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 39/2026

SUBJECT:	**ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO ADVANCE A BC FIRST NATIONS CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES FUNDING MECHANISM**
MOVED BY:	**PROXY MARY TEEGEE, TAKLA FIRST NATION**
SECONDED BY:	**CHIEF SHANA THOMAS, LYACKSON FIRST NATION**
DECISION:	**CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

A. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the BC Ministry of Children & Family Development (MCFD) currently funds child and family services for First Nations children and families living in BC

B. in 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that Canada's design, management and control of the First Nations Child & Family Services (FNCFS) program discriminates against First Nations children and families. A decade later, long-term reform of the program remains unresolved;

C. MCFD does not currently have an adequate or appropriate mechanism to ensure that FNCFS funding reaches First Nations children and families, that funding allocations are aligned with First Nations priorities or track how spending relates to those priorities;

D. 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:

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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 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, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision- making institutions.

E. First Nations in BC require a funding mechanism of their own to receive, allocate and account for child and family service funding across the province. Such a mechanisms must be aligned with our rights, administered and governed by First Nations and independent of ISC and MCFD;

F. Canada's *Children's Special Allowances Act* now permits the Children's Special Allowances to be paid to an Indigenous governing body or an authority established under its laws, that is caring for the child; and

G. some BC First Nations already exercise or in transition to exercise jurisdiction over child and family service under their owns laws; and any First Nations funding authority must support First Nations exercise of their jurisdiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN to work with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, pending funding support, to establish a BC First Nations Child and Family Working Group to Explore Mechanisms to recognize First Nations jurisdiction and authority over Children and Families Funding. This working group will be comprised of the Our Children Our Way Secretariat, the BC Representative for Children and Youth, the BC First Nations Justice Council, individuals with child and family expertise;

2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BC First Nations Child and Family Working group to:
    - lead regional and sub-regional engagement with First Nations to develop options and directives, for review and approval by the Chiefs-in-Assembly to guide the establishment of a BC First Nations Child and Family Funding Services Mechanism;
    - Develop an environmental scan on existing models that could serve as templates for a First Nations-governed Children and Families Funding Mechanism, including existing authorities (FNHA), Funds, or other governing bodies.
    - Develop options for how funding would be allocated among First Nations and service providers, including a fair and transparent allocation approach and how it would report to First Nations on the funding model;
    - Identify what is required for the mechanism to receive funding directly, including the Children's Special Allowance ; and

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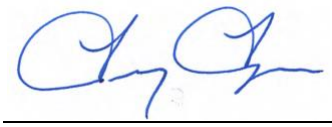


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- Report back to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly; and

3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to work with First Nations in BC to transition the administration of FNCFS funding away from MCFD under the reformed FNCFS program and not further entrench MCFD's role in administering funding.

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