# BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

**Resolution 23(a)/2026**

**SUBJECT:** **CALL FOR CANADA TO REVERSE CHANGES TO FUNDING COORDINATION AGREEMENTS UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

**MOVED BY:**

**SECONDED BY:**

**DECISION:**

**WHEREAS:**

A. in August 2026, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) sent a letter to Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) in B.C. that either have concluded a coordination agreement or are engaged at coordination agreement tables with ISC and the government of B.C. for the resumption of their jurisdiction under the framework of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (the Federal Act), concerning Canada's funding approach for the implementation of coordination agreements;

B. based on several examples of the letters that have been circulating, it appears that ISC used the same template language for all letters to IGBs across Canada, stating that funding for coordination agreements to operate on-reserve child and family services, in the pursuit of the reclamation of First Nations jurisdiction over children and families, will now align with reforms of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) program, with more information available at the IGB's next coordination agreement discussion table meeting;

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

C. with this recent shift in funding approach for coordination agreements, Canada appears to be replacing the rights-based coordination agreement process under the Federal Act with the unilateral imposition of a federal program framework – the FNCFS program – which reform is the object of litigation before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT);

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:
**Article 21(2):** States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions.
**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 the 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 the full realization of this right;

E. section 20(2)(c) of the Federal Act states:
"The Indigenous governing body may also request that the Minister and the government of each of those provinces enter into a coordination agreement with the Indigenous governing body in relation to the exercise of the legislative authority, respecting, among other things, (c) fiscal arrangements, relating to the provision of child and family services by the Indigenous governing body, that are sustainable, needs-based and consistent with the principle of substantive equality in order to… support the capacity of the Indigenous group, community or people to exercise the legislative authority effectively";

F. ISC's shift in funding approach does not provide for fiscal negotiations with IGBs that ensure adequate, needs-based, and sustainable funding to support the implementation and exercise of IGBs' jurisdiction and distinct service models, and undermines First Nations' inherent jurisdiction;

G. although ISC communicated its shift in funding approach only to IGBs with a signed coordination agreement and with those engaged in negotiations, ISC's shift in funding approach is likely to impact First Nations and IGBs who enter into coordination agreement negotiations in the future;

H. the long-term reform of the FNCFS program is ongoing and is currently being litigated before the CHRT. Despite this, Canada continues to promote and attempt to implement their unilaterally developed plan for long-term reform, effectively ignoring the Loving Justice plan, developed by the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) and supported by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), First Nations leaders across Canada, and the UBCIC Chiefs Council through Resolution 2026-31 "Support for the Loving Justice Plan to End Canada's Discrimination in First Nations Child & Family Services";

I. the NCCC, mandated by AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly to oversee the long-term reform of FNCFS, and whose mandate is supported by the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly through Resolution 27/2025,

*Support for Regional Consultation on Long-term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services*, has repeatedly called on Canada to respect the CHRT process and was alarmed to learn of Canada's shift in funding approach for coordination agreements; and

J. UBCIC Resolution 2026-60, *Call for Canada to Reverse Changes to Funding Coordination Agreements under the Framework of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, affirms the call to Canada reverse the decision to align funding for coordination agreements with the long-term reform of the FNCFS program.

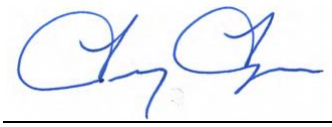
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to ensure funding for coordination agreements under the framework of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families is adequate, rights-based, needs-based, and sustainable, with the funding framework of the upcoming reformed First Nations Child & Family Services (FNCFS) program being used as the floor—not the ceiling—for coordination agreements funding;

2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to immediately reverse the decision to align funding for coordination agreements with the long-term reform of FNCFS program; and

3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the National Children's Chiefs Commission in calling on Canada to respect the ongoing Canadian Human Rights Tribunal proceedings and ensure any and all changes to the FNCFS program permanently end the discrimination of First Nations children.

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**