



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

**Resolution 08/2026**

**SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF THE FNLC-FNHIC 2025 HOUSING FORUM WHAT WE HEARD REPORT**

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**Moved by: CHIEF NICHOLAS PETERSON, LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND**

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**SECONDED BY: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLUPS TE SECWÉPEMC**

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**DECISION: CARRIED**

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### WHEREAS:

- A. Housing is an essential part of holistic wellness, belonging, and identity, however, First Nations continue to experience housing insecurity on and off reserve and continue to experience disproportionately high rates of homelessness;
- B. the fundamental human right to adequate housing is recognized in the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the 1966 *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, alongside *Canada's National Housing Strategy Act (2019)*;
- C. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualifications, 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.  
Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination to the improvement of

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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 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;

- D. the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), comprising the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the First Nations Summit (FNS) have jointly passed many housing related resolutions including BCAFN Resolutions 18/2017, 08/2024, and 12/2025; FNS Resolutions 0618.04, 1124.12, and 0425.15; and UBCIC Resolutions 2018-11, and 2024-53, calling for a system-wide reform of housing in BC and across Canada led by a by-First Nations, for-First Nations approach;
- E. the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) was created by mandate from BC rights and title holders via BCAFN Resolution 18/2017, FNS Resolution 0618.04, and UBCIC Resolution 2018-11 which call for the creation of a housing and infrastructure organization that will provide authority and control to BC First Nations for all housing and infrastructure delivery in British Columbia;
- F. FNHIC administers housing, asset management and infrastructure related services, with 5 regional hubs in operation as well as the First Nations Housing Managers Association to provide First Nations capacity support on housing and infrastructure;
- G. BCAFN Resolution 08/2024 titled “Support and Endorsement for Phase 1 of the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council’s Housing Framework” supported the calls to action and recommendations contained within the 2023 Housing Forum What We Heard Report and supported the creation of the Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee to be incorporated into FNHIC’s governance structure;
- H. BCAFN previously hosted province-wide forums on First Nations housing and homelessness in March 2009, March 2017, October 2023, and November 2024;
- I. on September 16 & 17 2025, the FNLC and the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC), co-hosted the 2025 FNLC-FNHIC housing and homelessness forum on the traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Over 350 chiefs, leaders, housing technicians and community members attended the event and engaged in key dialogue on practical insights, community-driven solutions, and partnership ideas for challenging the complex and intersectional issues in First Nations housing;
- J. during the forum, First Nations affirmed their inherent rights, title, and self-determination over housing and infrastructure and emphasized the urgent need to strengthen internal governance, capacity, and financial independence as well as proactive local, provincial, and federal

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partnerships, shared decision making, and the need to align housing delivery with the principles of First Nations self-determination and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act), ensuring that First Nations lead in design, development, and management of their housing futures. This includes understanding the barriers that continue to slow momentum, such as funding and bureaucratic process delays; and

- K. the report makes 65 recommendations for First Nations, Local, Provincial and Federal Governments to implement to address a wide range of housing-related issues, including: Holistic and wellness-centric approaches to housing; practical approaches to housing delivery; Decolonized development processes; Supports for Housing Managers; Federal programming; Best practices in asset management and infrastructure development; and Municipal-First Nation partnerships;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorse the 2025 FNLC-FNHIC What We Heard Report and call on Regional Chief Teegee and encourage the Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee to support the key recommendations and calls to action from the FNLC-FNHIC 2025 housing forum, as captured by the 2025 FNLC-FNHIC What We Heard Report, including calls for:
  - a. The Alignment of housing delivery with First Nations' right self-determination determination to ensure First Nations lead in the design, development, and management of their housing futures;
  - b. The Provincial reform of outdated legislation, including the *Local Government Act* and related policies to ensure alignment with the UN Declaration and Declaration Act and uphold First Nations' decision-making authority within their territories;
  - c. Urgent federal, provincial and municipal investments to secure equitable First Nations access to clean water, sewage, and housing infrastructure similar to surrounding municipalities;
  - d. The reform of federal housing programs to allow First Nations access to equity for on-reserve housing; and
  - e. The development of integrated support frameworks that address First Nations homelessness and support at-risk youth, women, and families, including those transitioning from care;
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN Regional Chief Teegee to call upon the Government of Canada and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to:
  - a. honour the Crown's fiduciary obligations by making the necessary infrastructure investments to close the housing and infrastructure gap for First Nations, both on and off reserve.

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- b. move from short-term, proposal-based funding to predictable, long-term, investment-style funding that supports First Nations-led initiatives, governance, and self-determination.
  - c. ensure that new federal entities, such as Build Canada Homes, are designed with the direct and ongoing participation of First Nations to reflect First Nations housing priorities, inherent rights, and the need for flexible funding models for remote and northern projects;
- 3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN Regional Chief Teegee to call upon the Province of BC to:
  - a. prioritize infrastructure readiness by making strategic investments in water, sewage, power, and internet connectivity to support housing development, particularly in northern and remote communities.
  - b. provide long-term, flexible funding that enables First Nations and municipalities to collaborate on housing and infrastructure planning that reflects First Nations worldviews and priorities; and
- 4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct BCAFN Regional Chief Teegee to call upon BC municipalities to move beyond consultation to shared decision-making with First Nations by:
  - a. establishing formal agreements and prioritizing council-to-council meetings with neighboring First Nations
  - b. incorporating the Declaration Act in local housing and land policies, processes, and bylaws engaging in joint advocacy for equitable access to municipal infrastructure for neighbouring First Nations

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