



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 44/2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT-IN-PRINCIPLE FOR FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ENTERING INTO A RELATIONSHIP PROTOCOL WITH THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

MOVED BY: CHIEF JUSTIN KANE, TS'KW'AYLAXW FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF RICK JOHNSON, KWIKWASUT'INUXW HAXWA'MIS FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations in BC have inherent and constitutionally protected title, rights, and jurisdiction to our respective territories, and, as the original caretakers of these territories, we continue to exercise our laws and jurisdiction to protect and steward the environment, lands and waters;
- B. After the 2024 election, Premier David Eby split the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation into two separate ministries, the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (ECS) and the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM), creating the need for two new relationship protocols;
- C. The Ministry of ECS is responsible for BC's electricity, alternative energy and petroleum resource sectors, and the goals of ECS are to facilitate these sectors to be globally competitive and environmentally leading, in a manner consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) and in accordance with the CleanBC plan and commitments to Crown- Indigenous reconciliation;

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- 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 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 8(2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources.

Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard

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;

(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.

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 programs for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

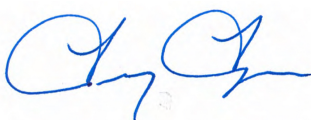
Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

- E. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly have mandated the First Nations Energy and Mining Council (the “FNEMC”) through resolutions of the BCAFN to provide policy support and facilitate First Nations’ efforts in relation to energy and mining in ways that protect and sustain the environment forever while enhancing the social, cultural, economic and political well-being of First Nations in British Columbia; and
- F. A draft Relationship Protocol between the FNLC and Minister of ECS has been developed to establish and implement a collaborative and constructive relationship and supporting structures between the FNLC and ECS on issues and initiatives in the areas of energy and climate solutions in BC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support-in-principle the draft Relationship Protocol between the BCAFN, working with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and the Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the FNS and the UBCIC, with the assistance of the First Nations Energy and Mining Council, to prepare a finalized Relationship Protocol

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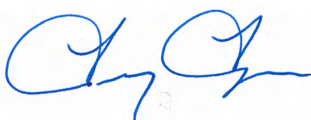


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between the FNLC and the Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions;

3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to sign the finalized Relationship Protocol, if there are no significant changes to the principles or content of the draft Relationship Protocol;
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to clearly articulate to the Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions that the Protocol is not a substitute for direct engagement with First Nations title and right holders and is not a delegation of authority in any way, and that the Minister must directly engage with First Nations title and rights holders; and
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the FNS and the UBCIC, and the Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions to provide regular reports to the BCAFN Chiefs- in-Assembly on the ongoing collaborative objectives and efforts as identified in the Relationship Protocol.

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