BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

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

Resolution 25/2026

SUBJECT:	**SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE CANADIAN FOREST SECTOR TRANSFORMATION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**
MOVED BY:	**CHIEF MAUREEN NYCE, HAISLA NATION**
SECONDED BY:	**CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT FIRST NATION**
DECISION:	**CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations in BC have inherent title, rights and responsibilities in relation to their territories, forests, and resources, and must be meaningfully included in any forest sector transformation that effects their lands, governance, and future development;

B. First Nations have the capacity, knowledge, and leadership to participate in, shape, and lead forest sector transformation in ways that advance stewardship, economic development, and long-term community well-being;

C. the forestry sector in British Columbia is undergoing a significant transition, including changing timber supply, mill closures and corporate divestment, while First Nations are increasingly acquiring tenure, developing forestry businesses and exercising greater leadership in forest stewardship and management;

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

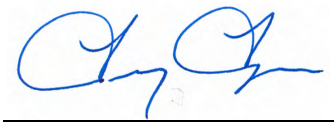
D. the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the Province of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:
Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights.
Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise used lands, waters, and resources.
Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;
Article 26(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired;
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;
Article 32(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources;

E. the Canadian Forest Sector Transformation Task Force (Task Force) released its final report, *Canada's transformed forest sector: Competitive. Resilient. Relevant,* identifying opportunities to transform Canada's forest sector and strengthen its long-term competitiveness. The Task Force concluded that Canada's forest sector is at an inflection point and that, unless immediate, coordinated, and decisive action, the sector faces an existential risk, including continued loss of investment, and workforce shortages;

F. the Task Force found that the most significant barriers to competitiveness are homegrown and include unstable access to cost-competitive fibre, a disproportionate regulatory burden, underinvestment in manufacturing assets, and insufficient domestic demand for wood-based products;

F. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supported and endorsed the BC First Nations Forestry Strategy through BCAFN Resolution 26/2019. The Strategy was collaboratively developed by the First Nations Forestry Council, the Province of BC and First Nations, and is intended to increase the participation of First Nations in the governance and

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stewardship of forests, lands and resources, advance reconciliation, and support the full implementation of the UN Declaration in the forestry sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorses, in principle, the Canadian Forest Sector Transformation Task Force recommendations as a basis for transforming Canada's forest sector in a way that supports long-term sustainability, competitiveness, and community well-being;

2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support, in principle, the implementation of the six Task Force recommendations in partnership with First Nations and create meaningful forestry benefits for First Nations, including:

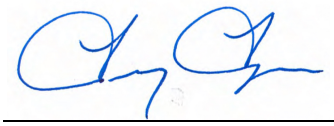
    A. stable access to cost-competitive fibre by improving predictable fibre supply, and increasing investment opportunities;
    B. transformation, modernization, and transition to attract new markets, expand value-added opportunities, and invest in new technologies;
    C. increase domestic demand for Canadian wood products;
    D. strengthen workforce stability and support communities before sector disruptions occur;
    E. protect market access, strengthen trade infrastructure, maintain stable domestic demand, and diversify markets; and
    F. foster a national forest culture grounded in community trust, transparency, and sustainable active forest management.

3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province of British Columbia and the Federal Government to ensure that the implementation of the Task Force recommendations must:
    a. be implemented in full partnership with First Nations whose territories may be affected, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, through distinctions-based approaches that fully respect and uphold First Nations' title, rights, Treaty rights, jurisdiction, laws, priorities and decision-making authority; and

    b. include First Nations as full partners in any strategy, investment framework, implementation office, or governance structure arising from the Task Force

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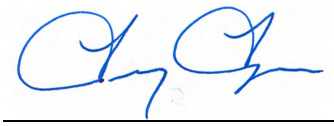
recommendations, including in the design, forest stewardship, modernization, workforce transition, and market development; and

c. co-develop any legislative, policy or regulatory reform required from the Task Force recommendations in full partnership with title and rights holders.

4. The BCAFN Chief-in-Assembly supports reforms and investments that strengthen long-term fibre access, add value to forest products, increase wood use in construction, and support workers and communities, provided such reforms respect First Nations rights, environmental responsibility, and community priorities; and

5. The BCAFN Chief-in-Assembly directs BCAFN to work with the BC First Nations Forestry Council and other like-minded organizations, as appropriate, to advocate for First Nations' meaningful participation in provincial and federal forest sector reform in alignment with the UN Declaration.

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