



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
March 4 & 5, 2026
In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 05(c)/2026

SUBJECT: DEMAND FEDERAL RELEASE OF THE “WHAT WE HEARD REPORT” AND RESTART OF THE OPEN NET PEN TRANSITION PLANNING PROCESS

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations in British Columbia are inherent title and rights holders with jurisdiction over their lands, waters, and resources, and continue to exercise Indigenous laws and stewardship responsibilities to protect wild salmon, marine ecosystems, and the well-being of their communities;
- B. the regulation and management of open net-pen fish farms directly affects First Nations’ Aboriginal and treaty rights across the province, including food, social, ceremonial, cultural, and economic practices, and therefore engages the Crown’s constitutional duty to consult and accommodate;
- 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 Province 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.

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

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of March 2026

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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

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

- D. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) initiated an Open Net-Pen Fish Farm Transition Planning Process and conducted engagement with First Nations and the public, committing to transparency and trust-building through the release of a “What We Heard Report”;
- E. despite these commitments, ISED and DFO have failed to publicly release the most recent “What We Heard Report,” undermining transparency, accountability, and confidence in the transition planning process; and
- F. consultation processes that proceed without full disclosure of engagement outcomes, or that continue despite unresolved concerns about transparency, scientific integrity, and misrepresentation of First Nations views, cannot be considered meaningful or consistent with the UN Declaration or the honour of the Crown.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly demands that the Government of Canada through Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada immediately release the outstanding “What We Heard Report” related to the Open Net-Pen Fish Farm Transition Planning Process, without redaction of First Nations positions or conclusions;
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls for the restart of the Open Net-Pen Transition Planning Process following the public release of the “What We Heard Report,” to ensure transparency, accountability, and trust in the process;
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly asserts that any restarted transition planning process must be grounded in the precautionary principle, independent and credible science, Indigenous knowledge, and full respect for First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction, and must not advance predetermined outcomes; and
4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN and staff to advocate to federal decision-makers, in collaboration with First Nations and like-minded organizations, for a transparent, rights-based, and First Nations-led transition planning process.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief