



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

20th Annual BCAFN Special Chiefs Assembly

Online Via Zoom

March 7 & 8, 2024

RESOLUTIONS LIST

NUMBER	NAME
01/2024	SUPPORT FOR BCAFN TO IMPLEMENT THE FIRST NATIONS GENDER EQUITY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
02/2024	SUPPORT FOR THE WLRS RELATIONSHIP PROTOCOL WITH THE FNLC
03/2024	SUPPORT FOR RELATIONSHIP BUILDING BETWEEN THE BC FIRST NATIONS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND YUKON FIRST NATIONS
04/2024	SUPPORT FOR HOSTING REGIONAL SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS GATHERINGS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
05/2024	INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND BORDER MOBILITY
06/2024	ADDRESSING UNDERFUNDING OF BC FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES AND SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BC FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES ACT
07/2024	ENSURING FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT FOR FNCFS LONG-TERM REFORM AND COMPENSATION DISTRIBUTION
08/2024	SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT FOR PHASE 1 OF THE FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL'S HOUSING FRAMEWORK
09/2024	CALL TO EXTEND THE SAFE DRINKING WATER SETTLEMENT CLAIM DEADLINE
10/2024	SUPPORT FOR TEA CREEK TO ACCESS FUNDING
11/2024	GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES
12/2024	AMENDMENT OF THE <i>HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT</i>
13/2024	SUPPORT FOR THE B.C. FIRST NATIONS CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY
14/2024	MODEL FOR MULTILATERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FUNDING NEGOTIATIONS
15/2024	PROTECTION FOR THE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL AND ITS OLD-GROWTH HABITAT
16/2024	SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS OF MMIWG2S+
17/2024	CALL FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE UN DECLARATION



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 01/2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR BCAFN TO IMPLEMENT THE FIRST NATIONS GENDER EQUITY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Moved by: CHIEF LYNDA PRICE, ULKATCHO FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQIA+) individuals possess inherent value, strength, and agency. Support and respect for women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are intrinsic to the values of our unique First Nations cultures and laws;
- B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states:
 - a. Article 7.1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person. 2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - b. Article 21.2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure the continuing improvement of their economic and social

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of March 2024

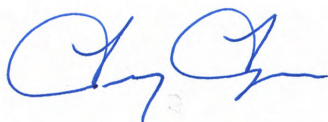
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities.

c. Article 22.1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration. 2. States shall take special 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.

- C. The ongoing tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is a direct result of systematic racism, sexism, colonialism, and poverty. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) acknowledged that this national crisis is genocide, a fact that Indigenous peoples and their allies have known and declared for decades;
- D. Indigenous women, survivors, family members, loved ones, and members of front-line, grassroots, and Indigenous and women's organization have dedicated their lives to ending this tragedy, and have been on the front-lines of this work for decades, bringing deep knowledge, experience, and expertise. These advocates brought national attention to the crisis of MMIWG, which led to the National Inquiry;
- E. In particular, those along the Highway of Tears and in the Downtown Eastside have been active in drawing attention to this issue and working to end this violence.
- F. The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is a member of the Coalition on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is an alliance of organizations that came together in 2010 at the time of the Oppal Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. The Coalition includes the February 14th March Committee, one of the first organizations in Canada to bring the crisis of violence against Indigenous women to public attention, and a broad range of organizations representing Indigenous women and their allies in women's anti-violence, human rights, and labour organizations.
- G. Since 2017, BCAFN worked to develop an "evergreen" Strategic Action Plan and to develop BCAFN has been hosting regular annual Dialogue Sessions to engage First Nations women, Two Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender and sexually diverse people on their priorities and provide space for connection;
- H. Out of these sessions a Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Declaration was developed that affirmed a number of truths about the valuable identities and visions of First Nations women and Two Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender and sexually diverse people;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of March 2024



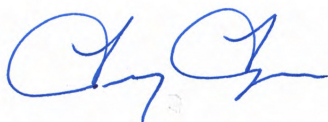
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- I. This Declaration represents a powerful coming together and a call for action resulting in the mandate to develop a Strategic Action Plan to implement the Declaration through BCAFN Resolution 11/2020.
- J. Based on resolution 2020/11, the Strategic Action Plan intends to support the BCAFN and like-minded organizations in implementing the Declaration, as well as the BCAFN What We Heard Report on MMIWG2S+, and previous BCAFN Dialogue Session reports. Rooted in these documents, a three-part vision guides the purpose of this Plan:
 - First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ representation and leadership
 - Wellness, healing and identity are reclaimed and restored, and
 - Ending systemic discrimination
- K. The implementation of the BCAFN Strategic Action Plan is in alignment with BCAFN Resolution 21a/2019 and 11/2011 which provided a mandate for ongoing action, advocacy, and collaboration with Indigenous, front-line, grassroots, women's organizations, and like-minded organizations to implement the 231 Calls for Justice and the National Action Plan;
- L. BCAFN has worked with like-minded organizations to action and bring attention to the critical and devastating issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and has been mandated by the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly to continue this work via Resolutions 10h/2017, 01/2018, 03d/2018, 16/2018, 07g/2019, 21a/2019, 11/2020 (SCA), and 06/2020;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support and call to implement the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan as presented on March 7, 2024;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the BCAFN Women's Representative and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative and BCAFN staff to ensure that the title and rights, sovereignty, culture and rights are thoroughly recognized, upheld and incorporated into the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the need to implement the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan to address the issues and calls to action identified in the Women's Declaration;
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN Women's Representative and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative to collaborate with the AFN Women's and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Councils, regional partners, and others to create opportunities for implementation on the

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of March 2024

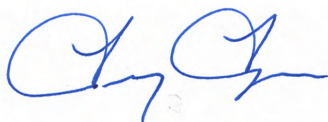


Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan that are in alignment with the nine principles that form the foundation of this plan:

- Sovereignty
 - Healing and hope
 - Culture
 - Collaboration and partnership
 - Intersectionality:
 - Using best practices and tools
 - Action and accountability
 - Representation and Leadership
 - And ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach;
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN to advocate to the provincial and federal governments for full funding to implement the strategic action plan, in a manner consistent with Article 7.1, 21.2 and 22.1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
6. Finally, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN Women’s Representative and the BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative to oversee the implementation of the BCAFN First Nations Gender Equity Strategic Action Plan and to report on progress at the BCAFN Annual General Assembly in 2025.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of March 2024

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

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 02/2024

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL RELATIONSHIP
PROTOCOL WITH THE MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND RESOURCE
STEWARDSHIP**

MOVED BY: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHLAHT FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. The Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship (“WLRS”) has been created by the Government of British Columbia to advance integrated land and natural resource management, including objective setting for land and marine environments, effectively managing cumulative effects, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.
- B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (“UNDRIP”) which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:
Article 10: Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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. 2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired. 3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

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. 2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

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. 2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent. 3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

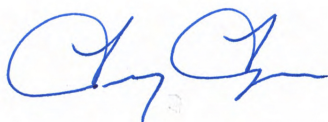
Article 32: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources. 2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources. 3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

- C. *The Joint Agenda: Implementing the Commitment Document - Concrete Actions: Transforming Laws, Policies, Processes and Structures* (“Concrete Actions”) commits the Province and the First Nations Leadership Council (“FNLC”) to the following priorities:
- Action 3, Goal 1:** Design and implement new models of: Strategic planning, including land use planning; Decision-making approaches, models and structures; Management; and Inter-governmental relations and understanding of jurisdictions and accountabilities that recognize Aboriginal title and rights and the UN Declaration.
- Action 4, Goal 4:** Land Use/Territory Planning: Consider legislation and policy development and/or amendments to support First Nations land use/territory planning with legal recognition by the Crown.
- D. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan commits the Province to the following actions:
- Action 2.4:** negotiate new joint decision-making and consent agreements under section 7 of the Declaration Act that include clear accountabilities, transparency and administrative fairness between the Province and Indigenous governing bodies.
- Action 2.6:** co-develop strategic-level policies, programs and initiatives to advance collaborative stewardship of the environment, land and resources, that address cumulative effects and respects Indigenous Knowledge. This will be achieved through collaborative stewardship forums, guardian programs, land use planning initiatives, and other innovative and evolving partnerships that support integrated land and resource management.
- E. the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, working together as the FNLC, have developed in collaboration with WLRS a draft Relationship Protocol which aims to create a process for joint dialogue, action, and cooperation that respects and recognizes the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and advances joint commitments described in Concrete Actions and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, to sign Relationship Protocol between the BCAFN, working collectively with the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs as the First Nations Leadership Council (the “FNLC”), and the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship (“WLRS”);
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province to uphold the unceded title and rights and sovereignty of First Nations in BC and to ensure the Province and WLRS in particular acknowledges that culture and ceremony is intrinsic to our nationhood and our connections to who we are, to our territories, our land and our waters;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

3. That the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to clearly articulate to the Ministry of WLRs that the Protocol will protect and recognize Title and Rights and is not:
 - a. a substitute for WLRs to engage directly with Nations and is not to be viewed or considered as a delegation of authority in any way; and
 - b. any key decisions must be brought back to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly for consideration; and

4. That the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief, working collectively with the First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs as the FNLC and WLRs to provide regular reports to the Chiefs-in-Assembly on the ongoing collaborative objectives and efforts as identified in the Relationship Protocol.



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 03/2024

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR RELATIONSHIP BUILDING BETWEEN THE BC FIRST NATIONS
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND YUKON FIRST
NATIONS**

MOVED BY: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHLAHT FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JOE PIERRE, ?AQ'AM

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

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

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

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 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Article 9: Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

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.

B. The BCAFN Is mandated by Resolutions 31/2021 - A BC First Nations Centre Of Excellence for Economic Development, and Resolution 13/2017 - Support For The BCAFN Sustainable Economic Development And Fiscal Relations Strategy;

C. There are fourteen (14) First Nations in the Yukon Territory (YT), and the British Columbia (BC) Yukon border bifurcates four (4). There are long-standing relationships and partnerships between Yukon and BC First Nations and established trade networks pre-dating the assertion of borders by the Yukon Act of 1898;

D. The BCAFN proposes to reach out to First Nations in the Yukon through the BC First Nations Centre of Excellence for Economic Development (FNCoE) to build relationships and garner interest in the FNCoE. Fostering collegial, productive cross-border relationships with our relatives and colleagues in the Yukon will benefit First Nations in BC;

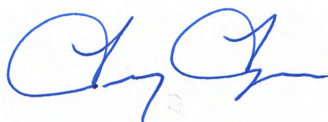
E. There does not exist a dedicated, First Nations-led institution in the Yukon to support the economic development of First Nations across all sectors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BC First Nations Centre of Excellence for Economic Development staff to work towards developing relationships with the First Nations in the Yukon, and report to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the 2024 Annual General Assembly; and

2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BC First Nations Centre of Excellence for Economic Development staff to seek approval from the BCAFN Board of Directors should any arrangements, protocols, agreements, or memoranda of understanding be developed.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
Virtual on Zoom
March 7 & 8, 2024

Resolution 04/2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HOSTING REGIONAL SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS GATHERINGS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Moved BY: KUKPI7 FRED ROBBINS, ESKETEMC FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the UN Declaration), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implementing through legislation, affirms:

Article 8: (1) Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture; (2) States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities; (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;

Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relations 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 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.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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. (2) In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

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; (2) States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources; (3) States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

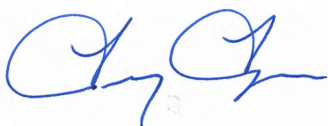
B. The Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada include:

Call to Action 13: We call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.

Call to Action 14: (i) Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them; (iii) The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal language revitalization and preservation.

- C. Language, traditions, culture, and ceremony are the foundation of First Nations identity. They are the sacred and crucial link between the people of these lands and the lands themselves.
- D. Colonial governments attacked and prohibited ceremonies, traditional governance and decision-making structures through legislation, policies and Canada's residential school system, contributing to the erosion of First Nations' identity, cultures, language and relationships. These intergenerational impacts are still experienced by First Nations in BC today.
- E. Despite this dark legacy and ongoing harms, First Nations in BC are revitalizing traditional laws, languages, governance and ceremonial practices and articulating our knowledge systems, natural laws and worldviews so that Crown governments and all people can benefit from the wisdom of our ancestors, and support a new path of recognition and respect for our cultures and jurisdiction, including our Rights, Title and Treaty Rights;
- F. The climate and biodiversity crises pose significant threats to the security, culture, and way of life of First Nations across British Columbia. With extreme and unprecedented climate events occurring more frequently across all regions of BC, these crises are exacerbating historical vulnerabilities and environmental impacts on First Nations communities
- G. Spiritual Knowledge Keepers gathered in ceremony from November 17th to 19th, 2023 in Tsleil-Waututh Territory to discuss the current climate crisis, its underlying causes, roles and responsibilities and its profound impacts on the Land and all living beings. Observers from federal and provincial governments, youth, leaders and organizations were invited to witness the ceremony. The Knowledge Keepers conveyed crucial messages and directives to care for the lands and waters for future generations;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



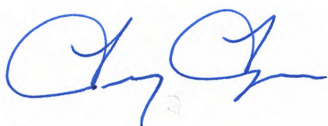
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- Climate change is a tiny aspect of a larger problem rooted in human greed and the disconnection of people and nature, resulting in environmental degradation, ecological imbalance, species extinction, destruction, and ongoing injustice;
 - Approaching climate action from the heart is critical to standing up for our lands, culture, way of life and future survival. First Nations have thousands of years of knowledge that comes from the intrinsic relationship we have with our territories and ecosystems. The inclusion of this knowledge, natural law and ceremony is essential to the success of policies and climate action.
 - We must understand the relationships between things as the priority, not the things themselves. Breaking down silos within government, among First Nations, and in our ways of thinking while also fostering relationships between First Nations and non-Indigenous decision-makers and communities is crucial in combating climate change.
 - Revitalizing culture, language, and Ceremony and restoring First Nations' responsibility for the Land through self-determination, jurisdiction, and self-governance is urgently needed.
- H. Western approaches to shaping legislation and policies primarily concentrate on mitigating the symptoms and consequences of climate change, often overlooking the critical analysis and solutions of the root causes that give rise to greenhouse emissions, global warming and the current ecological crisis in the first place.
- I. By Resolution 04/2019, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the BCAFN to work with the First Nations Leadership Council to prepare a First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (BC FN Climate Strategy). By Resolution 06/2022, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorsed the BC FN Climate Strategy;
- J. By Resolution 05/2021, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the BCAFN to support First Nations Community-Based Climate Leadership.
- K. By Resolution 03/2023, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the BCAFN to facilitate the development of a BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda in BC (BC FNCL Agenda), including to work with the Government of Canada to build capacity and progressively vest authority and resources for climate action on the hands of First Nations.
- L. Little formal support exists for First Nations to gather in ceremony to support healing, build relationships and collectively discuss solutions, roles and responsibilities to the climate crisis. First Nations leadership and Knowledge Keepers who attended the Knowledge Keepers Gathering requested that BCAFN coordinate regional ceremonies on climate change across BC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls upon Crown governments and the general public to acknowledge that the climate crisis is a symptom of a broader problem rooted in the disconnection of people and nature as well as the infringement of our title and rights has resulted in ecological imbalance, species extinction, destruction, and ongoing injustices such as the continuing impacts from settlers and development on First Nations' rights;
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly reminds Crown governments of First Nations sovereignty, Title and Rights and that climate action must fully acknowledge First Nations title, rights and treaty rights and responsibilities be

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

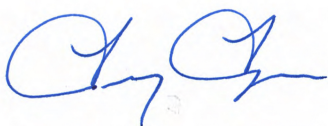


Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

rooted in each Nation's natural laws and First Nations Knowledge and that healing Mother Earth requires healing humans and rebuilding trust, connections and relationships with nature and ourselves;

3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly is mindful that the prohibition of ceremonies, languages, traditions and the painful history of residential schools have legacies which continue to impact First Nations today and calls on Crown governments to recognize that reconciliation means restitution of First Nations' identity, grounded in ceremonies, protocols, spirituality, languages and ways of knowing and being;
4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on Crown governments for ongoing financial support to First Nations communities to engage in ceremonies and to preserve, revitalize and strengthen languages, First Nations Knowledge and traditional laws as part of building climate resilience;
5. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to work with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council to seek financial support to facilitate regional Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gatherings on Climate Change; and
6. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate BCAFN that First Nations Knowledge, including the lessons from the Knowledge Keepers Gatherings, must guide the implementation of the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan and the development of the BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 05/2024

SUBJECT: INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND BORDER MOBILITY

Moved BY: CHIEF DON TOM, TSARTLIP FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLUPS TE SECWEPEMC

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

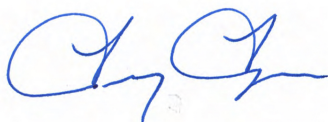
- A. On June 21, 2021, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) came into force. This Act requires the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to:
 - a. Take all measures necessary to ensure that federal laws are consistent with the Declaration (Section 5).
 - b. Prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration (Section 6).
 - c. Develop annual reports on progress and submit them to Parliament (Section 7).
- B. On June 20th, 2023, the Department of Justice tabled the UNDA National Action Plan (NAP) in Parliament, as mandated by Section 6 of the UNDA.
- C. The NAP identifies Shared Priority – Action Plan Measure #52, which states that the Government of Canada will take the following actions in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- a. Pursue legislative amendments to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, amendments to relevant regulations and revisions to policies in order to address complex border crossing and migration challenges faced by Indigenous peoples divided by Canada's international borders, including options to amend Canada's right to entry provisions, and work and study permit requirements.
 - b. Engagement with Indigenous peoples and their representative organizations to implement the action plan measure was initiated in 2023, with a view to advancing amendments and policy reforms in 2024. In parallel, the Government of Canada will continue discussions with international partners on Indigenous border crossing issues.
- D. Indigenous peoples commonly report experiencing racism and traumatic experiences when using their Status Cards to cross the border into and out of the United States from/to Canada.
- E. International borders have seriously affected Indigenous Peoples living on their traditional territories. Legislation and policy related to border and mobility rights have the potential significantly impact Indigenous rights related to:
- a. Families;
 - b. Governance;
 - c. Traditional Practices;
 - d. Language Preservation;
 - e. Kinship;
 - f. Access to traditional food and medicines;
 - g. Experiences of Racism
 - h. Cultural ties; and
 - i. Economic opportunities.
- F. The UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:
- Article 9:** Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from exercising such a right.
- Article 10:** Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.
- Article 12: (1)** Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the rights to the repatriation of their human remains.
- Article 18:** Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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.

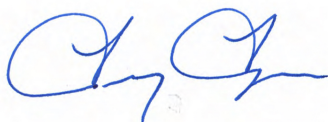
Article 24 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

Article 33: (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live. **(2)** Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

Article 36: (1) Indigenous people, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders. **(2)** States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

- G. In fulfillment of the UNDA NAP Shared Priority-APM #52, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Immigration, Refugees IRCC have begun to host regional roundtables with First Nations on potential amendments to the right to enter and remain in Canada, traveller modernization, travel documentation and other accompanying issues, including trade and entry of goods, and training of border service agents.
- H. The CBSA is responsible for managing and enforcing over 100+ Acts of Parliament for Canada's international borders and Ports of Entry. CBSA's Indigenous Affairs Secretariat was established in February 2018 to address border crossing issues for Indigenous peoples, including the facilitation of Indigenous travellers and their sacred goods.
- I. The IRCC's Indigenous Border Crossing Division is responsible for the right to enter and remain in Canada under the *Immigration and Refugee Acts*.
- J. The First Nations Leadership Council, inclusive of the BC Assembly of First Nations, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and the First Nations Summit, have, with the Department of Justice Canada, struck a BC-specific bilateral table on UNDA implementation to facilitate the inclusion of priorities and interests of First Nations in BC as the Government of Canada's moves forward with its efforts to implement the UNDA NAP.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



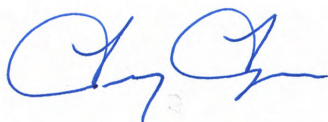
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- K. Potential legislative, regulatory or policy reforms addressing Border Issues and Indigenous Rights have not been brought to the attention of the FNLC-DOJ BC-Specific Table for UNDA implementation.
- L. As a result of the numerous potential impacts border legislation and policy decisions will have on the rights of First Nations, it is critical that First Nations are engaged in the development and implementation of legislative or policy amendments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to extend its engagement period on the *United Nations Declaration Act's* National Action Plan Shared Priority Measures #52 to more fully engage First Nations in BC on necessary legislative, regulatory and policy amendments;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Government of Canada to acknowledge unceded First Nations' Title, Rights and sovereignty with respect to Border Mobility;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on Canada to provide capacity funds to First Nations in BC to engage in the development of these legislative, regulatory and policy amendments; and
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on Canada to provide resources to support the BCAFN in hosting an All-Chiefs Assembly to engage its membership in the development a coordinated position on Indigenous Rights and Border Mobility issues, including necessary legislative and policy reforms.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 06/2024

SUBJECT: ADDRESSING UNDERFUNDING OF BC FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES AND SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BC FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES ACT

Moved by: CHAIRPERSON KHELSELEM, SQUAMISH NATION

SECONDED BY: KUKPI7 FRED ROBBINS, ESK'ETEMC

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations have the inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights to revitalize, learn, use, transmit, and access services in their First Nations language;
- B. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and which British Columbia and Canada have committed to implement through legislation reaffirms these rights under:

Article 13 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

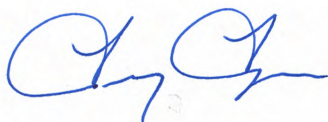
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Article 14 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning. 3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language; and

Article 16 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination;

- C. The *Indigenous Languages Act* (Bill C-91) received Royal Assent on June 19, 2019 which provides legal assurance for adequate, sustainable and long-term funding for First Nations-led efforts to revitalize their languages;
- D. According to the First Peoples Cultural Council's (FPCC), there are 36 actively used First Nations languages in BC representing more than 50% of all Indigenous languages in Canada. Many First Nations languages in British Columbia face challenges as a result of colonization and decades of chronic underfunding;
- E. The FPCC is the only organization in Canada to produce a data-driven province-wide report on the status of First Nations languages;
- F. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) *Revitalizing First Nations Languages: A Costing Analysis* estimates the annual cost of First Nations languages revitalization across Canada to be \$2.003 billion;
- G. The Government of Canada has only committed approximately \$52 million to First Nations languages across Canada in 2024-2025 and subsequent years, despite their legislative commitments to facilitate the provision of adequate and sustainable funding for First Nations languages in the *Indigenous Languages Act*;
- H. In July 2023, at the AFN Annual General Assembly, First-Nations-in-Assembly voted to not pass draft resolution 26 *Equitable Funding for Languages Revitalization*, which sought ratification for a new Equally Weighted Regional Allocation Formula for the Department of Canadian Heritage Indigenous Languages Component funding. This formula was proposed by the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL); however, BC Chiefs expressed concern that the proposed formula would significantly negatively impact the amount of funding for the BC region (as well as several other regions) and that more work was needed to arrive at a consensus-based, data-informed formula.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



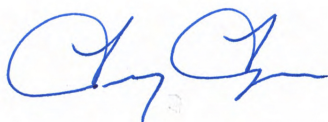
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- I. Compared to the current funding formula, the CCOL Regional Allocation Formula with equally weighted factors would reduce BC's allocation by approximately 10%.
- J. The rationale for the Regional Allocation Formula is to equally weight factors of: population, language vitality, number of languages, number of First Nations, and regional remoteness. This weighting is based on incomplete data that does not consider the base costs associated for language revitalization per First Nations language. As such, the number of languages should be proportionately factored into an equitable funding formula.
- K. By way of BCAFN Resolution 24/2023, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the following:
 - a) call on the AFN and Chiefs Committee on Languages, Technical Committee on Languages and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to continue their work to develop an equitable Regional Allocation Formula and to arrive at a consensus-based recommendation to bring back to the AFN First Nations-in-Assembly to be reviewed;
 - b) call on the Chiefs Committee on Languages, Technical Committee on Languages and the AFN to continuously monitor the equitability of the Regional Allocation Formula and its impact on regional language revitalization activities, and engage in research that informs the future use of additional factors and improved data quality; and
 - c) call on the AFN to ensure that its advocacy does not detract or hinder existing First Nations agreements which contain language components from advancing their current language processes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the federal and provincial government to acknowledge and uphold the unceded First Nations' title, rights and sovereignty related to language preservation and revitalization through a distinctions-based approach.
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly unequivocally reject the proposed Equally Weighted Regional Allocation Formula as proposed by the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages and call on the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages to keep the current funding formula unchanged until consensus is reached by all regions;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the AFN Technical Committee on Languages and Chiefs Committee on Languages to negotiate a funding formula that:
 - a) is evidence-based, data-driven and consented to by First Nations;
 - b) prioritizes the number of languages and level of endangerment to ensure fair distribution of language funding across the regions;

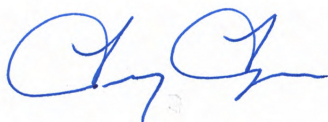
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- c) is reviewed by the Technical and Chiefs Committee on Languages on an annual basis to ensure the formula is informed by up to date data;
4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN, as another option to seek equitable funding for the BC Region, to develop a report and seek legal advice on the advisability and feasibility of a class action lawsuit and/or human rights tribunal cases against the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada for the underfunding of Indigenous Languages for BC First Nations, and report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly as soon as is practicable with recommendations on next steps;
 5. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN, in collaboration with other like-minded organizations, to call on the Province of British Columbia requesting their expressed support of working with BC First Nations to develop a BC First Nations Languages Act that upholds Indigenous Rights with Languages as well calling on the Province to commit to a timeline to ensure necessary steps are taken to develop and implement proposed legislation;
 6. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN, working in collaboration with other like-minded organizations, to develop a framework for a BC First Nations Languages Act; and
 7. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to diligently pursue and execute the directives outlined in this resolution, working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders and report on progress to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly at the upcoming Annual General Meeting in September 2024.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

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

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 07/2024

SUBJECT: ENSURING FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT FOR FNCFS LONG-TERM REFORM AND COMPENSATION DISTRIBUTION

Moved BY: JUDY WILSON, PROXY, SKAWAHLOOK FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JAMES HOBART, SPUZZUM FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) filed a discrimination at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in 2007 alleging Canada's inequitable provision of First Nations child and family services and its choice to not implement Jordan's Principle were discriminatory;
- B. the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal substantiated the discrimination in 2016 CHRT 2 and ordered Canada to immediately cease its discriminatory conduct towards First Nations children and families, including those who are members of First Nations in British Columbia (B.C.);
- C. consistent with the direction of the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly (AFN resolution no. 85/2018) pursuant to the Canadian Human Rights Act, Canada has been ordered to pay \$40,000.00 per eligible victim for Canada's "willful and reckless" discrimination of the "worst order." In 2019 CHRT 30 and 2021 CHRT 7 as upheld by the Federal Court (T-1621-19 in 2021 FC 969);
- D. on December 31, 2021, two Agreements-in-Principle (AIP) were signed, providing the frameworks for negotiations of the Final Settlement Agreements (FSA) on (1) Long-Term Reform

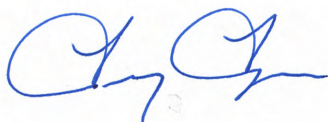
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

of the FNCFS Program, Jordan's Principle, and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and (2) Compensation for victims of Canada's discrimination;

- E. on April 3, 2023, the parties announced a revised FSA on compensation totaling \$23.34 billion, which was endorsed by the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly (Resolution 04/2023); and approved by the Federal Court in a Settlement Approval Hearing on October 24, 2023;
- F. AFN resolution 40/2022 'Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families' calls on Canada to ensure Chiefs shall be provided with all available options and related supporting financial resources and materials to ensure First Nations can exercise their Free, Prior and Informed Consent on long-term reforms.
- G. 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:
Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.
Article 7(2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
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 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 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights;
- H. at the direction of the First Nations-in-Assembly, the AFN Social Development Sector has been mandated to advance First Nations control and jurisdiction over social development programs and services as the foundation for the wellbeing of First Nations children, families and communities;
- I. AFN Resolution 40/2022 directed Canada to fund the Assembly of First Nations National Advisory Committee (NAC) on First Nations Child and Family Services Reform and regional and other technical experts to inform the FSA;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



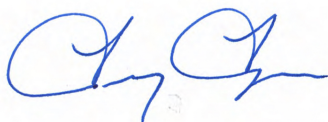
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- J. the Federal Court of Canada, with the approval of the AFN, appointed Stuart Wuttke, Derek Nepinak, Duke Peltier, David Sterns and Robert Kugler to serve on the Settlement Implementation Committee to oversee the implementation of the FSA on Compensation in November 2023;
- K. First Nations have been requested to provide input on the compensation distribution by the end of February 2024 without yet receiving a draft distribution protocol to review, inhibiting the ability to provide free, prior, and informed consent;
- L. AFN Resolution 28/2022 directed for the AFN to return to the AFN First Nations-in-Assembly to provide regular progress reports and seek direction on any outstanding implementation issues;
- M. after signing two Agreements-in-Principle and a Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation, Canada continues a pattern of non-compliance with CHRT orders; and
- N. the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society filed a non-compliance motion against Canada in December of 2023 in response to Canada's repeated failures to fully and completely implement Jordan's Principle.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Assembly of First Nations to ensure that First Nations unceded Title, Rights and sovereignty are acknowledged and upheld in any negotiations related to children and families;
2. the BCAFN Chiefs in Assembly calls on the (AFN) Settlement Implementation Committee to provide the draft compensation distribution protocol prior to consultation, and to extend engagement timelines to allow for thorough consultation with Nations in B.C. and ensure free, prior, and informed consent;
3. the BCAFN Chiefs in Assembly calls on the AFN to immediately share copies of the draft Final Settlement Agreement and the Distribution Protocol and any rolling drafts with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, the National Advisory Committee and Regional Experts on a confidential basis for review and for AFN to meaningfully incorporate their recommendations for change;
4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the federal government to provide funding for regional engagement on the draft compensation distribution protocol to ensure free, prior, and informed consent;

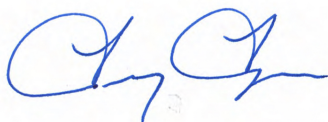
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

5. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the AFN to ensure direction and approval is sought from the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly and the AFN Social Development Sector, and that such direction is adhered to in decision-making regarding long-term reform and compensation distribution; and
6. the BCAFN Chiefs in Assembly fully support the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society's December 2023 Jordan's Principle non-compliance motion, and direct the AFN to fully support the non-compliance motion including in its oral and written submissions.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

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

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 08/2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT FOR PHASE 1 OF THE FIRST NATIONS HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL'S HOUSING FRAMEWORK

MOVED BY: CHIEF DAN MANUEL, UPPER NICOLA BAND

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LYNDA PRICE, ULKATCHO FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Access to adequate and affordable housing is integral to all First Nations peoples' physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Through chronic underfunding, First Nations face unprecedented housing insecurity both on and off reserve and disproportionately represent the unhoused and housing-insecure population in BC and across Canada.
- B. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implementing, affirms:
 - Article 7(1):** Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - Article 21(1):** 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.

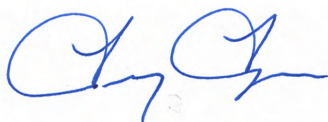
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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.

- C. On March 13 & 14, 2017, the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) hosted the BC Housing and Infrastructure Forum: Moving Forward on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Reform in BC. The purpose of the Forum was to determine a path forward for a First Nations-led authority for housing and infrastructure in the BC region.
- D. [BCAFN Resolution #18/2017](#), [First Nations Summit \(FNS\) Resolution #0618.04](#) and [Union of BC Indian Chiefs \(UBCIC\) Resolution 2018-11](#) entitled, "Support for the BC Assembly of First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Strategy," which mandates support for the recommendations outlined in the BCAFN Housing Forum Report entitled "[Creating a First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Authority: From Concept to Design](#)" which recommends the creation of a First Nations-led housing and infrastructure authority in BC. Through these mandates, the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) was created to work with Rights and Title holders to design and develop a First Nations housing system that better meets the needs of First Nations in BC.
- E. A BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure (BC-CCHI) was formed in 2017 to provide guidance and support from First Nations leadership on advancing First Nations Rights and Interests on issues related to housing and homelessness, including support, direction and governance oversight FNHIC housing and service delivery transfer. Terms of reference were drafted however due to inadequate funding, the BC-CCHI was unable to proceed with its mandate and has since been inactive as a BCAFN-led committee.
- F. BCAFN Resolution #07i/2019 mandates the creation of a BC First Nations Housing Officers Association to be developed by First Nations and community housing experts in coordination with the BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure and FNHIC. In November 2023, the BC First Nations Housing Managers Association was launched by FNHIC to provide education, certification, accreditation and support for First Nations housing managers in BC.
- G. In 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between FNHIC and Canada. It was witnessed by the members of the First Nations Leadership Council comprising the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC, and acknowledged FNHIC's mandate to:
 - a) assume authority and control of First Nations housing and infrastructure program delivery in British Columbia; and
 - b) deliver associated housing and infrastructure services.
- H. In 2023, BCAFN secured funding to advance its mandates related to housing and infrastructure, including multi-year funding to re-launch the BC Chiefs Council on Housing and Infrastructure. The BCAFN seeks to reconvene the committee to advance First Nations rights, advocacy and interests regarding housing and homelessness.

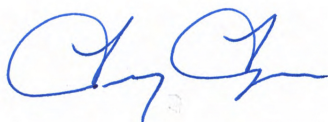
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- I. On October 23 & 24, 2023, BCAFN hosted a two-day Housing Forum to support engagement and dialogue with Chiefs, leadership, technicians and First Nations community members, on issues critical to housing and homelessness including First Nations-led Housing services and program delivery in BC. The forum was widely attended with 185 delegates participating in-person and 175 delegates joining online.
- J. BCAFN produced a What We Heard Report from the 2023 Housing Forum which outlines the key calls to action generated by participants as well as recommendations to advance First Nations' housing and homelessness priorities in BC. The report underscores the importance of recognizing housing as a fundamental human right enshrined in the UN Declaration and outlines recommendations to guide BCAFN's continued advocacy, including support for FNHIC's housing and infrastructure related program and service delivery in BC.
- K. Based on feedback from the housing forum and various engagement sessions with Rights and Title holders since 2017, FNHIC strives to operate through a community-driven model that fosters strong accountability and governance mechanisms.
- L. The FNHIC model incorporates a flexible service and program delivery approach that seeks to align with First Nations worldviews, respecting their inherent self-determination and jurisdiction on housing. First Nations can choose how they opt-in to FNHIC's proposed program and service delivery priorities, including adding or removing components that complement existing and future program and service delivery for their members both on and off reserve.
- M. FNHIC has developed a housing framework to guide a phased implementation of its mandate to assume responsibility and management for First Nations housing and infrastructure program and service delivery in BC.
- N. During phase one of its service delivery, FNHIC aims to provide asset management services to manage First Nations capital assets; a professional building maintenance worker training department; and a First Nations Housing Managers Association to provide First Nations capacity support on housing and infrastructure. The framework also includes strategic direction to guide FNHIC-specialized housing construction and support services for First Nations women and children out of care who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.
- O. FNHIC's proposed Framework seeks a phased approach to a full transfer of service and program delivery. Through each phase, FNHIC seeks to identify a needs-based approach for 'Transfer through Transformation' to cater its program and service delivery for all First Nations in BC. Its proposed phased approach includes:
 - Phase I: Design and implementation of accountable governance models and operational program and service delivery pilots and projects while incorporating transformative strategies to access currently available funding.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Phase II: FNHIC will use the knowledge gained from Phase I for detailed operating and capital costing models including implementation of its advanced capital planning and Asset Management Plan, and a performance management system.

Phase III: FNHIC will seek endorsement from BC First Nations and adequate and sustainable funding for their housing program and delivery model before establishment of a long-term agreement with ISC for the transfer of responsibility for all housing and housing-related infrastructure programs and services in BC.

- P. As of January 2024, FNHIC has received supporting and/or data access Band Council Resolutions from 58 BC First Nations including:

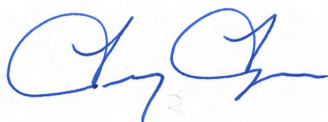
Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw Band, Fort Nelson First Nation, Iskut First Nation, Kitasoo First Nation, K'ómoks First Nation, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Takla Lake First Nation, Kwiahah First Nation, ?Aq'am, Penelakut Tribe, Ts'uubaa-asatx (Lake Cowichan First Nation), Kwikwetlem First Nation, Xwísten (Bridge River Indian Band), Neskonlith Indian Band, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, Skowkale First Nation, Tsal'alh First Nation, Aitchelitz First Nation, Kwakiutl First Nation, Haisla Nation, T'Sou-ke First Nation, Witset First Nation, Semahquam First Nation, Tzeachten First Nation, Ulkatcho First Nation, Malahat First Nation, Cheam First Nation, Namgis First Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, Coldwater Indian Band, Halfway River First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Gitxaala Nation, Tsartlip First Nation, Beecher Bay First Nation, Cook's Ferry First Nation, Songhees Nation, Saik'uz First Nation, Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em First Nation, and Kwiahah First Nation.

- Q. There is a need for a coordinated approach to addressing the housing and homelessness crisis with respect to First Nations' legal orders and traditions, advancing the recognition of the right to adequate housing for First Nations in BC, and advocating for the Crown to uphold the standards of Indigenous self-determination and self-government in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as it relates to housing and infrastructure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the calls to action and recommendations contained within the 2023 Housing Forum What We Heard Report which include calling on all levels of government to:
 - a. acknowledge, affirm and uphold First Nations inherent rights, title and sovereignty with respect to housing, homelessness and related infrastructure;
 - b. recognize housing as a fundamental human right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration);
 - c. ensure housing initiatives are sufficient, accessible, culturally appropriate, and resilient to the impacts of climate change;

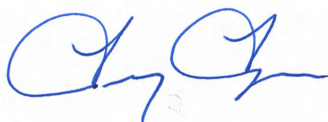
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- d. provide adequate and sustainable resources that provide housing solutions to meet the needs of all First Nations in BC, on and off reserve, so that no individual or community is left behind;
 - e. undertake a holistic and unified approach to addressing the housing and homelessness crisis grounded in free, prior, and informed consent;
 - f. support all First Nations in BC with their unique housing needs including fully supporting and financing FNHIC's Phase 1 for transfer of service and program delivery to the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC), where and when First Nations rights and title holders' consent to the transfer of such responsibility.
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the creation of a Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee that will be incorporated into FNHIC's governance structure and ensure that the program and service delivery transfer process between Indigenous Services Canada and FNHIC are aligned with First Nations housing and infrastructure needs and priorities.
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support and endorse the implementation of Phase 1 of FNHIC's proposed service delivery priorities which include:
 - a. continued development and enhancement of the BC First Nations Housing Managers Association (FNHMA);
 - b. creating an asset management program and asset management pilot projects;
 - c. regional service delivery housing hubs;
 - d. building maintenance worker training resources;
 - e. establishing supportive housing projects that seek to support women and children and eliminate contact with the Ministry of Child and Family Development and;
 - f. advocacy to reverse the overrepresentation of First Nations among Canada's dehousing population.
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that:
 - a. any programs or services must not interfere, impact or infringe on First Nations inherent, constitutionally protected and/or Treaty Rights, or Title;
 - b. any negotiated agreements between FNHIC and Canada must not interfere with Treaty agreements or take away from Canada's fiduciary responsibility to BC First Nations and;
 - c. First Nations may wish to opt-in or out of FNHIC's service and/or program delivery at any time.
5. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support BCAFN & FNHIC to call on all levels of government to provide adequate, sustainable, long-term funding and resources for housing, homelessness, and infrastructure that meet the housing service and programming needs of First Nations in BC that address systemic issues related to housing for First Nations leading to chronically underfunded housing-related operations and maintenance such as renovations in addition to overcrowding, including but not limited to innovative, flexible and regionally appropriate funding approaches before a complete transfer process is fully instituted, and;

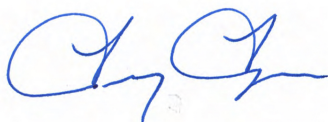
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

6. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon FNHIC to report regularly to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

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

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 09/2024

SUBJECT: CALL TO EXTEND THE SAFE DRINKING WATER SETTLEMENT CLAIM DEADLINE

Moved by: CHIEF LYNDA PRICE, ULKATCHO FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF DAN MANUEL, UPPER NICOLA BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations have historic and ongoing inequitable access to safe drinking water due to the Federal Government's failure to uphold its fiduciary responsibilities to provide First Nations with access to clean drinking water in Canada;
- B. First Nations citizens have the right to reliable and sufficient access to adequate, safe and clean drinking water;
- C. on December 22, 2021, the Federal Courts approved an \$8 billion settlement between Canada and impacted First Nations and their members who were subject to a drinking water advisory that lasted at least one year between November 20, 1995, and June 20, 2021;
- D. the settlement includes a \$1.8 billion compensation to impacted First Nations and an additional \$50 million for eligible First Nations who suffered Specified Injuries due to a drinking water advisory;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

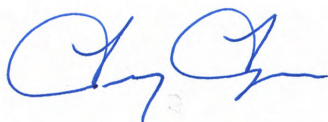
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- E. the Settlement Agreement stipulates that First Nations may not take legal action against the Federal Government for damages resulting in unsafe drinking water in First Nations communities before June 20, 2021.
- F. First Nations' eligibility to submit a claim requires substantive historical documentation and recordkeeping, creating barriers for some First Nations and their membership;
- G. First Nations in BC and across Canada have reported delays in proving eligibility, resulting in inequitable opportunities to submit a claim;
- H. a deadline of March 7, 2024, has been imposed on First Nations and individuals to submit a claim, which may lead to incomplete or unrealized claims, causing further harm to First Nations citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the federal and provincial government to acknowledge, affirm and uphold First Nations inherent rights, title, and sovereignty with respect to source water, drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to request a six-month extension for the Safe Drinking Water Settlement Claim Period to ensure First Nations in British Columbia have adequate time to complete the claims process, and;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the First Nations Drinking Water Settlement Class Counsel and First Nations Drinking Water Settlement Administrator to increase communication and outreach efforts with First Nations in BC over the six-month period to ensure all impacted First Nations are provided an opportunity to receive compensation.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 10/2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR TEA CREEK TO ACCESS FUNDING

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

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LEE SPAHAN, COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

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

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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

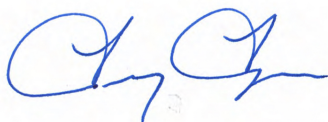
Article 24 (2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

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.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

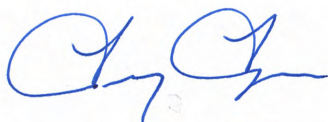


Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

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.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

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

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 11/2024

SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES

MOVED BY: KUKPI7 ROSANNE CASIMIR, TK'EMLUPS TE SEWPEMC

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LYNDA PRICE, ULKATCHO FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. Article 9 of the BCAFN Bylaws establishes the Governance Committee as a standing committee comprised of six (6) individuals all of whom must be member delegates, with an equal number of women and men, and a mix that reflects regional diversity.
- B. The primary function of the Governance Committee is to periodically review and recommend amendments to the Bylaws and Governance Manual, and to consider and advise the Board on governance matters referred to it. In addition, the Governance Committee could be called on to investigate and make recommendations to the Chiefs-in-Assembly if a complaint were ever to be made involving the conduct of the Regional Chief.
- C. It is expected that the Governance Committee will meet 3 to 5 times per year.
- D. At the Annual General Meeting on September 19-21, 2023, the Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted Resolution 29/2023 that ratified the Governance Committee's current terms of reference (the

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

“Terms of Reference”) and appointed the following four (4) individuals to serve until the close of the AGM in 2026 (the **“2023-2026 Governance Committee”**), leaving two vacant positions:

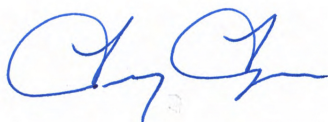
- (i) Chief Ken Watts;
- (ii) Chief Jerry Jack;
- (iii) Chief Victor Issac; and
- (iv) Chief Sid Scotchman.

E. In accordance with section 5.5 of the Terms of Reference, the Chiefs-in-Assembly may by ordinary resolution appoint member delegates to fill the two vacancies, to serve on the Committee until the close of the AGM in 2026.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the following individuals are appointed to the 2023-2026 Governance Committee, to serve until the close of the Annual General Meeting in 2026:
 - a. Chief Judi Thomas; and
 - b. Chief Keith Crow.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 12/2024

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT

Moved BY: CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN INDIAN BAND

SECONDED BY: KUKPI7 LEE SPAHAN, COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

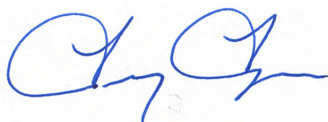
- A. the *Heritage Conservation Act*, RSBC 1996, c 187 (HCA), is founded upon and perpetuates racist colonial worldviews and does not recognize First Nations title and rights, nor does it adequately address the needs and interests of First Nations as it relates to our culture and heritage resources. The regulatory framework provided for in the HCA prevents First Nations from protecting our sacred sites, the sanctity of our belongings and the remains of our ancestors in accordance with our traditional laws and customs;
- B. the Province of BC and the Federal Government, which has no heritage protection, have failed to protect our cultural heritage resources through heritage protection legislation such as the provincial HCA, which has resulted in the widespread destruction of our sacred sites, burial grounds and other significant cultural heritage sites. This legislative failure has left our sacred cultural heritage vulnerable to further threat from development and resource extraction, despite First Nations' consistent calls for years to amend the HCA to better protect our aforementioned resources;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- C. First Nations have the right to practice and revitalize our cultural traditions and customs as an aspect of their inherent right of self-determination, including self-government, as affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) and also as recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- D. the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:
- Article 11:** Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
- Article 12(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
- 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.
- (2):** Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
- (3):** States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.
- Article 27:** States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



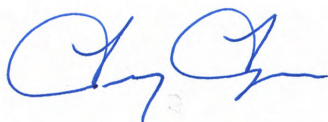
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

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. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supported the creation and the work of the Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (JWGFNHC) by Resolution 02/2008, with the purpose of identifying First Nations issues and concerns, developing options and make recommendations to 1) create a meaningful role for First Nations in provincial heritage conservation; 2) improve the protection and conservation of First Nations heritage sites, cultural property and ancient human remains in BC; and 3) protection for sacred and spiritual sites or areas. One of the areas the JWGFNHC has focused on is the need to update the HCA and associated management regime;
- F. in 2019, the Province of B.C. unanimously passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) committing to implement the UN Declaration, which requires the Province of B.C., in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to take all measures necessary to ensure that the laws of B.C. are consistent with the UN Declaration, and to develop and implement action plans to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration;
- G. by Resolution 25/2021, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly called on the Province of B.C., in partnership with the UBCIC, and the First Nations Summit, working collaboratively as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to engage with BC First Nations and legal experts on additional measures to ensure that all new and existing provincial laws are consistent with the UN Declaration and are developed in consultation, cooperation and collaboration with B.C. First Nations;
- H. the Province of B.C. committed in the 2022 Declaration Act Action Plan (Declaration Action Plan) to work with First Nations to “reform the *Heritage Conservation Act* to align with the UN Declaration including shared decision-making and the protection of First Nations, cultural, spiritual, and heritage sites and objects” (Action 4.35);
- I. First Nations have identified and endorsed by resolution the following key aspects for inclusion in the amended HCA, including but not limited to:
- Enhanced First Nations authority as key decision-makers;
 - Amending privatization and governments giving preferential treatment to land owners;
 - Repatriation of artifacts and the need for repositories in First Nations territories;
 - Increased recognition of title, rights, and ownership of cultural heritage;
 - Amendment of language to clearly reflect First Nations values and rights recognition;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



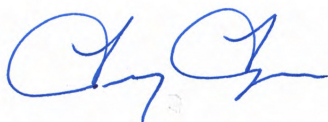
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- Inclusion of intangible cultural heritage, for example, protection of ancestral burial grounds;
 - Elimination of blanket permits given without the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of First Nations;
 - Extending the protection of cultural and heritage sites post 1846;
 - Increased focus on protection of First Nations values, rather than just scientific values;
 - Increased resourcing for public education and for First Nations to develop methods and policies for Training Programs; and
- J. the JWGFNHC, which includes members appointed by the FNLC following engagement with First Nations in 2007, and the Provincial government, has been leading the HCA transformation process (HCATP), guided by the mandate established by resolutions of BC First Nations and other inputs provided through engagement; and
- K. efforts were made to develop a near-term package of legislative amendments which would be the first phase of incremental transformation of the HCA, and these legislative amendments were presented to First Nations and stakeholders in fall 2023. As described in “What We Heard” reports, First Nations participants shared that the near-term package was insufficient to ensure full alignment with the UN Declaration and the mandate previously established by resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly rejects an incremental approach to the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) reform and calls for a comprehensive transformation of the HCA, consistent with the UN Declaration, to be developed for a future legislative session in order to ensure that the mandate established by resolution, the feedback received from First Nations including in the “What We Heard Reports”, and the standards of the UN Declaration are all integrated;
2. the BCAFN Chiefs directs the Regional Chief to work with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and First Nations Summit, together as the First Nations Leadership Council, and the Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation, in leading an overhaul of the HCA to ensure it is consistent with the UN Declaration; and
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of B.C. to consult and cooperate with title and rights holders in the process of HCA transformation to ensure it is consistent with the UN Declaration, and affirm and uphold First Nations' unceded inherent rights and sovereignty with respect to heritage conservation, and to report to First Nations about how their feedback has been substantively addressed in legislative materials.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 13/2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE B.C. FIRST NATIONS CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY

Moved by: CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN INDIAN BAND

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALALT FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. since time immemorial, First Nations have been the keepers and caretakers of the traditional and ecological knowledge and laws arising from their intimate and ongoing connection to their territories and resources, including air, land and waters;
- B. it is essential to ensure that any limitations or barriers stemming from the long and troubled relationship between the Crown and First Nations are dismantled and that any restraints on the exercise of First Nations' jurisdiction to manage and care for their territories and resources are promptly removed;
- C. a First Nations driven and led critical minerals strategy will contribute to amplifying First Nations' perspectives, approaches and voices;
- D. all minerals are critical minerals, including their elemental constituents and raw materials they comprise;
- E. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., committed 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 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

(2) Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

(3) States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

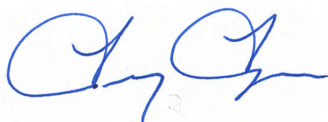
Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

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 resource.

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;

- F. the massive push to reduce the rate of global warming and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 is poised to transform the Canadian economy with the extraction of critical minerals on First Nations lands;
- G. mining activities are forecast to increase substantially with the construction of electricity generation and transmission of infrastructure to support critical minerals projects;
- H. in December 2022 the government of Canada, led by Natural Resources Canada, released the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy and in January 2024 the government of B.C. released "phase 1" of a provincial critical minerals strategy;
- I. the Government of Canada's budget 2022 indicated that to build a net-zero economy by 2050 in Canada, between \$125 billion and \$140 billion per year in investments is required from the

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

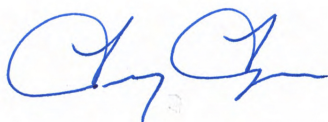
public and private sectors, and in B.C. the majority of critical mineral investments will be for the construction of mines, mineral processing facilities, the manufacturing of electric vehicles and electronic devices, and for battery storage facilities located on or within unceded First Nations territories;

- J. a First Nations critical minerals strategy has been developed by the B.C. First Nations Energy and Mining Council (“FNEMC”) under the guidance, assistance and input of First Nations leadership and members in B.C., and their various technical supports;
- K. from October 2023 to January 2024, the B.C. First Nation Energy and Mining Council hosted four province-wide online Indigenous peoples webinars with contributions from Natural Resources Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, and the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), with support from critical minerals and subject matter experts from academia, industry and the financial sector. The perspectives, approaches and instructions provided by First Nations leadership and members and technical supports were incorporated into the First Nations Critical Minerals Strategy;
- L. commencing September 2023, the government of B.C. began engagement with FNEMC on developing a process to align critical mineral strategies;
- M. inclusion of the government of Canada in a tripartite process with the government of B.C. and FNEMC is required for achieving an effective alignment that is consistent with the UN Declaration and the inherent and constitutional rights of First Nations;
- N. the governments of Canada and B.C. have established a B.C. regional table to develop an action plan to align resources, timelines and regulatory approaches to realize regional growth economic opportunities including critical minerals, clean fuels and hydrogen, carbon management, and electrification required for mineral extraction and processing and for infrastructure projects;
- O. FNEMC is prepared to facilitate further discussions with the governments of Canada and B.C., and title and rights holders to ensure First Nations lands, laws and values are protected and upheld in activities contemplated in Crown and First Nations critical minerals strategies; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supports and endorses the B.C. First Nations Critical Minerals Strategy prepared by the First Nations Energy and Mining Council through engagement with First Nations in B.C. and sectoral experts;

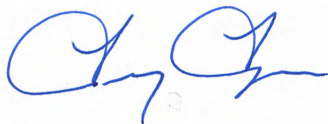
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the First Nations Energy and Mining Council to report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly with updates and an implementation strategy; and
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the governments of Canada and B.C. to support discussions with First Nations right holders who hold title and rights and sovereignty to unceded lands in B.C. to seek alignment between Crown and First Nation critical mineral strategies.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 14/2024

**SUBJECT: MODEL FOR MULTILATERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FUNDING
NEGOTIATIONS**

Moved BY: CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN INDIAN BAND

SECONDED BY: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

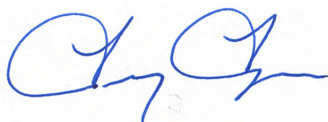
- A. in 2017, a 10-year bilateral Emergency Management Service Agreement was signed between Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and B.C.;
- B. in 2015 Canada and in 2018 British Columbia endorsed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its four priorities including understanding disaster risk, strengthening risk governance, investing in risk reduction and resilience, enhancing disaster preparedness, building back better in recovery, and rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- C. the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) working with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) entered into a tripartite memorandum of understanding (the MOU) in 2019 with the Government of Canada (represented by ISC), and the government of British Columbia (represented by Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and B.C. Wildfire Service (BCWS)) for the purpose of working collectively to advance meaningful recognition and enhanced capacity of First Nations within all pillars of emergency management (i.e., preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery);

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- D. by Resolution 10/2023, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supported Canada and B.C. expanding the Bilateral Agreement to a new trilateral agreement with First Nations in B.C., for the purposes of ensuring satisfactory, effective and equitable funding and resourcing within the four pillars of emergency management in First Nations communities by December 2022;
- E. by Resolution 10/2023 the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the Regional Chief, working with the UBCIC and FNS, as the FNLC, to engage with First Nations in B.C. and provide possible negotiation models for First Nations consideration in order for First Nations to engage in negotiation with Canada and British Columbia on the new trilateral agreement, and further directed the Regional Chief to report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly with a final negotiation model for consideration;
- F. 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:
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;
- G. in accordance with resolutions endorsed by the Chiefs, the FNLC, ISC and EMCR are working towards a new multilateral agreement and began developing a framework and information sharing in November 2023. On January 31, 2024, the FNLC hosted an All Chiefs Meeting on First Nations involvement in negotiations on a new multilateral agreement for emergency management where they discussed a three phased approach;
- H. a dedicated working group that represents the interests of First Nations in B.C. , including flood, forest fire, sea level rise and earthquake, is required to engage with ISC and EMCR towards creating a new multilateral agreement on emergency management. The team will need to consist of knowledgeable individuals who have a deep understanding of emergency management, climate change, First Nations title and rights, negotiations and multilateral processes;
- I. a discussion paper was circulated in advance, presented and discussed at the All Chiefs meeting, providing collaborative models for consideration:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



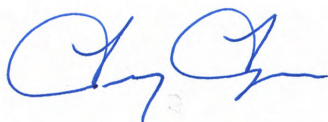
Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- Collaborative FNLC representatives: individuals from the FNLC organizations including appointed leaders and technical experts who possess the necessary expertise, knowledge and experience to effectively represent the interests of First Nations in B.C.
 - Specialized Chief Negotiator: as an alternative approach, we could consider hiring a Chief Negotiator who specializes in emergency management and negotiation fields.
 - Other: open for discussion;
- J. delegates at the All Chiefs meeting expressed a strong preference for a collaborative model that includes participation from expert First Nations leadership and emphasized the need for capacity to move the work forward;
- K. delegates discussed immediate needs for the negotiating team to advance, and agreed that there is a need for ISC to provide funding to bands for Emergency Management Coordinators, funding for backlogged mitigation projects, and a need for existing Community Emergency Preparedness Funding to go directly to First Nations (not the Union of B.C. Municipalities). Subsequent phases include achieving a high-level overarching rights-based framework, inclusion of key partners and implementation of critical recommendations by 2025. By 2026, the third phase will include full recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over emergency management services, with a goal of achieving agreement and implementation by 2026; and
- L. climate emergencies are increasing for remote Indigenous communities, yet the federal government is still more reactive than preventative when responding to them, despite First Nations communities identifying many infrastructure projects to mitigate the impact of emergencies. For every dollar spent on preparedness and mitigation, six dollars can be saved in emergency response; the work to conclude the multilateral negotiations must be swift.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supports the creation of a First Nations collaborative negotiation team comprised of three (3) First Nations Leadership Council representatives along with six (6) expert First Nations leadership and technical support for a total of nine (9) First Nations representatives, to enter into the multilateral emergency management services funding negotiations with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) in order to create multilateral funding and policy models that First Nations can use immediately as an absolute minimum, or draw down on to enter into their own tripartite negotiation tables with ISC and EMBC;
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly appoints the following two (2) emergency management experts from the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly to participate on the working group alongside the three (3) FNLC representatives, two (2) FNS representatives and two (2) UBCIC representatives:
 - Judy Wilson

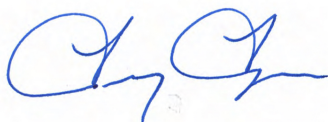
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- Chief Arnold Lampreau
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly supports a phased negotiation model to be led by the negotiation team including (1) immediate needs and economic analysis; (2) high-level overarching rights-based framework including funding for rights holders; and (3) achieving full recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over emergency management service by 2026;
 4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly identifies the following as phase 1 priorities: ISC and/or EMCR to provide adequate, predictable, sustainable funding directly to First Nations for Emergency Management Coordinators, funding for urgent backlogged mitigation projects, and existing Community Emergency Preparedness funding to go directly to First Nations (not the Union of B.C. Municipalities or any other third party);
 5. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on ISC and EMCR to provide capacity funding for the multilateral negotiation team and to recognize that there may be need for capacity for sub working groups;
 6. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the provincial and federal government to acknowledge, affirm and uphold First Nations' unceded inherent rights and sovereignty with respect to our lands and waters including emergency management; and
 7. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN representatives to the multilateral negotiation team to report back on progress on a regular basis at Chiefs in-Assembly and via monthly written updates or virtual meetings as needed and to seek regular input from the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly or BCAFN Board of Directors as the negotiation framework progresses. Near final positions/versions must be shared with Chiefs for review and endorsement before being signed off by the three parties.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 15/2024

SUBJECT: PROTECTION FOR THE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL AND ITS OLD-GROWTH HABITAT

Moved by: CHIEF JERRY JACK, MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LYNDA PRICE, ULKATCHO FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations in B.C. have inherent title, rights, and jurisdiction to our respective territories, and, as the original caretakers of these territories, we continue to exercise our laws and jurisdiction to protect and steward the environment, lands and waters;
- B. the logging and harvesting of old-growth forests have significantly impacted the habitat and population of the spotted owl through a reduction in suitable nesting and foraging areas resulting in the decline of the owl population in B.C.;
- C. the spotted owl is part of the unique biodiversity and traditional territories of First Nations, particularly the Nlaka'pamux community of Spô'zêm (Spuzzum) First Nation in the Fraser Canyon;
- 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:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Article 26(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories, and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

(3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

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.

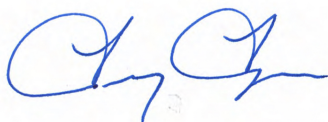
Article 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards;

- E. the current population of spotted owls living in the wild is one. The historic population is estimated to have been 500 pairs, indicating there is currently insufficient protected habitat to support the owl's recovery;
- F. clear cut logging continues in old-growth forests and there are 295 approved and pending cut blocks located within spotted owl habitat even as the province is consulting on its draft framework on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health and old-growth action plan; and
- G. by Resolution 23/2023 "Support for the Draft Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation", the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly called upon the Regional Chief to ensure that First Nations are full partners in the identification of areas for conservation and protection and in habitat enhancement and restoration initiatives as well as ensuring that First Nations are full partners in any planning and decision-making processes, including for land use and species at risk protection and recovery.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the governments of Canada and B.C. to permanently protect all remaining critical spotted owl habitat as is interpreted by First Nations throughout the Canadian range in southwest B.C., ensuring enough protected forest to accommodate a self-sustaining population of 250 spotted owls; and

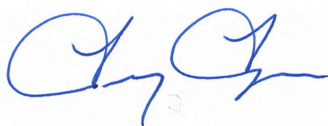
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief and BCAFN staff to work with like-minded organizations in calling on the Province of B.C. to immediately protect the spotted owl population and old-growth habitat; and
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Provincial and Federal Governments to acknowledge and uphold the unceded, inherent title, rights and sovereignty of First Nations in relation to species at risk and old growth habitat.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

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

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

BCAFN 20th ANNUAL SPECIAL CHIEFS MEETING
March 7 & 8, 2024
Online via Zoom

Resolution 16/2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS OF MMIWG2S+

Moved BY: CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN INDIAN BAND

SECONDED BY: CHIEF LEE SPAHAN, COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

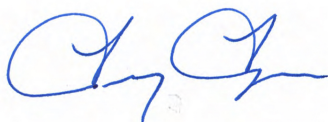
- A. First Nations communities in British Columbia are disproportionately affected by violence, domestic violence and gender-based violence (GBV), the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girl, and Two-Spirit+ crisis (MMIWG2S+), and ongoing genocide rooted in colonialism. The issue is so pervasive that it is not uncommon for Indigenous people in all walks of life to have experienced the loss of a relative to violence;
- B. The Province of British Columbia has the unfortunate claim to being the home of the Highway of Tears, Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, and the Robert Pickton case, all of which are notorious sites of brutal systemic GBV against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+1 peoples. The families and survivors of these and other sites of violence represent a diverse group who are bound together by tragedy and missteps of justice who are too often excluded from decision-making spaces. They are owed every effort and ultimate respect;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- 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:*
- a. Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - b. (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.
 - c. Article 22(1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
 - d. (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;
- D. Five years after the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (the National Inquiry) published the Calls for Justice on June 3, 2019, the MMIWG2S+ crisis continues to cause immense and immeasurable harm to families, friends, and entire communities whose loved ones are taken by perpetrators of GBV;
- E. The Final Report of the National Inquiry reveals the persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses as a root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;
- F. The National Inquiry's Calls for Justice, "Red Woman Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside", and Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report clearly outline discrimination against families of MMIWG2S+ and provide concrete actionable recommendations and a clear path to creating systemic change and ending violence by calling on government in the areas of culture, human security, health, and justice; on industries, institutions, service providers and partners, including the media, health providers, transportation and hospitality providers, educators, social workers, extractive industries, police services, and justice actors; and the Canadian public;
- G. Mandated by the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly to continue this work via Resolutions 10h/2017, 01/2018, 03d/2018, 16/2018, 07g/2019, 21a/2019, 11/2020 (SCA), and 06/2020; has worked to address issues of missing Indigenous people and GBV and to advocate for the implementation of the Calls for Justice;
- H. The justice system and police are failing to protect Indigenous people and prevent violence. In cases of missing Indigenous people or violence towards Indigenous people, police

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

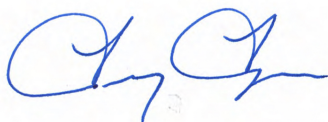
regularly discriminate and demonstrate apathy, jurisdictional disorganization, mismanagement and miscommunication, and perpetuate centuries of mistrust between Indigenous people and the police. These gaps in the justice system are regularly filled by families, advocates and First Nations without institutional support;

- I. When a loved one goes missing and justice authorities are resistant to acting swiftly, family members and First Nations respond to organize and carry out complex missing person searches without resources, access to investigative technologies, financial assistance or organizational capacity during a period of profound distress and trauma;
- J. This family and community-led advocacy is typically undervalued, unpaid, under-resourced, is deeply (re)traumatizing, and can have a profound impact on the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being for individuals and entire communities alike;
- K. Long after the initial murder or disappearance of a loved one, families often assume a lifetime of advocacy for GBV prevention, justice reform, government accountability and commit themselves to filling the deep systemic gaps which perpetuate the MMIWG2S+ crisis. The unrelenting dedication of families and survivors ensures that lost relatives are not forgotten, that justice is sought, and that the issue remains front of mind for decision-makers and authorities;
- L. The provincial and federal policy and legislative work on GBV prevention is taking place within various provincial and federal Ministries; however, a lack of coordination between Ministries and across levels of government is creating silos and is weakening the response to the MMIWG2S+ crisis; and
- M. The will of families and survivors must guide how government and justice authorities address GBV prevention work across sectors. Failure to center families and survivors and to acknowledge their lived experience will further harm those who have already suffered so much.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports families and survivors of gender-based violence and those who have lost loved ones to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ people;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on grassroots, frontline, Indigenous, and advocacy organizations doing good work to address gender-based violence:
 - to take a rights-based, gender-based analysis plus, trauma-informed and culturally safe approach when working with families and survivors;

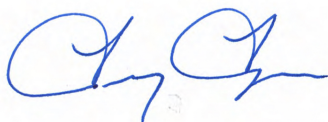
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

- to ensure that families and survivors are engaged on key Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ initiatives;
 - and for the expansion of programming to provide psychosocial and cultural healing support services as well as search supports for families responding to the disappearance of a loved one;
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly calls on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada, and the police and RCMP:
- to take a rights-based, gender-based analysis plus, trauma-informed and culturally safe approach when working with families and survivors;
 - to ensure families and survivors are consulted and fully involved at decision-making tables pertaining to gender-based violence prevention and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ crisis;
 - to work across Ministries and between governments to advance Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ advocacy;
 - to increase resourcing for psychosocial and cultural healing support services and capacity supports to families for missing person searches; and
 - to fund First Nations women's organizations that uphold First Nations, family and survivor rights; and
4. Finally, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN Regional Chief, BCAFN Women's Representative and BCAFN Staff to work with like-minded organizations to advance and uphold the dignity and rights of family members and survivors of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ crisis.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

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

Resolution 17/2024

SUBJECT: CALL FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE UN DECLARATION

Moved BY: CHIEF DON TOM, TSARTLIP FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF DALTON SILVER, SUMAS FIRST NATION

DECISION: CARRIED

- A. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its Final Report, including 94 Calls to Action, which state:
- Call to Action #43: We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the UN Declaration as the framework for reconciliation.
 - Call to Action #47: We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.
- B. Following the release of the TRC's Calls to Action, both Canada and BC committed to fully commit, adopt and apply the UN Declaration, taking steps to acknowledge and recognize its legally binding nature through the enactment of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SBC 2019, c 44 (the Declaration Act), and the federal *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SC 2021, c 14, which requires all laws in Canada and British Columbia to align with the UN Declaration;
- C. On March 30, 2022, the Government of British Columbia released its Action Plan, developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, as required by section 4 of the

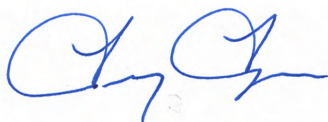
Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Declaration Act. The Action Plan identifies goals and outcomes that form the long-term vision for the implementation of the UN Declaration in the province;

- D. Under the delegated authority in Canadian law, specifically the *Community Charter, Vancouver Charter* and *Local Government Act*, municipal governments may take administrative measures that affect Indigenous peoples and their inherent rights;
- E. Local governments play a significant role in the lives of Indigenous peoples (land use planning, environmental protection, emergency planning, economic development, delivery of services, with related impacts on housing, the drug poisoning crises, policing and safety); however, not all municipalities in BC have taken action to adopt and implement the UN Declaration, as required by the Declaration Act, and there remain disagreements over what obligations municipalities owe to First Nations;
- F. The UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification and has, alongside the government of BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:
- 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 5:** Indigenous people have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
- Article 10:** Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.
- 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 26: (1)** Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired. **(2)** Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired. **(3)** States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

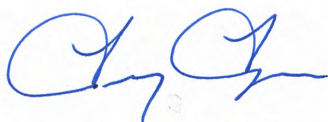
Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the right of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process;

- G. There is an urgent need to review, clarify and deepen First Nations relationships with municipal governments and for municipalities to revise their policies, practices, and approaches to governance to recognize and implement the UN Declaration and an inclusive and distinctions-based approach in its dealings with Indigenous peoples; and
- H. Meaningful implementation of the UN Declaration requires municipal governments to, among other things, obtain the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples through their own respective institutions, combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination, take effective and special measures to ensure continuing improvement of the economic and social conditions of Indigenous peoples, and establish and implement assistance programs for Indigenous peoples to preserve and protect the environment and the protective capacity of their territories.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the provincial and federal governments to explicitly legislate requirements for municipalities to implement the UN Declaration, affirm and uphold First Nations' unceded, inherent title, rights and sovereignty in BC and to strengthen accountability measures to ensure local governments are taking all measures necessary to meet the minimum standards of the UN Declaration and are reporting on such actions and their work in consultation and cooperation with First Nations of the territories where they exist;
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on municipal governments to strengthen unique First Nation-municipal relations, to continuously work in consultation and cooperation with First Nations in BC, and to uphold and implement the UN Declaration as required by the Declaration Act; and
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly instructs the BCAFN Regional Chief and the BCAFN staff to develop a toolkit, in partnership with the UBCIC and the FNS as the FNLC to guide the implementation of the UN Declaration within a municipal framework.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March 2024



Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief