BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

Resolution 31(d)/2026

SUBJECT: **CALL FOR JUST AND COMPLETE REDRESS FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS WHO WERE EXCLUDED FROM OR INADEQUATELY COMPENSATED BY PAST SETTLEMENT PROCESSES**

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

WHEREAS:

A. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), which Canada and British Columbia have committed to implement, affirms:

Article 22(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 28(1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent;

Article 31(1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures;

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Article 37(1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements; and
Article 38: States, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration;

B. the UN Declaration is affirmed in British Columbia's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and in Canada's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, both of which commit government to act consistently with its standards, including the right to effective redress;

C. the Indian Residential School system resulted in the removal of First Nations children from their families, communities, languages, cultures, and Nations, causing profound and intergenerational harms that continue to affect Indigenous Peoples throughout British Columbia and Canada;

D. the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada documented the deaths of thousands of Indigenous children who attended Indian Residential Schools and issued Calls to Action 71 through 76 respecting missing children and burial information;

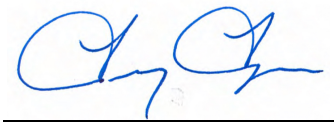
E. the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA), implemented in 2007, established the Common Experience Payment and the Independent Assessment Process. However, many Survivors did not receive just compensation, including those who attended institutions not recognized under the IRSSA, those who died before eligibility dates or before their claims were resolved, those who missed claims deadlines or could not produce the records required, and those whose claims were denied or undervalued through processes many experienced as adversarial and retraumatizing;

F. subsequent class actions and settlements, including those addressing Federal Indian Day Schools and Residential School Day Scholars, have addressed some of these gaps, but they did not reach every Survivor, family or community harmed, and many who were eligible faced barriers to making a claim;

G. Call to Action 29 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls upon the parties, and in particular the federal government, to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the IRSSA to have disputed legal issues determined expeditiously;

H. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly have repeatedly acted on the legacy of the Residential School system, including through Resolution 16/2025 Support for B.C. First Nation Community-Led Indian Residential School and Indian Hospital Investigations, Resolution 21/2025 Call to Reject and Criminalize Residential School Denialism and Resolution 10/2026 Call for Essential Services

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Designation for Health and Cultural Services for Residential School Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors;

I. the recent rise in Residential School denialism compounds the harm to Survivors and makes it more urgent that Canada fully acknowledge and remedy the wrongs of the Residential School system; and

J. Survivors are Elders and Knowledge Keepers and every year that passes without redress means more Survivors are lost without justice ever being done.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that all Residential School Survivors, and the families and estates of Survivors who have passed, are entitled to just, complete and timely redress, and that those who were excluded from, unable to access, or inadequately compensated by past settlement processes must not be left behind;

2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN to establish, pending resourcing support, a Survivor-led working group, including Survivors, Elders, Survivor-serving organizations, BCAFN Knowledge Keepers and technical and legal experts, to identify the groups of Survivors and families who fell through the cracks of past compensation processes, and to develop recommendations for compensation and redress strategies for consideration by the Chiefs-in-Assembly;

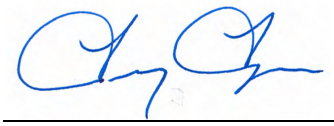
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada, and the churches and religious entities that operated Residential Schools, to work in partnership with First Nations to establish a fair, accessible, trauma-informed and Survivor-centred redress mechanism for those left out of past settlements, including by reopening or extending claims processes where Survivors were unable to participate, consistent with Articles 8(2) and 40 of the UN Declaration and TRC Call to Action 29;

4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to provide sustainable funding for culturally safe claims navigation, legal support, and health and cultural supports for Survivors and families throughout any redress process;

5. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN to seek the resources necessary to carry out this work, and to coordinate with the First Nations Leadership Council, the Assembly of First Nations and Survivor-serving organizations to advance these calls at the provincial and federal levels; and

6. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the members of the proposed working group to report back on the progress of this work and the working group's recommendations at the next BCAFN Chiefs Assembly.

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