



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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**BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**  
**March 7 & 8, 2024**  
**Online via Zoom**

**Resolution 10/2024**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR TEA CREEK TO ACCESS FUNDING**

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**Moved BY: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT FIRST NATION**

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**SECONDED BY: CHIEF LEE SPAHAN, COLDWATER INDIAN BAND**

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**DECISION: CARRIED**

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### **WHEREAS:**

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states:

Article 20 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

Article 20 (2): Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

Article 24 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

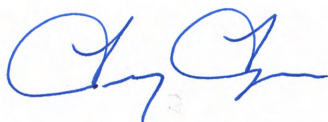
Article 29 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

Article 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, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

- B. The First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES) 2008-2018 found that 48% of First Nations households are food insecure, with the overall level of food insecurity in Canada increasing since the study.
- C. The FNFNES found that many First Nations households lack sufficient access to traditional foods, a crucial component of First Nations' diet(s), secure First Nations food systems, sovereignty, and security.
- D. Canada's Food Price Report (2023) found the rate for the increase in food price was 10.3%, well above the predicted increase of 5-7%. This brings the national average for a family of four to \$15,222.80, with food prices significantly higher in rural, remote, and underserved communities, exacerbating food insecurity risks in First Nation homes.
- E. Tea Creek is an award-winning, land-based, culturally safe First Nations-led food sovereignty and skills training initiative in Gitxsan territory, BC. In 2023, over 1,000 guests visited Tea Creek and participated in programs and services.
- F. Tea Creek has become a designated horticulture training facility, the first in Canada run by First Nations. The project produced 292 Indigenous enrollments in their programs, 140 graduates, 11,000 free meals served, and 20,000 lbs. of food grown and donated.
- G. Tea Creek requires core or multi-year funding to support First Nations food security and sovereignty. Currently, the project operates on approximately 30% of the funding provided to non-Indigenous initiatives offering similar services and outcomes.

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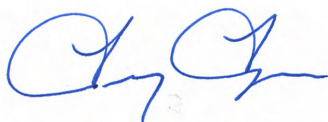
**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supports the acknowledgement of unceded inherent First Nations Title, and rights in relation to food security and sovereignty;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support First Nations-led, localized food systems, including but not limited to education, growing, and distribution, to close the gap between First Nations and non-First Nations household food security in British Columbia;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the Tea Creek Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Skills training initiative to access provincial, federal, and non-governmental funding; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to continue work on food security and sovereignty and to urge the provincial government to increase funding, support, and training for First Nations in the spirit of reconciliation and justice until equality in funding and outcomes are achieved.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is written over a horizontal line.

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**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**