BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

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

Resolution 24/2026

SUBJECT:	**SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRATED STRATEGY TO ADVANCE B.C. FIRST NATIONS JURISDICTION OVER EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE**
MOVED BY:	**CHIEF NICHOLAS PETERSON, LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND**
SECONDED BY:	**PROXY, JASON ALEXIS, SAIK'UZ FIRST NATION**
DECISION:	**CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations have inherent and constitutionally protected rights and jurisdiction over the care and wellbeing of our children, and, as the first teachers, nurturers, and original caretakers of our children, we continue to exercise our traditional knowledge, laws, and jurisdiction to design, govern, and deliver our own Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) systems that honour and raise our youngest citizens;

B. First Nations' ability to exercise jurisdiction over the care, education, and wellbeing of our children continues to be limited and restrained by siloed systems and provincial assertion of jurisdiction over First Nations ELCC;

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 13(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 15th day of October 2026

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons. **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;

D. by Resolution 04b/2016, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly recognized that with limited resources, the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) has played a critical and essential role in First Nations ELCC policy development, research, training, education and service delivery since 1996;

E. by Resolution 12/2016, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supported the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) in serving as the lead agency to coordinate a province-wide First Nations engagement process on ELCC;

F. by Resolution 14/2017, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supported BCACCS to engage with B.C. First Nations on a national Indigenous ELCC Framework, such that it will be a basis for First Nations to determine their own ELCC systems, structures, programs and services;

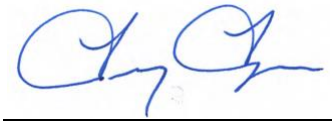
G. from this process resulted the 2018 national Indigenous ELCC Framework, which comprises a First Nations ELCC Framework;

H. by Resolution 19/2020, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly provided continued support to BCACCS as the regional lead organization to develop and implement a regional Indigenous ELCC framework and called for the framework to respond to and support First Nations children, families, and communities in ways they determine;

I. BCACCS has actively consulted and engaged with First Nations and conducted research and analysis related to the conditions necessary to support the advancement of First Nations jurisdiction over ELCC, and through those discussions and feedback, developed the Integrated Strategy to Advance First Nations Jurisdiction over Early Learning and Child Care, 2027-2030 (the "Integrated Strategy");

J. BCACCS has developed an implementation workplan, to be advanced in partnership with the First Nations Leadership Council and First Nations, beginning with the following priorities: development of a First Nations regulatory framework; advancement of provincial legislative and regulatory reforms to align with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act; data sovereignty; and supporting capacity measures for First Nations ELCC; and

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 15th day of October 2026



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

K. the UBCIC Chiefs Council supported the Integrated Strategy through UBCIC Resolution 2026-59.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the Integrated Strategy to Advance First Nations Jurisdiction over Early Learning and Child Care, 2027-2030 (the "Integrated Strategy");

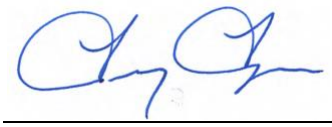
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of B.C. to immediately prioritize legislative and regulatory reforms, in full consultation and cooperation with First Nations and in alignment with the Integrated Strategy, to bring the Early Learning and Child Care Act, the Early Learning and Child Care Regulation, the Community Care and Assisted Living Act, and the Child Care Licensing Regulation into alignment with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to uphold its obligations pursuant to the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the Declaration Act Action Plan;

3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of B.C. and Canada to work in partnership with First Nations and the B.C. Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) to support the implementation of the actions outlined in the First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Framework, including through sustained and adequate funding to support First Nations' leadership, participation, and jurisdiction efforts throughout implementation;

4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to work with the First Nations Summit and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs as the First Nations Leadership Council, and with BCACCS and other likeminded organizations to implement the Integrated Strategy; and

5. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCACCS to report to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on the implementation of the Integrated Strategy at future BCAFN Assemblies.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 15th day of October 2026



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief