BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
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BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 14, 15 & 16, 2026
In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 42/2026

SUBJECT:	**ADVANCING FIRST NATIONS-LED WILD SALMON REBUILDING AND COORDINATED POLITICAL ADVOCACY**
MOVED BY:	**CHIEF EDDY JULES, SKEETCHESTN**
SECONDED BY:	**CHIEF SHAREL WRIGHT, QAYQAYT FIRST NATION**
DECISION:	**CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

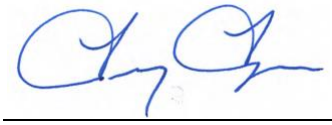
A. First Nations hold inherent title and rights and exercise jurisdiction over their lands, waters and resources, and wild salmon are foundational to First Nations cultures, food systems, economies, governance, laws, and spiritual well-being;

B. wild salmon populations and their habitats continue to experience cumulative impacts from habitat degradation, climate change, industrial development, aquaculture, and ineffective fisheries and watershed management, requiring urgent, coordinated, and long-term action through joint First Nations–provincial leadership;

C. 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:

D. the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration),

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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, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.
> **Article 19:** States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
> **Article 25:** Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
> **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 29(1):** Indigenous Peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
> **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;

E. Action 2.09 of the Declaration Act Action Plan commits the Province of B.C. to develop new strategies with First Nations and the government of Canada to protect and revitalize wild salmon populations, including the development and implementation of a cohesive B.C. Wild Pacific Salmon Strategy, with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship identified as the lead provincial ministry;

F. BCAFN Resolution 2026-05(d) "Rebuilding Wild Salmon as a Nation Building Project," affirms wild salmon rebuilding as a First Nations-led Nation Building project and calls upon Canada and B.C. to recognize wild salmon recovery as a core Nation-to-Nation priority requiring coordinated, long- term action across fisheries management, habitat

restoration, watershed governance, and climate adaptation, and further calls for First Nations jurisdiction, laws, decision-making, and co-governance to guide wild salmon rebuilding and directs the BCAFN to work with First Nations organizations to advocate for coordinated action, sustained investment and accountability from Canada and B.C.;

G. advancing wild salmon rebuilding and habitat restoration at a province-wide scale requires coordinated implementation across provincial ministries, including the identification and alignment of existing programs and appropriations, and the establishment of a cross-ministry mechanism to coordinate sustained funding for First Nations-led salmon and watershed restoration;

H. the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance (FNWSA) is advancing the B.C. Salmon Rebuilding and Salmon Habitat Restoration Project as a joint First Nations-provincial leadership initiative to support coordinated wild salmon rebuilding, habitat restoration, stewardship, and political advocacy throughout B.C.;

I. meaningful implementation requires sustained and dedicated funding that reaches First Nations and supports on-the-ground restoration, stewardship, monitoring, and rebuilding work, rather than being absorbed by internal government administration or used to replace existing Crown responsibilities and commitments; and

J. successful wild salmon rebuilding will require collaboration among First Nations, and like-minded organizations and partners that share an interest in restoring and sustaining healthy and abundant.

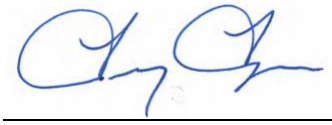
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the objectives and continued advancement of the proposed province-wide Joint First Nations–Provincial Leadership Initiative for Wild Pacific Salmon Rebuilding and Salmon Habitat Restoration;

2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of B.C. to formally designate the rebuilding of wild Pacific salmon and salmon habitat as a province-wide Declaration Act implementation priority, with Action 2.09 of the Declaration Act Action Plan serving as the central provincial policy authority for the initiative;

3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of B.C. to require all participating ministries to identify existing programs, funding, and appropriations that can contribute

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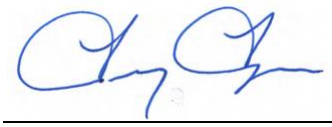
to First Nations-led wild salmon rebuilding, and salmon and watershed habitat restoration;

4. The BCAFN Chief-in-Assembly call upon the Province of B.C. to establish, in full partnership with First Nations, a jointly led cross-ministry salmon restoration funding table, with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship serving as the lead provincial ministry and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and all other relevant ministries participating;

5. The BCAFN Chief-in-Assembly call upon the governments of B.C. and Canada to provide sustained, multi-year funding dedicated to First Nations-led wild salmon rebuilding, habitat restoration, stewardship, and monitoring, ensuring that funding intended for this work supports First Nations priorities and on-the-ground restoration activities, and is not diverted to internal government costs; and

6. The BCAFN Chief-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN staff to work with First Nations; the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council; the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance; the Province of B.C.; and other like-minded organizations to advance the recognition, implementation and funding of a province-wide Joint First Nations–Provincial Leadership Initiative for Wild Pacific Salmon Rebuilding and Salmon Habitat Restoration.

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