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 33/2026

SUBJECT:	**ENDORSEMENT OF THE UPDATED FNLC–BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION**
MOVED BY:	**CHIEF MAUREEN NYCE, HAISLA NATION**
SECONDED BY:	**KÚKWPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC**
DECISION:	**CARRIED**

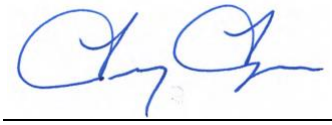
WHEREAS:

A. The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) work together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), a collaborative working relationship between the political executives of the three organizations that reports to and takes direction from their respective Chiefs Assemblies. The FNLC is not a title or rights, or treaty rights holder, and cannot engage in processes to establish and provide free, prior and informed consent on behalf of individual First Nations;

B. On November 24, 2008, the FNLC and the British Columbia Federation of Labour (BCFED) executed a *Protocol on Cooperation and Communication* (the "Protocol"), setting out a mutual commitment to ongoing joint dialogue and action to improve the well-being of First Nations in British Columbia and to jointly increase public awareness amongst British Columbians of First Nations issues and workers' rights;

C. The BCFED brings together the majority of unions in British Columbia to provide a single voice on workers' rights, provides support to affiliated unions during labour disputes, and coordinates cross-

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union campaigns on issues ranging from occupational health and safety to political action, women's rights, human rights and climate change;

D. The FNLC and the BCFED share common interests in achieving justice for First Nations in British Columbia and in upholding the rights of workers, and a common belief that cooperative working relationships and effective communication contribute directly to the health and well-being of communities by facilitating collaborative action in areas such as employment, training and community development;

E. The FNLC and the BCFED have developed an updated Protocol (August 2026) that modernizes the 2008 Protocol, including by: committing the Parties to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), including recognition of the inherent rights, title, self-determination, laws and jurisdiction of First Nations; committing the Parties to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action; recognizing the fundamental principles and rights at work of the International Labour Organization; and adding provisions on confidentiality, funding and resources, dispute resolution, implementation and review;

F. The updated Protocol is grounded in the principles of recognition, mutual respect, cooperation, collaboration, and implementation of the UN Declaration and the TRC Calls to Action, and its objectives include raising awareness of First Nations title and rights and of workers' rights, coordinating advocacy and public education, sharing information, expertise and resources, collaborating on public policy issues of mutual concern, and building relationships between the Parties;

G. The updated Protocol does not create legally binding financial obligations, may be amended or terminated by the Parties at any time, and will be reviewed for effectiveness within two years of taking effect;

H. Article 17(1) of the UN Declaration states: "Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law";

I. Article 21(1) of the UN Declaration states: "Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security"; and

J. The UBCIC Chiefs Council endorsed the updated Protocol by Resolution 2026-45 on September 23, 2026, and the FNS has endorsed via resolution 0626.08 in June 2026.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly endorse the updated First Nations Leadership Council–BC Federation of Labour (BCFED) *Protocol on Cooperation and Communication* (August 2026), and support the BCAFN's continued participation in the Protocol as a member of the FNLC;

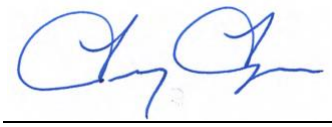
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly authorize the BCAFN Regional Chief to recommit to and execute the updated Protocol on behalf of the BCAFN, together with the FNS and UBCIC;

3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN Regional Chief and Board of Directors, through the FNLC, to work with the BCFED to advance the objectives of the updated Protocol, including through joint working groups, implementation tables or regular meetings, and joint advocacy and public education on issues of mutual concern such as employment, training and workers' rights for First Nations people;

4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that nothing in the updated Protocol diminishes or derogates from the inherent title and rights or treaty rights of any First Nation, or authorizes the BCAFN or the FNLC to provide free, prior and informed consent on behalf of any First Nation; and

5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly on the implementation of the updated Protocol, including the outcomes of the two-year review.

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