



## 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 42/2025**

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE WILDLIFE ACT**

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**Moved BY: NASU?KIN DONALD SAM, ?AKISQNUK FIRST NATION**

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**SECONDED BY: JUDY WILSON, PROXY, OSOYOOS INDIAN BAND**

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**DECISION: CARRIED**

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**WHEREAS:**

- A. First Nations in B.C. have inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction to protect, conserve, and steward the environment and our lands, territories, and resources;
- B. the government of B.C., through the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), has begun preliminary work on proposed updates to the *Wildlife Act*, through which the government of B.C. purports to govern wildlife management, conservation, and harvesting throughout BC;
- C. 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 B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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 decision-making institutions;

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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;

Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection;

Article 32(1): 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;

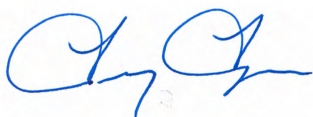
Article 32(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources;

Article 32(3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact;

- D. the *Wildlife Act* reform provides an opportunity to address long-standing issues raised by First Nations, including the legislative recognition of inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction, and the need for co-management and shared and consent-based decision-making in wildlife stewardship;
- E. the BCAFN through Resolution 11/2022 “BCAFN Mandate on Hunting and Wildlife”, affirmed the need for any amendments to the *Wildlife Act* to:
  - I. Respect and uphold First Nations inherent title, rights, treaty rights and ancient protocols related to hunting and wildlife management;
  - li. Align with the with standards articulated in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;
  - lii. Acknowledge First Nations laws and governance in wildlife management;
- F. on January 10, 2022, the Ministry provided BCAFN with draft language for its proposed amendments (the *Wildlife Act* “Consultation Draft”), and the BCAFN, as part of the FNLC, provided a written submission, including proposed revisions to the Consultation Draft, to the Ministry on January 27, 2022; and
- G. by Resolution 05/2023 “Support for Development of a Tripartite Nature Agreement”, the BCAFN Chiefs Council called upon the BCAFN Executive to ensure that First Nations are full partners in the

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identification of areas for conservation and protection and in habitat enhancement and restoration initiatives as well as ensuring that First Nations are full partners in any planning and decision-making processes, including for land use and species at risk protection and recovery.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province of B.C., through the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), to involve First Nations from the outset of the *Wildlife Act* amendment process through co-development of policy, legislation, and decision-making, and to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent, in accordance with the 2021 “Interim Approach to Implement the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act”;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call for amendments to the *Wildlife Act* that explicitly recognize and protect First Nations’ inherent title and rights, and jurisdiction, incorporate shared and including consent-based decision-making, and embed the standard of free, prior, and informed consent in all legislative and administrative measures affecting First Nations, including the *Wildlife Act*; and
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to work with First Nations and like-minded organizations to develop a coordinated First Nations position on the *Wildlife Act* amendments and advocate for its adoption by the Province of B.C.

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