



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

22nd Annual General Meeting

Hybrid, In-person & Online

October 28, 29 & 30, 2025

RESOLUTIONS LIST

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1992 Landooz Road
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Website: www.bcafn.ca

BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
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Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 22/2025

SUBJECT: **ADOPTION OF THE 2024-2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Moved BY: **CHIEF MAUREEN LUGGI, WET'SUWET'EN**

SECONDED BY: **CHIEF BRENDA WALLACE, SOOWAHLE FIRST NATION**

DECISION: **CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

- A. KPMG LLP was appointed through Resolution 03/2024 to act as BCAFN's auditor for a term of one year; and
- B. KPMG LLP has prepared and presented an independent auditors' report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby adopt the 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements as presented at the BCAFN 22nd Annual General Meeting.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 28th day of October 2025

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



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Resolution 23/2025

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Moved BY: CHIEF WILF ADAM, LAKE BABINE FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF HARLEY CHINGEE, MCLEOD LAKE FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Section 11.4 of the BC Assembly of First Nations' Constitution and Bylaws requires the members to appoint an auditor to hold office until the auditor is re-elected or a successor is elected at the next annual general meeting; and
- B. KPMG LLP was the auditor for the BC Assembly of First Nations during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby appoint KPMG LLP as the auditor for the BC Assembly of First Nations to hold office until the auditor is re-appointed or a successor is identified.

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Resolution 24/2025

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ FLAG

Moved BY: CHIEF DARCY PAUL, SKOWKALE FIRST NATION

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

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Before colonization, many First Nation communities celebrated gender diversity, by recognizing that 2SLGBTQQIA+ people had important social and ceremonial roles. However, the arrival of colonizers brought with it the enforcement of colonial beliefs and laws, which imposed gender binaries and disapproved of gender diverse identities. This led to the criminalization of First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, forcing them into social and cultural hiding. Many 2SLGBTQQIA+ people were oppressed, forced into conforming to gender norms, or punished for their existence through violence, exclusion, or imprisonment. First Nation gender diversity was branded as “unnatural” by colonizers, erasing the understanding that gender was often fluid and sacred within First Nation teachings, beliefs, and ways of being and knowing;
- B. First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people continue to face discrimination and marginalization both within their own community and in broader society. In some cases, First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are subject to violence and exclusion from both the mainstream 2SLGBTQQIA+ and their First Nation community. In many First Nations, especially where colonial influence has been strongest, there’s a long-standing reluctance to reclaim or celebrate the First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ identity openly due to lingering colonial attitudes. Furthermore, Two-Spirit people often experience

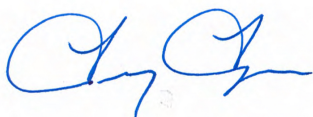
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intersecting forms of discrimination, which includes racism, homophobia, transphobia, and colonialism that often compound their struggles;

- C. The BC Assembly of First Nations acknowledges and recognizes the significant discrimination, erasure, and historical harm that is deeply intertwined with colonialism and misinterpretation/cultural suppression that began decades ago and continues today, which has compounded into an endless struggle that is unknown by BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;
- 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 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - 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 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them, and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions;
- E. The BC Assembly of First Nations stands along the side of BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and works to uplift BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ voices, experiences, and leadership through efforts that reclaim space and revitalize traditional roles;
- F. In 2022, BC Assembly of First Nations began the work to develop a BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Flag – this meant engaging with BC First Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in person gatherings like the Dialogue Session and virtually through online surveys that enhanced further feedback on a Flag design that symbolizes reclamation and resistance of BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nation People;
- G. In some countries, the pride flag or the progressive flag is legal or face policy-based restrictions as the flags are used as a symbol of pride, visibility, and support for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community. The power and meaning behind the Pride and Progressive flags are within their ability to represent visibility, recognition, and inclusion for marginalized groups within the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community;
- H. These flags are now more than just symbols as they are beacons of identity and resilience in the face of discrimination, erasure, and historical harm. The original rainbow flag, created by Gilbert Baker in 1978, was designed to celebrate the diversity and unity of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community,

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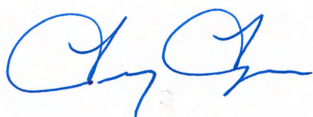
symbolizing life, love, healing, and spirit. Over time, the community's understanding of identity deepened, additional flags like the Trans Pride (1999, Monica Helms), Intersex Pride flags (2013, Morgan Carpenter), "More Color, More Pride" flag (2017, Amber Hikes), the Progress Pride flag (2018, Daniel Quasar), and most recently the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride flag (2021, Valentino Vecchietti) have emerged to give a voice to those whose experiences were often overlooked and to further expand the visibility and representation within the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community. Each iteration reflects the growing recognition of intersectionality and the push for more inclusive symbolism;

- I. In 2024, BC Assembly of First Nations concluded engagement on elements/features that BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nation People wanted to be included in the flag and moved forward with administering a Call for Concepts for a BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ artist design and sought submissions for a Flag design that uplifts the values not only from engagement with BC 2SLGBTQQIA+ First Nation People but traditional art forms;
- J. Carrielynn Victor's flag design was selected by BCAFN Representatives/Knowledge Keepers and BCAFN Board of Directors to complete revisions and the final design that represents the diversity and inclusivity of the BC Assembly of First Nations; and
- K. Carrielynn Victor has prepared and presented her design for the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Flag to the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby adopt the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Flag as presented at the BCAFN 22nd Annual General Meeting.

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Resolution 25/2025

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO CANADA'S 2025-26 DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EROSION OF FIRST NATIONS' RIGHT TO JUSTICE**

Moved BY: **CHIEF DAN MANUEL, UPPER NICOLA BAND**

SECONDED BY: **CHIEF DALTON SILVER, SUMAS FIRST NATION**

DECISION: **CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due

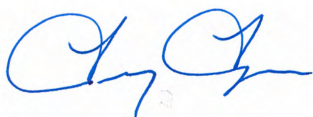
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recognition to Indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of Indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories, and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

- v. Article 28(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
 - vi. Article 28(2): Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.
- B. The specific claims process is one of the few mechanisms available for First Nations to exercise their right to redress for historical breaches by the Crown, and specific claims research funding is fundamental to the process.
- C. Since 2019, Canada has budgeted \$12 million for specific claims research and development across Canada and 2025-26 is the last year of this budget commitment, when the amount of available funding will sunset to \$4 million unless Canada commits to renewing and increasing available funding;
- D. There is an alarming shortfall in specific claims research funding according to Canada's own data which shows that Claims Research Units (CRU) and individual First Nations together applied for over \$34 million in 2025-26, a shortfall of \$22 million, and an \$8 million increase over last year's shortfall;
- E. First Nations in B.C. account for 53 percent of filed claims currently in progress, 43 percent of claims that have been through the process but have been rejected for negotiation or had their files closed, and have the largest number of claims currently in research and development;
- F. Claims Research Units (CRUs), established and mandated by First Nations, are currently mandated to research and develop over 80 percent of all active claims and are a critical means by which First Nations pursue justice for their historical claims.
- G. Canada has stated that for the 2025-26 fiscal year, it received a significant increase in the number of research funding applications from individual First Nations and the number of claims on CRUs' funding proposals.
- H. Canada distributed the \$12 million in research funding available for 2025-26 according to a unilaterally devised and non-transparent system which allocated funding to individual First Nation applicants, and then to mandated CRU applicants with the result that:
- i. individual First Nations applicants have received insufficient funding (25 percent less than the maximum claim allowance of \$40,000 per claim and, on average, 50-75 percent less than they requested);

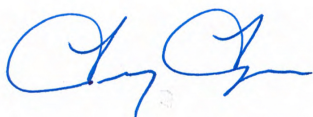
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- ii. CRUs have received severe and debilitating cuts to their budgets (up to 83 percent), directly impacting 80 percent of all First Nations-mandated claims in research and development, and;
 - iii. the ability of all First Nations to advance their specific claims through their chosen mechanisms has been significantly compromised, as longstanding research programs now struggle to survive and research progress on hundreds of claims will be curtailed.
- I. Canada failed to inform CRUs and First Nations of the 2025–26 funding allocations until three months into the fiscal year, after CRUs had already committed staff and resources based on previous levels and past funding practices, incurring unrecoverable costs and leaving a fraction of resources to stretch over the remainder of the fiscal year.
 - J. Canada also failed to apply or communicate any consistent, transparent methodology for allocating funds, creating sudden, destabilizing shortfalls that will derail ongoing research work, bar First Nations from advancing new claims, undermine their access to justice, and waste already scarce resources.
 - K. By arbitrarily cutting CRU budgets — despite their economies of scale and ability to advance the greatest number of claims — and by underfunding individual First Nation applicants, Canada will effectively reduce the number of claims able to be advanced, essentially squandering limited public funds.
 - L. These cuts compound a growing crisis that undermines both First Nations’ access to justice and Canada’s previous commitment to co-develop an independent specific claims process, and will lead to structural failure, regional inequities, and long-term system paralysis.
 - M. These actions contravene Canada’s obligations under the UN Declaration, fail to uphold the Honour of the Crown, and contradict Canada’s public commitment to reconciliation and redress of past harms.
 - N. These actions will indefinitely delay the resolution of historical claims and by doing so will inject uncertainty into land-based processes and compound risks to major energy, infrastructure, and resource development projects.
 - O. On September 23, 2025 CIRNAC announced that a \$2.65 million supplement to 2025-26 specific claim research and development funding will be made immediately available to *eligible* CRUs in response to First Nations’ calls to provide an urgent supplement to the 2025–2026 research envelope to reach a minimum of \$35 million, in line with need demonstrated on work plans to uphold First Nations’ mandates to have CRUs research and develop their claims; and
 - P. The September 23rd supplement is far below the need demonstrated on CRU work plans and even with this top-up to their budgets, many CRUs continue to face significant hardship as they struggle to retain staff and afford legal costs associated with claim development, and conduct research activities and the overall funding shortfall remains more than \$19 million.

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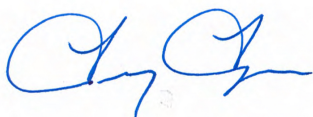


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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that First Nations have the right, in accordance with *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) Articles 18, 19, 26, 27, and 28, to choose how their historical grievances are researched and advanced—whether through mandated Claims Research Units (CRUs) or as individual applicants—and that Canada must ensure equitable and appropriate funding for both pathways, consistent with First Nations' mandates, needs, and right to redress;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly denounce the 2025–2026 distribution of specific claims research funding as it was undertaken without consultation, transparency, and respect for First Nations' self-determined representation and research mechanisms;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to engage with the Prime Minister and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to urgently address the funding crisis and ensure sustainable and equitable access to claims research support for all First Nations.
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to Call on Canada to:
 - a. co-develop, with First Nations, a reformed specific claims research funding model that is transparent, equitable, needs-based, and grounded in the UN Declaration, Treaty rights, and First Nations' right to choose their own representatives and research mechanisms;
 - b. Provide an increase to \$35 million to the research funding envelope for the 2026–2027 fiscal year, to ensure stable and sufficient funding for First Nations research that reflects the needs identified in the work plans of CRUs and individual First Nation applicants;
 - c. to maintain this level of funding until a reformed specific claims research funding model has been fully co-developed and endorsed by First Nations, ensuring all First Nations are able to fully participate in the specific claims process and exercise their right to redress; and
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that the 2025–26 funding crisis demonstrates the urgent need for Canada to return to the co-development table to honour its past commitments by re-engaging in good faith with First Nations to co-develop a fully independent specific claims policy and process, beginning with adequate, stable, and transparent research funding that enables First Nations to investigate, prepare, and advance their claims through mechanisms of their own choosing.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is written over a horizontal line.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



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Resolution 26/2025

SUBJECT: **ENDING SEX DISCRIMINATION IN THE INDIAN ACT AND IMPLEMENTING THE UN DECLARATION**

Moved BY: **CHIEF MARILYN SLETT, HEILTSUK NATION**

SECONDED BY: **CHIEF SHANA THOMAS, LYACKSON FIRST NATION**

DECISION: **CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nation's women are the matriarchs and foundation of our laws, our communities, and the thread of our cultures and traditions. Discrimination against First Nation's women is a colonial tool used to destabilize our communities by forcibly assimilating women and their descendants, which has the inevitable result of the extinction of Indian Status. Colonial laws have undermined our ability to protect our communities and the existence of our present and future citizens, threatened our connection and stewardship of our land base, our Aboriginal Title and Rights, our cultures, languages, knowledge, the animal kingdom and the land's resources;
- B. First Nation's women and their descendants still face discrimination in the *Indian Act* and unreasonable delays and denials when applying for Indian Status, constituting ongoing discrimination and violence against women;
- 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 BC, committed to implement, affirms:

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Article 8 (1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture. (2) States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities... (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights, and (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;

Article 9: Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right;

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 22 (1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration, and (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 33: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live, and (2) Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures;

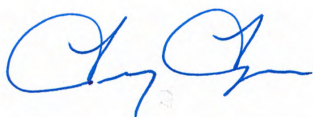
Article 38: States in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration;

Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights; and

Article 44: All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

- D. By Resolutions 03/2010, 07(g)/2019, and 01/2023 the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly called on Canada to end legislative and sex-based discrimination under the *Indian Act*, supported the recommendations of the Indian Act Sex Discrimination Working Group, the *Make It Stop: Ending the remaining discrimination in Indian registration* report, and called on Canada to ensure any amendments to the *Indian Act* are consistent with the UN Declaration and meets the requirement of free, prior and informed consent;

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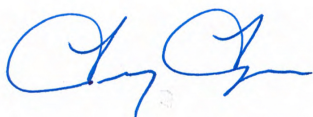
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- E. Despite numerous amendments to the *Indian Act*, and promises from Canada that “the next one” will eliminate sex discrimination, ongoing sex-based discrimination against First Nations women and their descendants persists in law and practice;
- F. Bill C-31 introduced a hierarchy of Indian Status under Section 6(1) and Section 6(2), which introduced a “second-generation cut-off.” Registrants under Section 6(2) cannot pass Indian Status to their children unless they have children with another person with Indian Status. As of 2024, Canada confirmed that 29% of the total population of registered individuals were categorized under Section 6(2), with BC falling at 27% of the total registered population. This is legislated extinction and will eventually result in the reversion of reserve lands to the Crown;
- G. Canada has an opportunity to completely end sex discrimination, eliminate the division of Section 6(1) and 6(2), reinstate everyone affected by discriminatory enfranchisement policies, and reverse the “no liability” clauses in each amendment, which prohibits any one from seeking compensation or damages from the Crown, government, or band council due to removal of a person, their parents, grandparents or other ancestors from the Indian Registrar, and any other form of discrimination in membership;
- H. Canada has not provided individuals with compensation for the harms they have suffered a result of the discrimination in the Indian Act that has kept them from maintaining membership and relations with their bands, and must be held accountable;
- I. The years long waiting period for new members to receive approval of their Indian Status is egregious and adds to the violence experienced at the hands of the federal government. As long as the Indian Status regime is in control of the government, Canada must properly fund Indigenous Services Canada and uphold their constitutional obligations to First Nations and issue timely Indian Status cards; and
- J. Canada must fully implement the UN Declaration and ensure that all laws are consistent with the UN Declaration, and this can easily be achieved through an amendment to the current bill in parliament, Bill S-2, *An Act to amend the Indian Act (new registration entitlements)*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly continues to support the recommendations and ongoing work of the Indian Act Sex Discrimination Working Group and the *Make it Stop! Ending the remaining discrimination in Indian registration*;
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to reject the reduction in funding to Indigenous Services Canada, which will result in further delays to obtaining Indian Status and other service responsibilities, further obfuscating Canada’s constitutional and fiduciary obligations to First Nations

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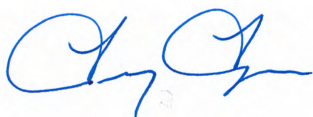


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peoples;

3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to end all legislative and sex-based discrimination, reinstate all women and descendants affected by enfranchisement, remove the no liability clauses in Bill S-2 and previous amendments, eliminate 6(2) status and the second generation cut-off, amend the membership provisions of the Indian Act to ensure consistency with Articles 8, 9, 19, 22, 33, 38, 40 and 44 of the UN Declaration, and direct the Regional Chief to continue this advocacy; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in Assembly directs the Regional Chief to advocate for the end to sex discrimination in the *Indian Act*, including the end to the 6(2) provision and the second-generation cut-off and removal of the no liability clauses in all previous amendments so that women and their descendants and bands can receive reparations for the harms they have faced, and continue working to achieve the full implementation of the UN Declaration and First Nations self-determination, including the right for First Nations to determine their own citizenship.

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Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 27/2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON LONG-TERM REFORM OF FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**

MOVED BY: **KUKPI7 RHONDA PHILLIPS, XATSÜLL FIRST NATION**

SECONDED BY: **MARY TEEGEE, PROXY, TAKLA FIRST NATION**

DECISION: **CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

- A. In *First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada et al. v. Attorney General of Canada (for the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)*, 2016 CHRT 2 (the Merit Decision), the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal) found Canada was discriminating against First Nations children and their families by failing to implement the full scope of Jordan's Principle and denying First Nations children the equal provision of child and family services, and ordered Canada to stop its discriminatory policies and practices;
- B. Since the 2016 Merit Decision, the Tribunal has issued numerous procedural and non-compliance orders against Canada. The case (numbered T1340/7008) is ongoing, and the Tribunal retains jurisdiction over these orders;
- 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:

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of (indigenous peoples') economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

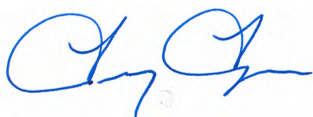
Article 22(1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.

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. On July 11, 2024, Canada, AFN, the Chiefs of Ontario ("COO"), and Nishnawbe Aski Nation ("NAN") announced the completion of a draft Final Settlement Agreement ("FSA") to resolve the systemic discrimination in FNCFS;
- E. On September 25, 2024, through UBCIC Resolution no. 2024-49, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly rejected the draft Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on the long-term reform of Canada's First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) program dated July 11, 2024, which was negotiated between AFN, Canada, and two First Nations interested parties to the Tribunal (the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN));
- F. On October 18, 2024, through Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolutions nos. 60/2024 and 61/2024, First Nations-in-Assembly rejected the draft FSA along with the proposed amendments released on or about October 7, 2024, and called for the establishment of a National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) with representation appointed by every region, and a mandate to provide strategic direction and oversight of the long-term reform agreement negotiations, as well as to establish a negotiation team and a new legal team responsible for carrying out the negotiations;
- G. On January 6, 2025, Canada announced that it would shortly begin negotiating an agreement specific to Ontario with COO and NAN and that its mandate did not permit further negotiations on reform of the FNCFS program on a national basis;
- H. On January 14, 2025, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) filed a motion (amended on January 27, 2025) with the Tribunal to try and address Canada's failure to negotiate nationally on FNCFS reform. The Motion seeks an order directing consultation between Canada, the AFN and the Caring Society on the national long-term reform of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle;

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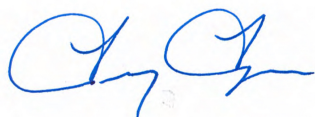
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- I. On February 26th, 2025, the BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly passed Resolution 06/2025 concerning a BC-specific pathway on Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and recognition of the unique needs and inherent rights of First Nations in BC;
- J. On February 27th, 2025, BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly passed resolution 20/2025 in support of the National Children's Chiefs Commission and its mandate to negotiate a national agreement on Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services;
- K. On July 16, 2025, Canada has provided a non-committal response to FNLC's March 17, 2025, correspondence asking if Canada was open to considering B.C.-specific negotiations on the long-term reform of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle;
- L. On August 20th, 2025, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal issued 2025 CHRT 80, which affirmed that the order against Canada to cease its discriminatory practices was designed to safeguard multiple generations of First Nations children and families, that Canada cannot contract out of or amend this order through agreements, and that long-term reform remedies must respect the spirit of Tribunal findings and orders, Children's rights, First Nations rights, and be based on the best available evidence;
- M. In 2025 CHRT 80, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled that within four months of the date of its ruling (December 20th, 2025), the Caring Society and the AFN must consult with the National Children's Chiefs Commission, First Nations Chiefs, and other experts, including First Nations and First Nations organizations outside Ontario, as well as those that have filed interested party motions, to develop an evidence-based, comprehensive National FNCFS long-term reform plan and requested remedies outside Ontario;
- N. On September 4th, 2025, the AFN First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 52/2025, *Approving Terms of Reference for FNCFS and Jordan's Principle Tables*, thereby approving the terms of reference of the NCCC and the NCCC Negotiation Team and supporting the NCCC to continue its work in developing a National FNCFS Long-Term Reform Plan with regional variations; and
- O. To inform the National FNCFS Long-Term Reform Plan and ensure regional perspectives and interests are included, the NCCC and other parties are initiating a regional engagement strategy to solicit input from First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the National Children's Chiefs Commission's (NCCC) development of a national plan for the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) program and Jordan's Principle informed by meaningful consultation with First Nations in B.C.;

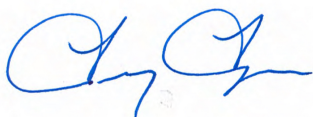
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2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly invite the B.C. NCCC representatives to provide regular updates and to seek the support of the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly prior to any substantive changes in their approach to long-term reform;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to establish a BC-specific table to inform and support negotiations on long-term reform and address the unique needs and realities of First Nations in BC; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs as the First Nations Leadership Council, to support the NCCC in consulting with BC First Nations on the development of a national plan.

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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 28/2025

SUBJECT: **EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Moved BY: **CHIEF HELEN HENDERSON, T'SQ?ESCEN FIRST NATION**

SECONDED BY: **KUKPI7 RHONDA PHILLIPS, XATSULL FIRST NATION**

DECISION: **CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

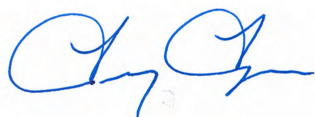
- A. Indigenous children and youth are vastly over-represented in B.C.'s child welfare system with Indigenous students making up only 12% of the total student population, but 69% of all students that are in the care system;
- B. Indigenous children and youth in the care of the Province experience significantly poorer educational outcomes than their non-Indigenous counterparts. In 2022/23, the 6-year Dogwood graduation rate was 38% for Indigenous students in care, 50% for non-Indigenous students in care, and 91% for all students who have never been in care;
- C. research conducted in 2023 by Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group for the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) found that Indigenous youth, and particularly children and youth in care, are overrepresented in the youth justice system. In 2021/22, 43% of all youth admissions to correctional services were Indigenous and in 2022/23 42% of youth in custody were also in care;

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- D. despite declining numbers of young people involved in the youth justice system, children and youth in care are still overrepresented in the youth justice system. The Province has a responsibility to these students who face multiple barriers to achieving their educational goals;
- E. 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 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of (indigenous peoples') economic and social conditions. Particular attention 2025-39 Page 2 of 3 shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- Article 22(1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
- (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;
- F. FNESC has a mandate to serve as the lead policy and advocacy body on First Nations education in B.C., and has a formal working relationship with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) through a protocol signed in 2015 and as directed by the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) through Resolution 2015-05, whereby FNESC and the FNLC agree to work collaboratively based on their respective technical and political mandates;
- G. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 21(c)/2019 supporting FNESC "in the development of a First Nation children and youth in care education strategy that focuses on:
- i. Achieving systemic shifts that support improved education outcomes of First Nation children and youth in care; and
 - ii. Addressing the Province's legal obligations to First Nation children and youth in care in relation to education;"
- H. on May 26, 2020, FNLC, FNESC, and the province (Ministry of Education and Child Care, Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills, Ministry of Children and Family Development) signed the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol and committed jointly to addressing systemic barriers and improving the education experiences and outcomes for current and former First Nations children and youth in care;

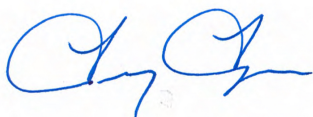
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- I. the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol establishes an Oversight Table and Technical Working Table, as well as mechanisms for the Technical Table to report to First Nations Leadership representatives and the Ministers on progress and initiatives set out in an agreed upon workplan;
- J. the priorities under the Protocol are outlined in a Technical Workplan that has been developed and approved by the First Nations Children and Youth in Care (CYIC) Oversight Table in November 2023 and establishes short, medium, and long-term goals and objectives to be achieved under the First Nations CYIC Protocol;
- K. The goals and objectives of the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol Workplan are multiyear in recognition of the capacity of the signatories to carry out the work;
- L. In 2024, the Representative for Children and Youth published the Missed Opportunities report which recommended that the Province develop and implement a plan for the more “efficient and effective redeployment of resources [to children and youth in the youth justice system] so that the needs of young people are better served”;
- M. The Inter-Ministerial Protocols for the Provision of Support Services to Schools (2013) outlines the responsibilities of the ECC and MCFD for providing educational services for youth who are or have been involved in the justice system;
- N. The education outcomes of First Nations children and youth in care who are or have been involved in the youth justice system has been under discussions at the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol Technical Table since it was first raised by First Nations in January 2024;
- O. At the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol Technical Table, ECC and MCFD identified that there is limited information and data on the education outcomes of First Nations children and youth in care who are or have been involved in the youth justice system;
- P. The FNLC, through the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol Oversight Table meeting on June 2, 2025, called for the addition of specific workplan commitments to address concerns with the lack of provincial data on the education outcomes and experiences of First Nations children and youth in care who are or have been involved in the youth justice, and ensure high-quality education programs are being delivered to these children and youth;
- Q. The Ministers of ECC, PSFS, and MCFD have rejected the proposed addition to the workplan at this time; and
- R. The objective of the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol is to “improve the education outcomes of all First Nations children and youth in care, and former youth in care,”

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and therefore, First Nations children and youth in care who are or have been involved in the justice system fall within the scope of the Protocol.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call for the inclusion of commitments specific to ensuring high-quality education programs for First Nations children and youth in care who are, or have been, involved in the youth justice system to the First Nations Children and Youth in Care (CYIC) Protocol Workplan; and
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the First Nations CYIC Protocol Oversight and Technical Tables to include targeted Workplan milestones to review and research education supports for children and youth in care entering Youth Custody Services and to develop accountability and reporting mechanisms to ensure equitable access to high-quality education to First Nations children and youth in care who are or have been involved in the youth justice system.

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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.

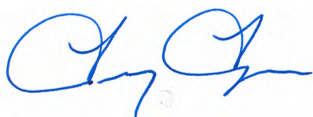
Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their own distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

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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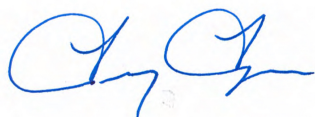
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- 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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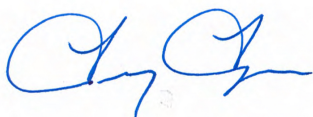


Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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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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.

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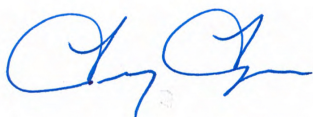
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Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision - making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their 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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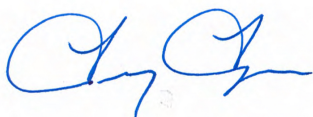


Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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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

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

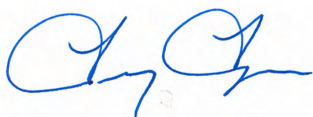
Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

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:

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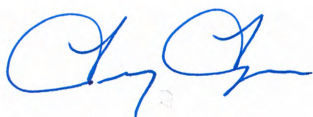
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- 1) An immediate needs and economic analysis including adequate, predictable, sustainable funding directly to bands for Emergency Management Coordinators, funding for backlogged mitigation projects and existing Community Emergency Preparedness funding 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.

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Resolution 32/2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS JURISDICTION IN FIRE STEWARDSHIP AND CULTURAL BURNING

Moved BY: DEPUTY CHIEF HARLAN SCHILLING, DAYLU DENE NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF DEAN NELSON, LIL'WAT NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations are facing more forest fires, floods, and heat events that threaten safety, food and culture, and require First Nations-led stewardship and fire practices;
- B. First Nations hold inherent title and rights, and treaty rights, to steward their lands through intentional and respectful use of fire, grounded in their own laws and leadership;
- C. First Nations' inherent rights to decision-making and stewardship is affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the UN Declaration) articles 3, 18, 19, 25, 26, and 29, which are binding under British Columbia's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act, 2019), Canada's *United Nations Declaration Act* (UN Declaration Act, 2021);
 - Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination.
 - Article 8: Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.

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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 procedure.

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;

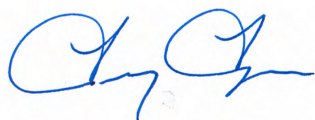
Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in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

Article 26: Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

Article 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources.

- C. British Columbia's 2022 Declaration Act Action Plan Measure 2.11 commits the Province to integrate traditional practices and cultural uses of fire into forest fire prevention and land management practices and support the reintroduction of strategized burning;
- D. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the Abbott/Chapman Review (2018), the Nadleh Whut'en *Trial by Fire* Report (2019), and the Tsilhqot'in Nation's *The Fires Awakened Us* Report (2019) identify barriers to fire stewardship, including restrictive permitting and regulatory frameworks, lack of liability protections, and limited, non-distinctions-based funding;
- E. The 2019 Emergency Management Services Memorandum of Understanding, signed between FNLC and the Governments of Canada, and British Columbia, committed the parties to work collaboratively to secure recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction to build capacity in emergency management;
- F. BCAFN Resolution 24/2021 supported the co-development of a First Nations Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan, aligned with the Sendai Framework, to strengthen prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and recovery in response to wildfires, floods, and climate-related disasters;

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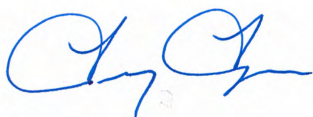
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- G. BCAFN Resolution 14/2024, UBCIC Resolution 2024-16, and FNS Resolution 0424.07 direct the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to work with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, through multilateral negotiations to replace the current 2017-2027 Emergency Management Services Agreement with a new funding model that recognizes First Nations jurisdiction and supports preparedness, mitigation, and coordination capacity; and
- H. Despite these findings and opportunities for co-development, First Nations advancing fire stewardship continue to face systemic barriers, including restrictive permitting, lack of liability protections, and insufficient distinctions-based funding to support their stewardship practices.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the recognition of First Nations' rights to continue the exercise and defence of their inherent title and rights, and laws and legal traditions, to steward their unceded territories through the intentional use of fire, and to respond to any unjustified infringement through their own laws and Canadian constitutional law;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) as the First Nations Leadership Council, to advocate that all agreements, policies, and regulations related to fire stewardship be co-developed with First Nations title and rights holders, in alignment with Section 3 of the British Columbia's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and BC's Declaration Act;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support collaboration with First Nations fire stewardship leaders, organizations and partners to share knowledge through webinars, communication materials, and Assembly updates, ensuring community-led knowledge informs policy and program development; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Federal and Provincial Governments to provide sustained and predictable funding to support First Nations' jurisdiction and full participation in fire stewardship.

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Resolution 33/2025

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING LEGALLY-BINDING MECHANISMS THAT ENSHRINE THE HUMAN RIGHT TO SAFE DRINKING WATER IN FEDERAL LEGISLATION

MOVED BY: CHIEF SHANA THOMAS, LYACKSON FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: KUKPI7 RHONDA PHILLIPS, XATŚŪLL FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations have the right to reliable and sufficient access to adequate, safe and clean drinking water;
- B. The Federal Government continues to fail to uphold its fiduciary duty to provide First Nations with access to clean drinking water in Canada;
- 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 indigenous 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 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.

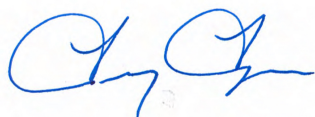
Article 26: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired. 2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired. 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 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, 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; 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; 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 Federal Government repealed the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* on June 23, 2022 as mandated by the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Class Action Settlement in 2021 and committed to re-introducing co-developed safe drinking water legislation in partnership with First Nations;
- E. *An Act respecting drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on First Nation lands* (the First Nations Clean Water Act) was introduced in the House of Commons in December 2023 but died on the Order Paper following the prorogation of Parliament on January 6, 2025;
- F. During the 2025 federal election, the Liberal Government introduced its platform commitments, including enshrining the human right to water for First Nations in federal legislation;

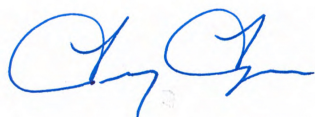
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- G. In July 2025, Indigenous Services Canada Minister Mandy Gull-Masty responded to media inquiries on the federal government's position for the reintroduction of the First Nations Clean Water Act, stating, "our new government has committed to introduce and pass legislation that affirms First Nations have a human right to clean drinking water. To be clear, we intend to introduce this legislation this fall to advance this important commitment;"
- H. The *First Nations Clean Water Act*, as written before dying on the Order Paper, lacked legally binding mechanisms to uphold First Nations' rights to water in the draft legislation;
- I. The *United Nations Declaration Act's* National Action Plan identifies First Nations Priority – Action Plan Measure #17 (Ch. 2: First Nations Priorities), which commits the Government of Canada to "Continue efforts to advance water and wastewater service transfer to First Nations communities and support self-determined service delivery models in First Nations communities. This includes advancing development and introduction, in consultation with First Nations, of new proposed First Nations drinking water and wastewater legislation that includes pathways to protect source water and legally enforceable safe drinking water protections on First Nations lands comparable to those in place in provinces and territories;"
- J. the *2025 Report of the Auditor General of Canada: Follow-up on Programs for First Nations* identified unsatisfactory progress towards ending safe drinking water advisories for First Nations, citing key systemic barriers including inadequate funding, lack of a binding regulatory framework, and limited capacity supports, which prevent many First Nations from achieving equitable access to safe drinking water;
- K. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) First Nations-in-Assembly has provided extensive direction to the AFN through resolutions addressing drinking water and wastewater issues faced by First Nations, including Resolutions 26/2018, 01/2018, and 77/2018. More recently, AFN Resolution 23/2022 directed the AFN to call on Canada to recommit to meaningful co-development of legislation that, at a minimum:
- I. Recognizes First Nations rights and jurisdiction over lands and waters;
 - li. Includes mandatory requirements for Canada to provide water and wastewater treatment that meets minimum national standards (or, where requested, the more stringent of the federal requirements or provincial standards governing residential water quality);
 - lii. Commits Canada to provide adequate and sustained funding (including at a minimum capital, operations and maintenance, and inspections) to address water and wastewater;
 - lv. Includes mechanisms to address transboundary waters;
 - v. Includes liability protection for owners and operators; and
 - Vi. Includes governance structures that ensure First Nations are decision-makers in the provision of water and wastewater services;

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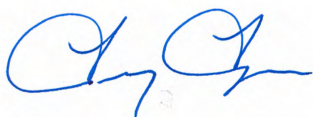
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- L. BCAFN Resolution 27/2023 calls on the Assembly of First Nations and Indigenous Services Canada to work in full co-development and partnership to ensure that the minimum requirements as identified in AFN Resolution 23/2022 are sufficiently incorporated into *An Act respecting drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on First Nation lands*, including full alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;
- M. BCAFN Resolution 26/2024 supports and endorses BCAFN's legal analysis of the *First Nations Clean Water Act* (the Act) which was submitted to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs on October 10, 2024, with recommendations for specific amendments to the language of the Act, including that federal legislation must acknowledge, affirm, and uphold the human right to safe drinking water consistent with United Nations Resolution 64/292 (2010) and that, pursuant to [the Act], the human right to safe drinking water means that all First Nation residents on reserve lands have a right to drinking water that poses no risks to human health or well-being; and
- N. BCAFN drafted a Position Paper entitled, *Legislating the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water for First Nations* in October 2025, which calls for the re-introduction of the *First Nations Clean Water Act* that:
 - a. Formally enshrines the human right to water as a binding legal obligation;
 - b. Recognizes First Nations' jurisdiction over water governance and source water protection;
 - c. Embeds Free, Prior and Informed Consent and shared decision-making mechanisms; and
 - d. Guarantees long-term, sustainable funding for water and wastewater systems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support and endorse the recommendations as outlined in BCAFN's Position Paper entitled, "*Legislating the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water for First Nations*" and call on the Federal Government to acknowledge, affirm and uphold their platform commitments by enshrining the human right to safe drinking water for First Nations in federal legislation; and
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to advocate for the immediate reintroduction, prioritization, and bipartisan support of the *First Nations Clean Water Act*, including all necessary amendments to align the Act with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, specifically the human right to safe drinking water.

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Resolution 34/2025

**SUBJECT: FIRST NATIONS DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND GOVERNANCE IN THE CANADIAN
PRECISION HEALTH INITIATIVE**

Moved BY: CHIEF WILF ADAM, LAKE BABINE FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF DONALD SAM, ʔAKISQ̓NUK FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Precision medicine, which uses genomic health research to tailor prevention and treatment for each individual, is transforming healthcare but when segments of the population do not participate, it will leave such communities behind and widen existing health gaps and given its benefits for those populations already involved, genomic research and affiliated healthcare is poised to widen disparities without First Nations participation.
- B. In October 2023, the Government of Canada announced a \$15 million investment over five years to create a federated Pan-Canadian Genome Library (PCGL), a national genomic database aiming to coordinate genomic data management and sharing across the country, developed through partnerships including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Genome Canada, the Digital Research Alliance of Canada, and Canada's National Platform for Genome Sequencing and analysis (CGEn);
- C. In March 2025, Genome Canada launched the Canadian Precision Health Initiative (CPHI) to assemble Canada's largest-ever collection of human genomic data, over 100,000 genomes

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representing the diversity of Canada's population, funded by an initial \$81 million federal investment with an anticipated total investment of \$200 million through partnerships;

- D. *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirms that Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights (Article 18), the right to free, prior, and informed consent before adopting legislative or administrative measures that may affect them (Article 19), and the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, human and genetic resources, and intellectual property (Article 31);
- E. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #18 calls upon federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous colonial government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties;
- F. The First Nations principles of OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) assert that First Nations have the right to own, control, access and possess information about their nations, which is fundamental to First Nations inherent right to self-determination and data sovereignty; and
- G. The stewardship and sharing of genomic data without explicit First Nations governance and consent risks violating First Nations data sovereignty and repeating colonial patterns of data extraction. Without mechanisms for First Nations oversight or accountability, the current initiatives may enable misuse, misrepresentations, and/or unauthorized access to First Nations genomic information by third parties, in ways that contravene First Nations laws, values, and interests.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to request that each Canadian Precision Health Initiative (CPHI) project involving First Nations participants ensure that First Nation participants have the ability to consent to Indigenous data governance both in the CPHI and the subsequent Pan-Canadian Genome Library, and to ensure that it proceeds with meaningful consultation or consent with First Nations (communities and/or individuals as appropriate to the project) and adherence to OCAP principles and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration);
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN to offer to collaborate with the First Nations Information Governance Centre to identify and assess existing Indigenous-

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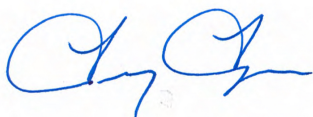


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controlled genomic data libraries or governance frameworks that uphold First Nations' data sovereignty, reflect OCAP principles, and align with First Nations cultural values and protocols;

3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to immediately pause the transfer of First Nations genomic data from the CPHIs and related projects to the Pan-Canadian Genome Library (PCGL) until meaningful consultation with First Nations is conducted, formal mechanisms for First Nations governance, consent, and accountability are established and/or the Silent Genomes Governance structure is adopted as the established First Nations genomic data governance framework for First Nations participants in any CPHI project involving data transfer; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly require all federal agencies and partners involved in genomic data initiatives to recognize and respect First Nations' inherent rights to their genomic data, as affirmed by the UN Declaration, and to support the development and implementation of Indigenous-led data governance structures both nationally and globally.

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Resolution 35/2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE BC FIRST NATIONS TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

Moved by: CHIEF AARON PETE, CHAWATHIL FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF MAUREEN LUGGI, WET'SUWET'EN FIRST NATION

DECISION: ABSTENTION: CHIEF DON HARRIS, DOUGLAS FIRST NATION
CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations in BC have been developing and utilizing complex modes of movement via transportation networks and trading routes since time immemorial, which were disrupted by colonial and discriminatory policies that limited mobility and isolated Nations;
- B. First Nations in BC continue to experience inequitable access to safe, affordable, reliable transportation and low-carbon transportation, undermining economic development, health and wellbeing, community cohesion, and access to essential services, while infringing on First Nations' inherent rights, constitutionally protected and Treaty rights, jurisdiction, and sovereignty;
- 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 BC, 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 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 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 21: (1) Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security. (2) States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities;

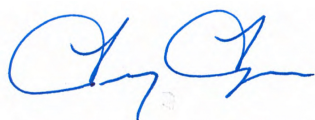
Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions;

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 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. (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. (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. First Nations women, girls, and Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual, and others with gender and/or sexual diversity (2SLGBTQIA+) individuals continue to face increased risks, safety concerns and violence when travelling which contributes toward the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people

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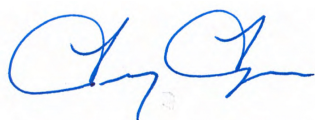


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(MMIWG2S+). The MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice urge governments to fund safe, affordable transit (CFJ 4.8) and require service providers to address exploitation and trafficking (CFJ 8.1), yet the AFN's 2024 Progress Report notes no progress on CFJ 4.8;

- E. Despite minimal contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, First Nations in BC face disproportionate impacts from climate change. Changing weather patterns and extreme weather events such as floods, heat domes and wildfires expose the inequitable and fragile state of transportation, with limited emergency routes and inadequate climate-resilient infrastructure, leaving many Nations vulnerable to isolation and delayed response;
- F. The BC Provincial Government and the Government of Canada have both failed to meet legislated transportation emissions reduction targets as outlined in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and the Government of Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan. In BC, transportation emissions have instead increased 18% from 2007 to 2022 and make up 42% of the province's total emissions;
- G. The transition to a low-carbon transportation system is essential to mitigating and adapting to climate change. However, this transition must be approached holistically from a rights, equity and reconciliation lens;
- H. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) Action Plan Measure (APM) 3.9 commits the BC provincial government to "identify and implement multi-modal transportation solutions that provide support and enable the development of sustainable, safe, reliable and affordable transportation options for First Nations communities. (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure)";
- I. The Government of Canada's United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) APM 15 (Ch.2) commits the Government of Canada to "continue to work with First Nations on closing infrastructure gaps on reserve", which includes transportation;
- J. By BCAFN Resolution 05/2025, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorsed the BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (BC FNCL Agenda), which includes recommendations related to supporting reforming funding and program delivery and improving the climate resilience of First Nations transportation infrastructure (Theme 3, Recommendation 3.2 and Theme 7, Recommendation 7.1);
- K. By BCAFN Resolution 06/2022, the Chiefs-in-Assembly of the First Nations Leadership Council organizations supported and endorsed the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (BC First Nations Climate Strategy), which identifies key actions towards achieving an equitable transportation system by and for First Nations (Theme 4.2, Objective 4.2.1 and Objective 4.2.2);
- L. By Resolution 12/2023, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed BCAFN to: "assess gaps and opportunities that restrict and assist First Nations in BC to access equitable, safe, reliable, and affordable low-carbon and active transportation and transportation services within and

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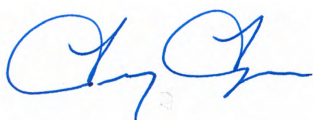
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

between communities, and provide recommendations for legislation, policy, and program reform to advance these goals”;

- M. With support from the former Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (now the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions), the BCAFN launched the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project in 2022. Phase 1 of the project (Fall 2022–March 2025) was established as a three-year initiative, with additional funding secured to extend the project for a further two years under Phase 2 (April 2025–March 2027);
- N. The BCAFN developed the first draft of the BC First Nations Transportation Assessment Report and Action Plan (Transportation Action Plan), formally called the Transportation Assessment Report (TAR), in collaboration with the Community Energy Association (CEA), building on the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and the BC FNCL Agenda. The recommendations were informed by activities carried out throughout Phase 1 of the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation project, including in-depth desktop research and policy review, interviews and engagement, the BCAFN Transportation Survey, and the key learnings from each of the Phase 1 Pilot Project Communities’ Gaps and Opportunities Analysis Reports;
- O. The Transportation Action Plan entitled, *“First Nations in BC on the Move: Recommendations for Advancing First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation and Mobility”* lays out an action plan that includes forty-seven (47) recommendations organized under ten (10) holistic and integrated themes to advance First Nations equitable access to safe, affordable, accessible, reliable transportation and low-carbon transportation. The Transportation Action Plan’s themes highlight/call for the need for greater investment in multi-modal and public transit, closing the infrastructure gap, advancing cultural and physical safety, supporting First Nations-led active transportation, and enhancing on-reserve capacity. The report further emphasizes prioritizing First Nations access to marine transportation, ensuring a just transition, advancing and upholding First Nations’ decision-making, reforming funding and program delivery, and securing equitable access to private vehicles, including electric vehicles; and
- P. The Transportation Action Plan recommendations will support BCAFN’s and First Nation-led advocacy in Phase 2 the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation project, advancing calls to Crown governments, Crown corporations, local governments, organizations and industry for improved policies, programs, shared decision-making, and investment that prioritize an equitable, accessible, safe, affordable, and reliable transportation system and low-carbon transportation system that aligns with the rights, needs, realities, and priorities of First Nations in BC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:


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1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorse the Transportation Assessment Report and Action Plan (Transportation Action Plan) and the recommendations as presented in the Transportation Action Plan;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the Regional Chief and BCAFN to advocate for the full implementation of the Transportation Action Plan recommendations in coordination with the implementation of the BC FN Climate Strategy and the BC FNCL Agenda;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon Crown governments, Crown corporations, local governments, organizations and industry to substantially increase investment and work collaboratively with BCAFN and relevant partner organizations to implement the Transportation Action Plan recommendations; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief to advocate for ongoing collaboration, shared decision-making, and co-implementation of the Transportation Action Plan recommendations with rights and titleholders in full alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1992 Landooz Road
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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 28, 29 & 30, 2025

Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 36/2025

SUBJECT: CALL FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN INVESTMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS-LED CLIMATE ACTION, ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

Moved by: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, T̓KEMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC

SECONDED BY: DEPUTY CHIEF HARLAN SCHILLING, DAYLU DENA COUNCIL

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations hold inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights to their lands, waters, and resources, which cannot be delegated, overridden, or bypassed by federal or provincial governments;
- B. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the UN Declaration), the most important and comprehensive international human rights instrument for eliminating human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples worldwide, affirms:

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 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which 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 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples

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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 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.

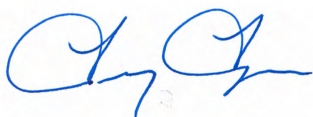
Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

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, 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. (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 or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

- C. the Government of British Columbia (BC) enacted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) in 2019. Canada passed the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UN Declaration Act) in 2021. Both legislations require the Crown governments, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of BC and Canada are consistent with the UN Declaration;
- D. in British Columbia, Bill 14, the *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* and Bill 15, the *Infrastructure Projects Act*, received Royal Assent on May 29, 2025, to expedite the review and approval of renewable energy and other major infrastructure projects by streamlining regulatory processes and allowing for exemptions from the standard environmental assessment process;
- E. In Canada, Bill C-5, the *One Canadian Economy Act*, received Royal Assent on June 6, 2025. This Act enacts the *Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act* and the *Building Canada Act*, aiming to

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remove federal barriers to internal trade and labour mobility, expedite national interest projects, and improve domestic productivity;

- F. Bills 14, 15 and C-5 (the Acts) were developed hastily and without the consultation and cooperation of First Nations in BC and Canada. This approach directly contravenes Articles 18 and 19 of the UN Declaration and Sections 3 and 5 of the Declaration Act and the UN Declaration Act, BC's Interim Approach and goals and priorities outlined in the UN Declaration Act Action Plan, including:

Action #32. Develop guidance on engaging with Indigenous peoples on natural resources projects, that aligns with the UN Declaration, including article 32(2), which calls for consultation and cooperation in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned in order to obtain free, prior and informed consent, prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources; provides practical recommendations for successful free, prior and informed consent; supports the integration of specific, localized knowledge held by Indigenous peoples in the design and governance of projects implementation, and informs improved and enhanced engagement processes with Indigenous peoples on natural resources projects;

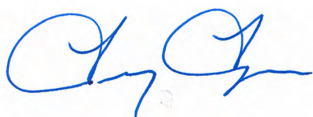
Action #33. Develop and implement actions to increase the economic participation of Indigenous peoples and their communities in natural resource development.

Action #34. Work in consultation and cooperation with First Nation governments and organizations to (i) enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples in, and (ii) set the measures that could enable them to exercise federal regulatory authority in respect of, projects and matters that are currently regulated by the Canada Energy Regulator (CER).

Action #51: The Impact Assessment Agency will implement the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) in a way that aligns with the objectives and spirit of the UN Declaration. This includes: Carrying out impact assessments in a manner that emphasizes the need to seek free, prior, and informed consent;

- G. the Acts have the potential to significantly impact First Nations' inherent and constitutionally recognized title, rights and Treaty rights, both in their application and intended outcomes. Notably, the Acts do not contain binding requirements for consultation and cooperation with First Nations during the project designation or approval stages, nor do they establish a consent-based decision-making process;
- H. many First Nations in BC and Canada have raised concerns with the Acts, including the rushed nature of their development. The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Chiefs Council and the First Nations Summit (FNS) Chiefs-in-Assembly condemned the Bills and called on BC and Canada to withdraw them immediately;
- I. as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally, further global warming is expected, leading to more extreme climatic events such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, wildfires, floods, droughts, and disruptions in the global water cycle. First Nations feel first-hand the devastating effects of the climate and ecological crises;

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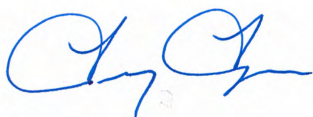
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- J. despite the escalating environmental and climate emergency, BC continues to fail to meet climate commitments and targets. The 2024 Climate Change Accountability Report indicates that BC is not currently on track to meet its 2030 GHG reduction targets (40% reduction of GHG emissions below 2007 levels by 2030). Projections under the current policy landscape show that only a 20-21% reduction will be achieved by 2030, leaving BC far from the net-zero goal;
- K. the cumulative effects of accelerated industrial development, resource extraction, and weak regulatory frameworks in BC have significantly harmed wildlife habitats, water sources, and ecosystem functions, negatively impacting the well-being and ways of life of First Nations, as shown in the 2021 *Yahey v. British Columbia* court case. Expediting carbon-intensive and environmentally detrimental projects through the provincial *Streamlined Permitting Act*, the *Infrastructure Act*, and the federal *Building Canada Act* risks exacerbating this situation province-wide;
- L. various episodes of environmental disasters such as the Mount Polley Mine Tailings Dam Breach (August 2014) and the Nathan E. Stewart spill (October 2016) demonstrate that the Crown's environmental and enforcement mechanisms and regulations are weak and lack transparency. These systemic issues have allowed major environmental degradation to persist across multiple industries, with a disproportionate impact on First Nations;
- M. First Nations and our ways of life are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate impacts, and yet are consistently under-funded by governments. The right to self-determination and the right to the conservation and protection of the environment are clearly articulated in Articles 3 and 29 of the UN Declaration. The realization of the right to self-determination and the need for environmental stewardship requires First Nations to have stable, flexible and long-term financing;
- N. BCAFN Resolution 06/2021 and 07/2021 urges the Provincial and Federal Governments to recognize and affirm First Nations inherent rights to manage and protect our waters and to seek the free, prior and informed consent with all First Nations rightsholders on matters related to water legislation, policy, strategies and action plans and provide adequate and sustainable resources for First Nations communities to meaningfully contribute to these initiatives;
- O. BCAFN Resolution 06/2022 endorses the First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (BC FN Climate Strategy). Pathway Capacity and Leadership, Theme 2.3 aims to ensure First Nations communities obtain the financial resources needed to continually build climate capacity and develop their own self-determined climate responses; and
- P. BCAFN Resolution 05/2025 endorses the recommendations presented in the BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda Final Report entitled, "*From Vision to Action: Advancing BC First Nations Climate Leadership*". Recommendation 3.1 calls on the government of Canada to provide core legislated funds for a minimum of 10 years to create a BC First Nations Climate Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly urge the governments of Canada and British Columbia to acknowledge the current ecological and climate emergency First Nations face and to honour the laws and

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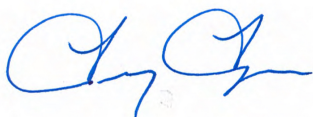


Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

commitments made that safeguards protection of First Nations title, rights and Treaty rights, including the right to a clean environment and a just climate future, reflected in Article 25 and 29 of the *United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration);

2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and BCAFN to work with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit, as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to call on Provincial and Federal Government to invest significantly in First Nations-led climate action and capacity building, ecosystems and watershed protection and restoration, and in alignment with the UN Declaration;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and BCAFN to work with the FNLC to ensure that any legislation, policy, regulation, and project approval process that may impact First Nations' lands, waters and ecosystems, governance and water stewardship responsibilities, and climate priorities, is co-developed with First Nations title and rights holders as mandated in Section 3 of the Declaration Act and Section 5 of the UN Declaration Act, and in alignment with related action plans measures. Such initiatives must recognize and uphold First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights, and must be designed and implemented considering the role of First Nations governments, knowledge systems and laws;
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and BCAFN to work with the FNLC to advocate for strengthening environmental and enforcement mechanisms and regulations aimed at protecting the ecological integrity of ecosystems, watersheds and microclimatic systems that sustain human and non-human lives and First Nations' ways of life; and
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call the governments of Canada and British Columbia to respect First Nations' processes of law development, and uphold First Nations land, environment and water laws when developing and implementing Crown legislation, policies and regulations related to industrial development, natural resource extraction, clean energy, conservation and climate mitigation and adaptation.

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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 37/2025

SUBJECT: TRANSITION OF THE BC FIRST NATIONS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY

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

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

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

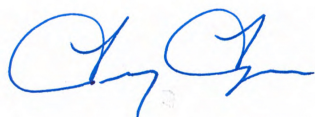
- A. *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states:
Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their 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 20: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
Article 21: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security;

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- B. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 31/2021, which directed the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to work towards developing and implementing the concept for a BC First Nations Centre of Excellence for Economic Development (Centre of Excellence or COE) with explicit direction to ensure “a transparent process is developed and implemented in the creation and implementation of the COE”;
- C. the mandate of the Centre of Excellence was to establish a dedicated, First Nations-led institution to support the economic self-determination of First Nations, and this objective requires the Centre to operate with greater autonomy and independence to maximize its effectiveness and reach;
- D. From its inception in 2021, the Centre of Excellence was intended to become "a dedicated, First Nations-led institution to support the economic development of First Nations across all sectors" that would operate independently of BCAFN. Legal advice obtained by the BCAFN Board of Directors in January 2023 recommended that the Centre be transitioned from a program housed within BCAFN to a separate society incorporated under the *BC Societies Act*;
- E. the Centre of Excellence has successfully developed under BCAFN stewardship and demonstrated its capacity to support First Nations economic development across all sectors in British Columbia. Currently, the Center of Excellence consists of three [full-time] staff;
- F. an independent Centre of Excellence would have enhanced capacity to:
- Pursue diverse funding opportunities from federal, provincial, and private sector partners;
 - Establish its own governance structure as a society, with direct representation from First Nations across BC;
 - Develop specialized partnerships and collaborations without creating conflicts with BCAFN's advocacy mandate;
 - Scale its operations to meet the growing economic development needs of First Nations;
- G. The Province of British Columbia formalized an independence requirement through a Transfer Agreement dated December 13, 2022, which committed up to \$3.097 million in funding to BCAFN to develop the Centre as "a non-profit economic development organization independent of the BCAFN, with unique governance and staff." The Transfer Agreement explicitly stipulated that BCAFN must "transition to a self-sustaining funding model by the Completion Date";
- H. the transition to an independent entity aligns with principles of First Nations self-determination and the development of distinct economic institutions as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Articles 3, 5, and 20;

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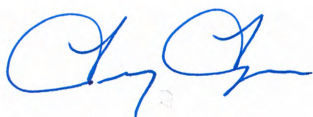
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- I. on January 20, 2023, the BCAFN Board of Directors legal advice and met with Darren Haines, Ratcliff LLP, to discuss options for the COE transition to an independent society; and
- J. a planned and transparent transition process is necessary to ensure continuity of services, maintain relationships with First Nations rights holders, and preserve the institutional knowledge and partnerships developed under BCAFN's leadership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Centre of Excellence staff working in collaboration with BCAFN staff and legal counsel and under the supervision of the BCAFN Board of Directors to:
 - a. complete the incorporation of a new society to house the Centre of Excellence before the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly scheduled for March 4 & 5, 2026;
 - b. develop and execute a comprehensive plan to complete the transition of the Centre of Excellence staff, funding and programs to the new society by March 31, 2026 or earlier, such plan to include timelines, governance structures, funding mechanisms, and operational frameworks;
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Centre of Excellence staff and BCAFN staff to ensure the transition process includes meaningful consultation with First Nations rights holders, and input from First Nations economic development experts and leaders across BC;
- 3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Centre of Excellence staff to present the transition plan to the BCAFN Board of Directors by December 31, 2025 for review and approval before implementation, with a final report to be provided at the BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly scheduled for March 4 & 5, 2026 at which time the transition must be substantially in progress and on track for completion no later than March 31, 2026; and
- 4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm their commitment to supporting the Centre of Excellence as an independent entity following the transition, including exploring opportunities for ongoing partnership, and collaboration on matters of mutual interest related to First Nations economic development in British Columbia.

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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 28, 29 & 30, 2025
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Resolution 38/2025

SUBJECT: UPHOLDING FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS PRIORITIES IN THE 2026 REVIEW OF THE CANADA-US-MEXICO AGREEMENT

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

SECONDED BY: CHIEF GEORGE LAMPREAU, SIMPCW FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations have and continue to hold inherent rights to trade and trade relations, including the right to cross the Canada-United States border freely, consistent with our inherent rights and traditional practices that predate colonial boundaries and policies;
- B. *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states:
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 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 36: Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations, and cooperation, including economic and trade activities, with their own members and other peoples across borders;

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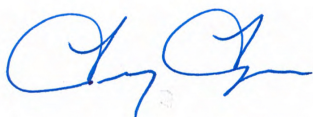
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Article 37.1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements;

Article 37.2: Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

- C. the Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) entered into on July 1, 2020, replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), is a free-trade agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico which modernizes trade rules among the three countries with respect to trade relations, intellectual property, labour standards, environmental protections and rules of origin for automobiles while maintaining duty-free access for most goods traded between the countries;
- D. CUSMA is the first Canadian free trade agreement (FTA) to substantively include Indigenous peoples. It included the creation of an Indigenous Working Group (IWG) and the general exception related to Indigenous Peoples' rights, which ensures Canada's obligations to Indigenous peoples under the Canadian Constitution cannot be diminished or undermined by commitments under an FTA.
- E. In subsequent Canadian FTA negotiations, including the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA), and the Canada-Ecuador Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) the IWG was replaced with Indigenous Peoples Advisory Groups (IPAGs), to allow IPAG members to access text relating to Indigenous peoples in real-time and provide feedback and suggestions throughout the negotiation process;
- F. CUSMA contains a six-year joint review clause requiring Canada, the United States, and Mexico to undertake a formal review, commencing on or before July 2026, to determine whether the agreement will be extended or subjected to annual reviews until 2036;
- G. upholding First Nations' priorities in the 2026 CUSMA review aligns with the mandates of BCAFN to advance economic self-determination, ensure the Crown's duty to consult and obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is upheld, and position First Nations in British Columbia (BC) as valuable partners in North American economic governance and strategies;
- H. the 2026 CUSMA review presents both risks and opportunities for First Nations in BC. These include exposure to tariffs in key sectors such as forestry, fisheries, and energy, as well as the potential to secure recognition of First Nations' trade rights, and favourable international procurement access;

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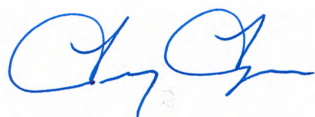
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- I. First Nations in BC hold inherent and Treaty rights to engage in trade and commerce, including cross-border economic activity, as affirmed in BCAFN Resolution 07(f)/2017 and BCAFN Resolution 28/2024;
- J. the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 21/2025, which reaffirm the right of First Nations to trade freely across borders and calls for First Nations inclusion in all future trade negotiations, including CUSMA;
- K. the Declaration Act Action Plan commits Canada to co-developing policy guidelines with Indigenous peoples on international issues affecting them, enhancing participation in global decision-making, and ensuring First Nations' voices are reflected in trade and economic agreements; and
- L. despite these commitments, First Nations lack a formal, distinctions-based mechanism for participation in the CUSMA review process, leaving First Nations in BC excluded from the review process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that First Nations in British Columbia must be actively and meaningfully engaged in the 2026 CUSMA Review, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (the Declaration Act) and the Declaration Act Action Plan;
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to call on Global Affairs Canada (GAC) for the creation of an Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Group for the 2026 CUSMA review, continuing the best practice set in the CUFTA, and CEFTA negotiations, ensuring direct representation of First Nations rights holders from British Columbia;
- 3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to:
 - a. Recognize First Nations' inherent and Treaty rights to trade freely across borders, including mobility rights affirmed under the Jay Treaty;
 - b. Ensure that any CUSMA amendments uphold First Nations jurisdiction, economic sovereignty, and the principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC);
 - c. Provide dedicated capacity funding to support First Nations participation in trade policy development, legal analysis, and negotiation forums related to CUSMA;
- 4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to collaborate with the AFN and other provincial territorial organizations to ensure alignment of national advocacy on the CUSMA review and to report back to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly at the next Assembly with an update on progress; and

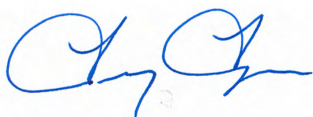
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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

5. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm their commitment to upholding First Nations economic self-determination by ensuring that international trade frameworks, including CUSMA, reflect First Nations values, jurisdiction, and rights to participate fully and equitably in regional and global economies.

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Website: www.bcafn.ca

BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 28, 29 & 30, 2025
Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 39/2025

SUBJECT: CALL FOR THE REPEAL OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL FAST-TRACKING LEGISLATION

MOVED BY: KUKPI7 RHONDA PHILLIPS, XATSÜLL FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF GEORGE LAMPREAU, SIMPCW FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations hold inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights to their lands, waters, and resources, which cannot be delegated, overridden, or bypassed by federal or provincial governments, delegated agencies or advisory bodies;
- B. In British Columbia, the *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* (Bill 14) and the *Infrastructure Projects Act* (Bill 15) received Royal Assent on May 29, 2025, giving BC overriding powers including expediting the review and approval of renewable energy and other major infrastructure projects that are deemed provincially significant by eliminating permit barriers to streamline regulatory processes and changing the legislation to allow for expedited environmental assessments, departing from the standards of the *Environmental Assessment Act*;
- C. In Canada, the *One Canadian Economy Act* (Bill C-5) received Royal Assent on June 6, 2025. This Act enacts the *Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act* and the *Building Canada Act*, with the objective to remove federal barriers to internal trade and labour mobility, expedite national interest projects, and improve domestic productivity;

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- D. *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

BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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 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;

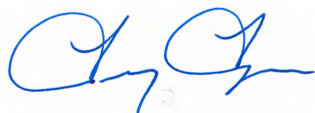
(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

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;

- E. Federal and provincial fast-tracking legislation has the potential to significantly impact First Nations' inherent, constitutionally protected and Treaty and Aboriginal rights, title, and jurisdiction both in their application and intended outcomes and are contrary to Crown constitutional, legislative, and environmental obligations and commitments;
- F. Premier Eby has committed that "...a private project proposed would not proceed through the faster processes outlined in [Bill 15] without the consent of the Nation whose core territory the private project is on;" however, the obligation to obtain free, prior, and informed consent is not a requirement of Bills 14 or 15, and the undefined concept of "core territory" echoes the

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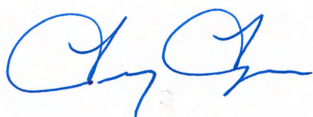
“postage stamp” approach to Aboriginal title that was roundly rejected by the Supreme Court of Canada and is wholly inconsistent with the UN Declaration;

- G. BC committed to an Interim Approach to implementing Section 3 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which states that BC will, “in consultation with the Indigenous peoples in BC... take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of BC are consistent with the Declaration.” First Nations in BC were not approached about the development of Bills 14 and 15, and have instead attempted to engage First Nations on the regulatory frameworks for the Bills, a process that has also been fast-tracked, falling short of First Nations’ expectations;
- H. On June 19, 2025, Prime Minister Carney stated to media that, “at the heart of [C-5]...is full embrace of free, prior and informed consent [including] consultation, cooperation, [and] engagement;
- I. the government of Canada has created a new Major Projects Office (MPO) under the Building Canada Act with a mandate to “streamline regulatory approvals and advance major projects in Canada”;
- J. the government of Canada has appointed members to a new Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) to provide advice to the MPO, without transparency on how members were selected, without terms of reference, and without clarity on how its advice will be used, raising concerns that the IAC may be used by the MPO and government of Canada to legitimize major project fast-tracking and approvals without consulting and cooperating with affected First Nations title and rights holders in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent; and
- K. BCAFN, working with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, has strongly condemned the passage of Bills 14, 15 and C-5 and affirmed that they will have harmful and far-reaching consequences for First Nations’ inherent and constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights, title, and jurisdiction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call for the repeal of BC’s Bills 14, 15 and Canada’s C-5 and affirms that both the legislative process and the content of the Bills are inconsistent with the Crown’s constitutional and international obligations to First Nations and undermine First Nations’ inherent and constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights, title, and jurisdiction;
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the government of BC and Canada to immediately suspend implementation of Bills 14, 15 and C-5 and engage in a legislative review process with the full participation of First Nations in a manner consistent with the UN Declaration and related UN Declaration legislation and not proceed until First Nations’ free, prior, and informed consent has been obtained in both legislative and proposed regulatory development;

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3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that the government of Canada's Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) of the Major Projects Office (MPO) does not displace First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights to their lands, waters, and resources including related jurisdiction, or the government of Canada's obligation to consult and cooperate with affected First Nations title and rights holders in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent;
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to monitor the MPO and IAC, and to advocate for processes that respect and uphold free, prior, and informed consent, ensuring that First Nations governments are the decision-makers on projects impacting their lands, waters, and resources; and
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff, working with the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, jointly as the First Nations Leadership Council, to:
 - A. develop and pursue a coordinated legal and advocacy strategy — including constitutional and judicial avenues — to challenge Bills 14, 15 and C-5, subject to resourcing;
 - B. engage with the provincial and federal governments on scoping legislative amendments and regulatory co-development on fast-tracking legislation which reflect the rights, title, interests and priorities of First Nations in BC and seeks First Nations' free, prior and informed consent prior to the finalization of enacting any related regulations; and
 - C. call on the provincial and federal governments to provide adequate funding and timelines to ensure the full participation of B.C. First Nations in the co-development of any fast-tracking legislative amendments or regulatory development.

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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Resolution 40/2025

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFIED PRIVATE SAFEGUARD SERVICES PATROLS AND EMERGENCY SHELTERS ON FIRST NATION RESERVES IN RESPONSE TO THE ESCALATING TOXIC DRUG CRISIS

MOVED BY: KENNETH (KEN) JOHNSON, PROXY, KISPIOX BAND

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

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. British Columbia has been in a state of emergency due to the toxic drug crisis for almost a decade. The toxic drug poisoning is the leading cause of unnatural death in the province;
- B. First Nations people are disproportionately impacted by the toxic drug crisis at incredibly high rates. From January to June 2023, First Nations died from overdose at six times the rate of their non-First Nation counterparts;
- 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:
 - Article 7(1): Indigenous peoples have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of the person;
 - Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves

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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 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programs affecting them, and as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.

Article 24(2): Indigenous people 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.

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.

- D. The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan*, which was developed in partnership with rights and title holders and the Province of BC, commits 89 long-term cross-ministerial actions to support the provincial implementation of the UN Declaration, which includes the following action items to be achieved by 2027:

4.8: In alignment with the tripartite health plans and agreements, continue to strengthen and evolve the First Nation health governance structure in B.C. to ensure First Nations are supported to participate as full and equal partners in decision-making and service delivery at local, regional and provincial levels, and engage First Nations and the government of Canada on the need for legislation as envisioned in the tripartite health plans and agreements.

4.11: Increase the availability, accessibility and the continuum of Indigenous-led and community-based social services and supports that are trauma-informed, culturally safe and relevant, and address a range of holistic wellness needs for those who are in crisis, at-risk or have experienced violence, trauma and/or significant loss.

4.13: Increase the availability and accessibility of culturally safe substance use services, including through the renovation and construction of Indigenous-run treatment centres and the integration of land-based and traditional approaches to healing.

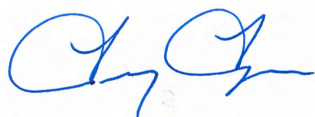
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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- E. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan*, which was developed in partnership with rights and title holders and the Government of Canada, commits 181 long-term cross-ministerial actions to support the federal implementation of the UN Declaration, which includes the following action items to be achieved by 2028:
- 81: Improve health equity through access to culturally appropriate health and wellness services and support for holistic approaches to healing, including community-based, land-based, culturally relevant and trauma informed mental health services addressing – among other things – suicide and addictions crises.
 - 89: Work with partners and Indigenous organizations on mental health promotion programming and prevention initiatives, including using distinctions-based approaches where feasible to support culturally safe, relevant and trauma-informed initiatives.
- F. The current services provided by the BC RCMP to First Nation reserves are insufficient and do not adequately address the widespread distribution of illegal and toxic drugs rampant within First Nations communities, leaving our most vulnerable community members unable to protect themselves and First Nations without adequate support to mitigate this crisis;
- G. The escalating crisis has compelled First Nations across BC to take extraordinary measures such as the Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'xw Nation declaring a state of emergency in March 2024 due to the opioid crisis, as well as the Nuw-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council in September 2024. The Tsilhqot'in delegation at the 2025 United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues also spoke to the need for urgent resourcing and action to address this existential threat to our peoples;
- H. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), a political working group comprised of the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), First Nations Summit (FNS), and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) have passed resolutions 39/2024, 1124.07, and 2025-37 respectively, which mandate all levels of government to take immediate action to address the toxic drug poisoning crisis and its disproportionate impacts on First Nations. The resolutions further direct the three organizations to host an All-Chiefs Meeting to identify priorities, key issues and recommendations to holistically address the toxic drug poisoning crisis including developing immediate measures required for collective action;
- I. The FNLC All-Chiefs Meeting on the Toxic Drug Crisis was held on July 24, 2025, online via Zoom, featured sixteen expert speakers, and was attended by over 100 Chiefs, Health Experts and Community Members;
- J. On October 20, 2025, the Kispiox Band Council passed a resolution calling on the Province of BC to provide an immediate emergency fund to initiate, equip and operate Professional Certified Private Safeguard Services patrol on Kispiox reserve lands and for the construction and operation of an emergency shelter on Kispiox reserve lands for Kispiox Band members who are endangered due to illicit drugs distribution; and

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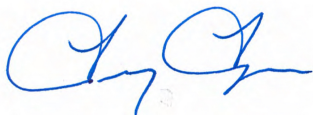
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- K. First Nations peoples have a right to safe communities and the highest standard of physical and mental health. Urgent action to end the toxic drug crisis and drastically reduce toxic drug poisoning deaths is essential to upholding this right.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the Kispiox Band in calling on the Government of British Columbia to:
 - a. provide an immediate Emergency Fund to initiate, equip and operate Professional Certified Private Safeguard Services patrol on Kispiox reserve lands for a duration of 3 years.
 - b. provide an immediate Emergency Fund (\$1.5 million) to construct and operate on reserve Emergency Safe Shelter for Kispiox Band members who are endangered due to illicit drugs distribution.
 - c. provide a formal response outlining steps the Province will take to address these concerns and support Kispiox community members' safety and wellbeing;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to adequately resource and support the development and implementation of a First Nations-led strategy to address the toxic drug crisis, rooted in cultural healing, self-determination, and justice reform; and
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN to work with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), and the First Nations Summit (FNS), as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to continue to work with the federal, provincial and municipal governments, the First Nations Health Authority, the First Nations Justice Council, and other like-minded organizations to continue advancing drug policy reforms that address the root causes of the toxic drug crisis and reduce harms to First Nations peoples.

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Resolution 41/2025

SUBJECT: CALL FOR THE RESIGNATION OF MLA DALLAS BRODIE FOR VIOLATING THE BC LEGISLATURES RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE GUIDELINES AND THE 2024-2028 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

MOVED BY: KÚKWPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, T'KEMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC

SECONDED BY: CHIEF VICTOR ISAAC, NAMGIS FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

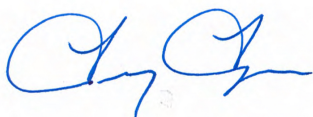
- A. Residential School denialism, or the rejection, dismissal or minimization of Indian Residential School Survivors' accounts of the tragic, systematized and governmentally endorsed treatment of Indigenous children at Indian Residential Schools, causes immense harm to Residential School Survivors, Inter-generational survivors, First Nations communities and to reconciliation initiatives.
- B. MLA Dallas Brodie was elected in the 2024 BC election in the riding of Vancouver-Quilchena as a Conservative Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).
- C. MLA Dallas Brodie and her party, OneBC, have actively promoted and used public dollars to create and distribute Residential School denialist sentiments and anti-Indigenous rhetoric publicly and within the Legislative Assembly.

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- D. 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 BC committed to implementing, affirms:
- Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
- Article 7(2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
- Article 8(1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
- (2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities; (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights; (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration; (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them;
- E. In February of 2025, MLA Dallas Brodie shared a series of messages on social media diminishing and refuting the findings of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, who hired specialists to uncover potential unmarked burials at the Kamloops Indian Residential School and reported preliminary findings that up to 215 potential remains could be uncovered.
- F. In February of 2025, the BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly passed Resolution 21/2025, Call to Reject and Criminalize Residential School Denialism, as a direct response to the spreading of denialist sentiment by MLA Dallas Bodie on social media. The resolution also called for her removal from the Conservative caucus.
- G. In March of 2025, leader of the BC Conservative Party, John Rustad, removed Dallas Brodie and several other MLAs from the Conservative Caucus in response to an attack on an Indigenous colleague and calls from Indigenous organizations due to her ideological misalignment with the party's values.
- H. In June of 2025, MLA Dallas Brodie announced the establishment of OneBC, comprised solely of her and MLA Tara Armstrong for Kelowna-Lake Country-Coldstream. Since its establishment the party has sought to undermine and minimize any and all partnerships between BC First Nations and the provincial government, notably by calling for repeal of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), seeking a ban on land acknowledgments, banning public

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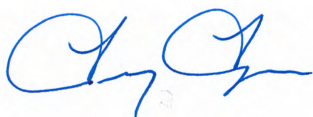


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signage using Indigenous languages, eliminating First Nations rights under the *Indian Act* and using public funds to develop a documentary denying the reality of the Indian Residential School System.

- I. Throughout the Summer of 2025, MLA Dallas Brodie continued to publicly share and promote Residential School denialist sentiment, anti-Indigenous rhetoric, and continuously attempting to undermine existing relationships and partnerships between BC First Nations and all levels of government.
- J. On September 30, 2025, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, MLA Dallas Brodie shared a series of problematic, disturbing and bigoted sentiments on social media:
 - 1. An image on social media, once again refuting the findings of unmarked gravesites at former residential schools, while posed in front of an *Every Child Matters* sign within the territory of the Penticton Indian Band. This image was reshared on official OneBC social media pages.
 - 2. A trailer for a documentary produced by OneBC fueled by denialist sentiments that seeks to once again, undermine and minimize the widespread harm and violence perpetrated by the residential school system.
- K. On October 14, 2025, Chief Greg Gabriel of the Penticton Indian Band (PIB) penned a letter to Premier David Eby citing the racist and disrespectful conduct of Dallas Brodie. The letter also explains that Brodie entered PIB lands without permission to stage and circulate the image shared on social media. This behaviour contradicts the Province of British Columbia's stated commitments to reconciliation and respectful Nation-to-Nation relationships.
- L. MLA Dallas Brodie and OneBC continue to promote harmful ideologies that attack and undermine the inherent title and rights of BC First Nations by belittling all traditional ways of knowing, undermining First Nations governance and attacking First Nations who vocalize their opposition of her political views.
- M. The Legislative Assembly of BC has respectful workplace guidelines which prevent and address incidents of bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence within the Legislative Assembly.
- N. The Legislative Assembly of BC has established a discipline framework which identifies processes and actions that may be taken to address disciplinary matters and provides opportunities to improve their performance or conduct, which states:
 - a. Employees must meet standards of performance and conduct, demonstrate respectful behaviour towards others, and be accountable for their actions. When an employee's performance or conduct fails to meet the Legislative Assembly's expectations, including contraventions of *Policy 4015 – Standards of Conduct*, corrective action may be taken using progressive discipline

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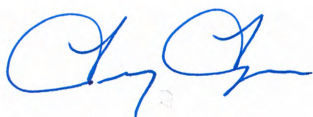
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- O. In 2024, the Legislative Assembly released the *Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2028*. The Plan outlines the commitments and actions the Legislative Assembly will undertake to contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. MLA Brodie's actions directly oppose every commitment proposed in the plan, especially Commitments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- P. The implementation of the *Reconciliation Action Plan* is overseen by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly categorically reject the deeply disturbed anti-indigenous and residential school denialist rhetoric perpetrated by MLA Dallas Brodie and the OneBC party against BC First Nations, but especially against Residential School survivors;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly call on MLA Dallas Brodie to resign as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of BC, and to read the reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and meet with survivors of the Indian Residential School System to understand the harms that her beliefs continue to cause;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly call on the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly's Management Committee to launch an investigation into MLA Brodie's conduct for the harm her actions have caused to First Nations peoples in contravention of the Legislative Assembly's code of conduct and the *Reconciliation Action Plan* and, subject to the findings, subject MLA Brodie and the OneBC party to disciplinary action as per the Legislative Assembly's discipline framework;
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly continue to call on all Members of Parliament to prioritize amendments to the federal Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places)* to criminalize residential school denialism and hate speech directed to First Nations and to protect First Nations' spiritual and cultural sites; and
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-In-Assembly stands with survivors and intergenerational survivors of Indian Residential Schools and their families, as well as the children who never made it home and all those who are harmed by the deeply troubling trend of Indian Residential School denialism and any unwillingness to accept historical fact of the multitudes of harm that the Federal government, provincial MLAs, federal MPs, and the churches have admitted to and apologized for, and the work of experts to uncover these truths.

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Resolution 42/2025

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE WILDLIFE ACT

MOVED BY: NASU?KIN DONALD SAM, ?AKISQNUK FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: JUDY WILSON, PROXY, OSOYOOS INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

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;

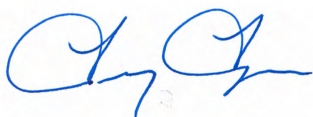
Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources;

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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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1992 Landooz Road
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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 28, 29 & 30, 2025

Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 43/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT STRATEGY TO ADDRESS MÉTIS COLONIALISM IN B.C.

MOVED BY: CHIEF VICTOR ISAAC, NAMGIS FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF GEORGE LAMPREAU, SIMPCW FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), First Nations Summit (FNS), and B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) have each passed mirrored resolutions rejecting and denouncing Métis colonialism in what is now known as British Columbia (B.C.) and the Crown's past and ongoing facilitation of it (Resolutions);
- B. among other things, the Resolutions direct the UBCIC, BCAFN, and FNS, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council, to convene a working group comprised of Chiefs and technicians dedicated to combatting Métis colonialism in B.C.;
- C. the First Nations Combatting Métis Colonialism in B.C. Working Group (Working Group) was subsequently established pursuant to the Resolutions with a mandate to, among other things, oversee the development of a draft strategy to address Métis colonialism in B.C.;
- 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 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 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;

(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(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; and

- E. the Working Group has developed a “Draft Strategy to Address Métis Colonialism in B.C.” (Draft Strategy).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorses the “Draft Strategy to Address Métis Colonialism in B.C.” (Draft Strategy) and the strategies and concrete actions set out in the Draft Strategy; and
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief, working with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to implement the Draft Strategy and periodically report to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on the progress of the Draft Strategy’s implementation.

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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.

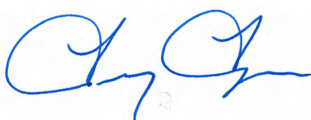
Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

- 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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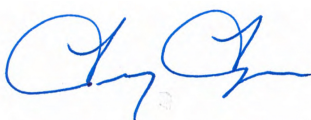


Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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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Resolution 45/2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT-IN-PRINCIPLE FOR FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ENTERING INTO A RELATIONSHIP PROTOCOL WITH THE MINISTER OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

Moved by: CHIEF JUSTIN KANE, TS'KW'AYLAXW FIRST NATION

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

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 MCM is responsible for BC's strategy for the mining and critical mineral sectors and its stated goal is to promote a sustainable and competitive mining sector that supports First Nations reconciliation, reflects high environmental, social and governance ("ESG") standards and contributes to the transition to a low carbon economy with responsibly produced minerals and metals;

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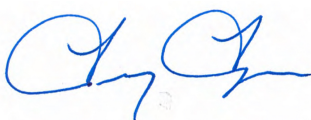
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- D. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:
- Article 5: Indigenous 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 First Nations Summit 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 Relationship Protocol between the FNLC and MCM to establish and implement a collaborative and constructive relationship and support issues and initiatives in the areas of mining, critical minerals and mineral exploration sectors in BC has been developed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That 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 Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working with the FNS and the UBCIC and with the assistance of the First Nations Energy and Mining Council, to prepare a finalized Relationship Protocol between

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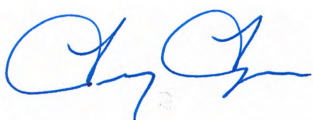


Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

the FNLC and the Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals;

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 Mining and Critical Minerals 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 as the FNLC, and the Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals 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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Resolution 46/2025

SUBJECT: **ENSURING CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA ENABLE LAND RESTITUTION AS
A WIDELY AVAILABLE REMEDY IN SPECIFIC CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS**

Moved by: **CHIEF DAN MANUEL, UPPER NICOLA BAND**

SECONDED BY: **CHIEF DALTON SILVER, SUMAS FIRST NATION**

DECISION: **CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

- A. The specific claims process is one of the few mechanisms available for First Nations to exercise their right to redress for historical breaches by the Crown;
- B. Redress of these historical wrongs is Canada's lawful obligation and the honour of the Crown necessitates just action on the part of both the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, including the full, fair, and equitable negotiation of all claims, regardless of value;
- C. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

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 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

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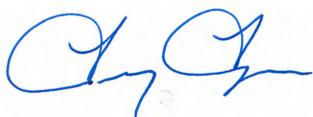
and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

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 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to Indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of Indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories, and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

- i. Article 28 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
 - ii. Article 28 (2): Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.
- D. The federal Specific Claims Policy has included the return of land as a remedy for historical breaches of the Crown's lawful obligations to First Nations since the policy was formalized in 1982 in "Outstanding Business: A Native Claims Policy" and this remains consistent in the current policy, "Justice At Last";
 - E. Canada's application of the Specific Claims Policy typically only provides for financial compensation without any serious consideration given to the return of land or compensation in kind, despite the specific claims policy providing for the return of illegally stolen lands;
 - F. The return of land is a necessary component of the resolution of specific claims and First Nations in British Columbia have made it clear that the return of lands is a top priority for change in Canada's negotiation mandates and the specific claims process overall, and immediate steps must be taken to ensure land restitution is a widely available and accessible remedy for First Nations;
 - G. The prevalence of climate disasters and the overarching climate emergency make the issue of land restitution particularly acute and the need for action urgent;
 - H. Federal mechanisms of redress for historical land losses must prioritize and provide for self-determination of First Nations through the return of land and jurisdiction to First Nations and include the Government of British Columbia in negotiations since both the federal and provincial Crowns are implicated in First Nations' land losses and the province continues to alienate land and conduct activities on First Nations' lands without obtaining their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in violation of the international minimum standards contained in the UN Declaration, the

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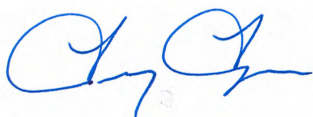
federal *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* ("Declaration Act");

- I. First Nations have identified key barriers to land return as remedy in specific claims, including the Crown's exclusive focus on monetary compensation and its failure to advance land restitution in negotiation mandates, the protection of Third Party and Crown interests over First Nation interests, and poor supports and planning regarding land transfers from the Crown or Third Parties, including barriers regarding the additions to reserve (ATR) process, securing advance payments for lands under threat of sale, and establishing a consistent, effective, and efficient mechanisms for provincial involvement;
- J. Barriers to land return must be urgently addressed and strategic, coordinated action must be undertaken by both the federal and provincial governments in full partnership with First Nations;
- K. Protocols and agreements with the Province of British Columbia need to be pursued so First Nations are not left to tackle barriers on an ad hoc basis, as is the case outside of the specific claims process when First Nations are forced to take their issues to court;
- L. The recent Cowichan decision is a prime example of the controversies that arise when First Nations take the Crown and its delegates to court to regain access to their traditional lands by pursuing an Aboriginal title claim. Following the court decision, politicians, the public and media have driven misinformation to further divide communities and has resulted in a recent attempt to repeal the Declaration Act, which failed in BC parliament by a small margin of 48-40; and
- M. As with the *Haida Nation Recognition Act*, BC and Canada should be working with all First Nations in BC who are pursuing agreements to recognize Aboriginal title, which has the opportunity to provide more clarity to fee simple title holders and create less societal division and temper anti-Indigenous and anti-UN Declaration rhetoric.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly re-affirm to the Federal and Provincial Government that First Nations have the right, in accordance with *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* to pursue land restitution as a remedy when negotiating the resolution of their specific claims;
- 2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Federal Government to work with First Nations to establish concrete pathways, including mandates, protocols and agreements to include the formal participation of the Province of British Columbia in the specific claims process; and
- 3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff, in coordination with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nation Summit, to prepare a public-facing strategy that identifies the barriers created by the Province of BC that undermine the specific claims process.

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