



NATIVE COURTWORKER
AND COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS**



**FIRST
NATIONS
SUMMIT**



**UNION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
INDIAN CHIEFS**

May 16, 2017

NOTICE OF POSITION:

MEMBER OF BC ABORIGINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

Applications are being sought from persons interested in participating as a member of the BC Aboriginal Justice Council. The Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC (NCCABC), BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), First Nations Summit (FNS), and Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) are seeking to fill 1 Vacancy for the remainder of the current term ending on July 14, 2018.

Background

During May 14-16, 2007, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), and First Nations Summit (FNS), working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) held the BC First Nations Justice Forum to provide an opportunity for First Nations to collaborate and provide a collective approach to address key issues and concerns that First Nations face with the justice system in BC. A draft BC First Nations Justice Action Plan (the “Justice Action Plan”) was subsequently developed which outlined a vision, goals and principles for changes in the administration of the justice system. It was distributed to all BC First Nations and final comments were requested by June 8, 2007. A revised action plan was then presented to the UBCIC, FNS and BCAFN assemblies and mirror resolutions were passed supporting its implementation (UBCIC Resolution no.2007-25, FNS Resolution #0907.13, BCAFN Resolution 8/2007). Resolutions were passed by the three assemblies (UBCIC Resolution no.2007-24, FNS Resolution #0907.14, BCAFN Resolution 9/2007) supporting “the concept of a representative and inclusive BC First Nations Justice Council to address province-wide matters with respect to the issues of First Nations justice.

In 2013, the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC (NCCABC) developed the *Social Justice Policy Platform and Strategic Plan*, which included a commitment to create a BC Aboriginal Justice Council (the “Justice Council”). In October of 2013, the NCCABC’s board approved a strategic direction described in “Better Outcomes for Aboriginal People and the Justice System: An NCCABC Strategy Framework to Reduce the Overrepresentation of Aboriginal Children, Youth and Adults in the Child Protection and Criminal Justice System in BC”. This strategy framework was provided to the Ministry of Justice and was cited in the B.C. Justice and Public Safety Council’s Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector as a core document informing their planning.



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In 2014, NCCABC re-initiated work with the First Nations Leadership Council to set up the Justice Council. Resolutions were passed by the FNS, UBCIC, and BCAFN at their respective assemblies (UBCIC Resolution 2010-40, FNS Resolution #1014.09, BCAFN Resolution 04(c)/2014) reaffirming their support of a BC Aboriginal Justice Council. The three resolutions directed their respective Executive and staff to work with each other and the NCCABC toward establishing the BC Aboriginal Justice Council as outlined in the 2007 BC First Nations Justice Action Plan and:

- Appoint an interim technical team to provide support to the BC Aboriginal Justice Council; and
- Support an interim technical team to secure federal and provincial funding for the BC Aboriginal Justice Council.

The Terms of Reference were endorsed through resolutions by each of the political organizations (BCAFN Resolution 05(e)/2014, FNS Resolution #0215.09, UBCIC Resolution 2015-02), and approved by the board of the NCCABC.

Purpose

The BC Aboriginal Justice Council is a multi-agency leadership initiative that convenes regularly, and prioritizes actions, and utilizes the NCCABC “Social Justice Policy Platform and Strategic Plan”, “Better Outcomes for Aboriginal People and the Justice System: A Strategy Framework to Reduce the Overrepresentation of Aboriginal Children, Youth and Adults in the Child Protection and Criminal Justice System in BC”, and the “BC First Nations Justice Plan” as its documented foundation for action. The Justice Council aims to:

- Challenge approaches that contribute to the growing overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and youth in the care of government, and Aboriginal men and women in incarceration; and
- Productively engage with the government to advance effective strategies that can achieve better outcomes for our people in the justice system.

Priorities

Building upon the resolutions of the BCAFN, UBCIC and FNS, and by the Board of Directors of the NCCABC, the goals and priorities of the BC Aboriginal Justice Council include the following:

- Identify the policy and program changes and resource realignments required to address the magnitude of issues contributing to the disproportionate patterns of children and youth in care and incarceration of Aboriginal people;
- Hold the BC Government responsible and accountable to engage respectfully and work with the BC Aboriginal Justice Council on concrete strategies and actions to direct meaningful, fundamental change in these systems resulting in an “Integrated Aboriginal Justice System” which has also been identified by the BC government in their “*Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector*” (2014) as priority.



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Membership

- The Justice Council is composed of 7 individuals:
 - One (1) representative from the NCCABC.
 - One (1) representative appointed by each of the respective political organizations of the FNS, UBCIC, and BCAFN, according to their own protocol and accord of appointments, for a total of three (3) representatives.
 - Three (3) representatives with the required eligibility, skills and qualifications, personal attributes and expertise, as described in the sections below are jointly appointed by the respective organizations of the NCCABC, BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC.
- The Justice Council Chairperson is selected by the Council and is responsible for chairing meetings, and working with NCCABC staff to arrange meetings, prepare agendas, and report on progress in accordance with section 6.
- The Justice Council members are appointed for a fixed term of no more than three years.

Required Skills and Qualifications

- Expertise in the justice system as it impacts Aboriginal people on or off reserve
- Knowledge of Aboriginal and government issues in BC
- Knowledge and understanding of roles and responsibilities of a member on a council, board, or other governing body
- Experience in how Aboriginal justice intersects with other Aboriginal sectors, which may include:
 - Health
 - Children and families
 - Education
- Leadership experience and proven capacity to work collaboratively- this might be from a variety of settings such as Band level, justice system, academic, etc.

Personal Attributes

- High ethical standards and integrity in professional and personal dealings
- Appreciation of accountability to the public
- Ability and willingness to raise/deal with potentially controversial issues in a manner that encourages/maintains dialogue
- Commitment to work from a non-biased perspective promoting equality for women and men
- Flexibility, responsiveness and willingness to consider others' opinions
- Capable of wide perspective on issues
- Ability to listen and work as a team member
- No direct or indirect conflict of interest with a member's responsibility to the organization
- Strong reasoning skills



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Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be of Aboriginal ancestry and currently reside in British Columbia
- Have experience in Aboriginal justice
- Be willing and prepared to attend 4 regular meetings annually and one possible province-wide forum on Aboriginal justice issues, and be willing to participate in sub-committees of the BC Aboriginal Justice Council

Reporting and Accountability

- The Justice Council is accountable to all Aboriginal people in BC. The Justice Council reports to, and takes direction from, the NCCABC, BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC through regularly-scheduled meetings with the NCCABC and the First Nations Leadership Council and the assemblies of its member organizations.
- The Justice Council will develop a communication plan to inform Aboriginal people and the BC public, of its ongoing work.

Time Commitment

The Justice Council meets as required, no less than four times per year. These meetings take place in-person or via teleconference, dependent on resourcing. The Justice Council will seek funding to hold an annual province-wide forum on Aboriginal Justice issues.

Application Process

The deadline for interested applicants to submit a resume and cover letter stating their qualifications is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday May 31st, 2017.

Please submit to:

Attention:

“Notice of Position”

Darlene Shackelly, Executive Director

Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC

207-1999 Marine Drive

North Vancouver, BC V7P 3J3

Via email: dshackelly@nccabc.net

Please contact Darlene Shackelly if you would like copies of any of the documents referenced in this notice. We welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds.