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 29/2026

SUBJECT:	**PROVINCIAL RETREAT FROM POLICE ACT REFORM AND PUBLIC SAFETY MODERNIZATION COMMITMENTS**
MOVED BY:	**CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT FIRST NATION**
SECONDED BY:	**CHIEF MAUREEN NYCE, HAISLA NATION**
DECISION:	**CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

A. 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 government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

> **Article 4:** Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions;
> **Article 5:** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State;
> **Article 7(1):** Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person. (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of

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genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group;
Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures;
Article 22: 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 this 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 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development and to actively participate in developing and determining programs affecting them;

B. First Nations in what is now known as British Columbia continue to experience systemic racism, discrimination, violence, over-policing, and harm within colonial policing and justice systems, including disproportionate rates of police intervention, incarceration, use of force, and deaths involving First Nations people;

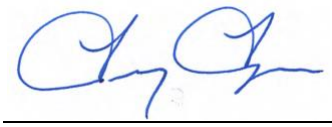
C. In 2020, BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly called for a national strategy to transform Canada's justice system and endorsed the BC First Nations Justice Strategy via BCAFN Resolution 16/2020, "Endorsement of the First Nations Justice Strategy," with the aim of reforming the current justice system and restoring First Nations justice traditions and structures;

D. In 2021, BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed BCAFN Resolution 09/2021, "Need for Immediate Policing Reform and Support for First Nations Jurisdiction of Policing", calling for the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over justice and policing, including the implementation of culturally relevant justice systems, and urged the provincial and federal governments to provide financial and technical assistance to all First Nations to support their justice administration. The resolution also called on these governments to reform policing to end police violence against Indigenous Peoples and to transform their relationship with Indigenous Peoples to align with the UN Declaration;

E. In 2021, the BC Legislative Assembly established the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCORPA) to examine and make recommendations respecting policing reform, systemic racism in policing, civilian oversight, public safety, and alignment of the Police Act with the UN Declaration as required by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act), which resulted in the release of the SCORPA report, "Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia", in 2022;

F. The BCAFN, Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), and First Nations Summit (FNS), working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), appeared before and provided a comprehensive

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written submission to SCORPA calling for transformative policing and justice reform grounded in decolonization, anti-racism, First Nations jurisdiction, self-determination, and implementation of the UN Declaration;

G. In 2023, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed BCAFN Resolution 26/2023, "Provincial Public Safety and Policing and Modernization", which mandated the FNLC organizations to work with the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) and the Province of BC to establish a working group to advance policing and public safety modernization in alignment with the UN Declaration and the Interim Approach, engage First Nations directly as title and rights holders, and recognize and uphold First Nations jurisdiction and self-determination over policing, community safety, and justice in addition to establishing and coordinating First Nations-led enforcement mechanisms and fiscal relationships;

H. The government of BC committed to implementing the SCORPA report's recommendations and, through the Declaration Act Action Plan, further committed to undertake comprehensive policing reform, including modernization of the Police Act, addressing systemic racism in policing, strengthening civilian oversight and accountability mechanisms, clarifying responses to complex social issues, and prioritizing implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy;

I. Between 2023 and 2025, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) engaged in extensive technical discussions and engagement sessions with FNLC and the BCFNJC regarding Police Act reform and policing modernization, including the co-development and validation of detailed policy proposals and recommendations;

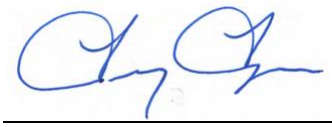
J. In 2024, the Police Amendment Act was passed and resulted in minor changes to police governance and oversight, including requirements for police boards to create a code of conduct and updated procedures for handling complaints;

K. However, in March 2026, despite years of engagement, technical work, and the co-development and validation of detailed policy proposals and recommendations, PSSG staff informed FNLC and BCFNJC that the government of BC would only be proceeding with the development of a First Nation and Local Government Safety Officers Program, and advised that no further funding would be provided to support FNLC or BCFNJC participation in the technical working group;

L. BCFNJC has indicated their intention to continue working on this file and has advised FNLC that they will keep FNLC informed of related technical work;

M. FNLC has advised PSSG that, due to the government of BC's shift of focus from implementing the SCORPA report's recommendations and updating and aligning the Police Act with the UN Declaration to developing a First Nation and Local Government Safety Officers Program, as well as funding capacity limitations, FNLC technical staff can no longer meaningfully participate in the

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Provincial Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative Working Group and have therefore directed withdrawal from the process; and

N. This retreat from meaningful policing legislative reform raises serious concerns regarding the government of BC's commitment to addressing systemic anti-Indigenous racism in policing and implementing its commitments and obligations under the Declaration Act and the UN Declaration, the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the SCORPA report;

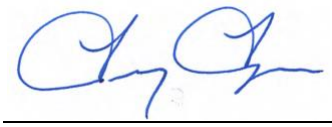
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly express deep concern regarding the government of BC's retreat from comprehensive policing and public safety legislative reform and failure to adequately resource and advance commitments made through the Declaration Act Action Plan, the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, and the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCORPA) process;

2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the government of BC to immediately recommit to meaningful Police Act reform and policing modernization aligned with the UN Declaration as required by the Declaration Act, including providing sustained and adequate funding to support First Nations participation, technical capacity, engagement, and co-development processes with the UBCIC and FNS, working together as the FNLC and the BCFNJC; and

3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and staff, working with the UBCIC and the FNS as the FNLC, and with BCFNJC, to continue advocating for transformative policing and public safety systems and legislation grounded in decolonization, anti-racism, accountability, and the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction, laws, and self-determination.

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