BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 14, 15 & 16, 2026
In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 22(a)/2026

SUBJECT: **BC TRIPARTITE EDUCATION AGREEMENT (BCTEA) RENEWAL**

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

A. Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions, as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UN Declaration"), and as an aspect of their inherent right of self-government as recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982;

B. The 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 14**: 1) Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning; 2)Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination; 3) States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

C. Access to education is further recognized as a fundamental human right under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of

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Canada, which highlights the importance of education for the well-being of First Nations learners;

D. First Nations in B.C. have been working together formally for more than three decades to advance quality educational opportunities and improve educational outcomes for all First Nations students and, through their collective efforts, have established a solid foundation for a comprehensive, integrated, well-supported B.C. First Nations education system, which is founded on First Nations' languages and cultures, and reflects the values and traditions of First Nations communities;

E. Canada, the Province of British Columbia and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) (the Parties) entered into the BC Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success (BCTEA) on July 1, 2018, to replace the 2012 Tripartite Education Framework Agreement, and to set out how the Parties will work together, including making systemic shifts (i.e. legislative, policy, and practice reforms), to support successful educational outcomes and attendance of all First Nations students, regardless of where they live or are enrolled in school in British Columbia, through the provision of high quality and culturally relevant elementary and secondary education programs and services, and supported by sufficient, sustained and predictable funding, that is responsive to unique needs of First Nations students, schools, and communities;

F. The BCTEA established a funding model for First Nations education in B.C. based on the provincial funding model for students attending B.C. public schools, with adaptations;

G. The BCTEA was originally set to expire on June 30, 2023, but was extended two times, with a new expiry date of June 30, 2026;

H. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 05/2017 "Tripartite Education Framework Agreement Renewal" calling on Canada to work in partnership with FNESC to achieve funding for the continued development and evolution of the B.C. First Nations education system aimed at improving attendance and student outcomes;

I. The Parties engaged throughout 2025 to develop a renewed BCTEA for a ten-year term, beginning July 1, 2026;

J. The 2026 federal Spring Economic Update did not result in a federal approval of the renewed BCTEA for a ten-year term and, instead, only resulted in approval of a one-year extension of the status quo BCTEA to June 30, 2027, resulting in uncertainty for First Nations education in B.C. beyond the 2026-27 school year;

K. The BCTEA is unique in Canada, with the purpose of supporting First Nations education improvements through systemic shifts and sustainable, sufficient funding. The BCTEA has helped contribute to significant advancements in First Nations education;

L. One of the key principles included in the BCTEA states: "The Parties have a shared interest and

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priority in supporting excellence in First Nations education, including supporting First Nation Students to fulfil their educational potential by having access to and receiving quality education that is respectful and reflective of their unique culture and history";

M. Another key principle in the BCTEA states: "Sufficient, sustained, and predictable funding is required to meet the unique needs of First Nation Students and is integral to providing education services and programs that result in improved outcomes for First Nation Students"; and

N. The education of our children is a top priority for First Nations in B.C., and Canada must support First Nations students, and their rights to education, effectively and respectfully.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs in Assembly calls on the government of Canada, particularly Indigenous Services Canada and the Ministry of Finance, to meet its fundamental obligations to First Nations and our children by agreeing to the collaboratively renewed BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) for a ten-year term; and

2. The BCAFN Chiefs in Assembly reaffirms the First Nations Education Steering Committee's (FNESC) mandate as the lead technical body for B.C. First Nations education and directs FNESC to work with Indigenous Services Canada to co-develop the budget request for the federal 2026 Fall Budget to support the renewed BCTEA for a ten-year term.

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