

Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 31/2025

SUBJECT: CALL TO EXTEND THE TIMELINE FOR FULL FIRST NATIONS JURISDICTION IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MOVED BY: JUDY WILSON, PROXY, OSOYOOS INDIAN BAND

SECONDED BY: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLIPS TE SECWEPENC

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations require emergency management systems that uphold inherent rights, title, and jurisdiction;
- B. In 2019, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and the Province of B.C. signed a Memorandum of Understanding to advance a rights-based emergency management relationship grounded in First Nations' inherent jurisdiction and self-determination;
- C. First Nations' inherent rights to jurisdiction and decision-making are affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) Articles 18, 19, 26 and 32, and are binding under British Columbia's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (BC Declaration Act, 2019) and Canada's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UN Declaration Act, 2021);
Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves

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

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

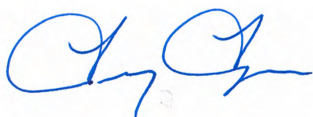
Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 26: 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.

Article 32: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

- D. BC's Declaration Act Action Plan Measure 1.10 mandates the Province to co-develop emergency management approaches with First Nations;
- E. Reports including the Abbott/Chapman Review (2018), Nadleh Whut'en's Trial by Fire (2019), the Tsilhqot'in Nation's The Fires Awakened Us (2019) called for First Nations-led emergency management governance, sustainable funding, and jurisdictional recognition;
- F. BCAFN Resolution 24/2021 supported the development of a First Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan, affirming the need for First Nations-led approaches;
- G. BCAFN Resolution 10/2023 supported the development of a discussion paper on a new Emergency Management Services Agreement, to advance co-development with the Government of Canada and BC;
- H. BCAFN Resolution 14/2024, UBCIC Resolution 2024-16, FNS Resolution 0424.07 supported the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), comprised of the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), and the First Nations Summit (FNS) to advance negotiations with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) (the negotiations team) to transition from the 2017–2027 Bilateral Emergency Management Agreement to a Multilateral Emergency Management Agreement that upholds First Nations jurisdiction, which specifically directs:

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



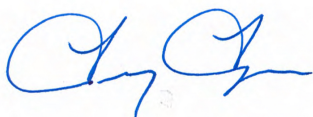
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- 1) An immediate needs and economic analysis including adequate, predictable, sustainable funding directly to bands for Emergency Management Coordinators, funding for backlogged mitigation projects and existing Community Emergency Preparedness funding to go directly to First Nations.
 - 2) A high-level overarching rights-based framework including funding for rights holders; and
 - 3) Achieving full recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over emergency management services by 2026.
- I. While the original negotiation scope envisioned full recognition of First Nations jurisdiction by 2026, the FNLC negotiation team has recommended extending this timeline to enable a measured, phased approach that builds sustained capacity and alignment across all partners. This is outlined in the draft Phase 2 and 3 timeline prepared by the FNLC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, to work with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to engage with Indigenous Services Canada and Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to extend the timeline for full jurisdiction through a phased approach, ensuring this does not prevent any First Nation from advancing its own agreements;
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN representatives of the Negotiations Team to develop two (2) related case studies (one on the 2021 atmospheric river and one on the Lytton wildfire) to help inform the multilateral negotiations table, and continue to participate in the collaborative development of the multilateral agreement, working toward a signed agreement for March 31, 2027 and the realization of full-jurisdiction through a series of phases, brought to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly for regular updates, input, and approval;
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Indigenous Services Canada and the Province of British Columbia to provide sustained and predictable funding to support the legal, policy, and technical capacity needed to implement the phased jurisdictional model in line with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; and
4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN representatives to the Negotiations Team to report on the rights-based framework agreement development, and an enhanced description of the pathway to full emergency management jurisdiction at the next scheduled BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly in the spring of 2026.

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



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief