



**BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society**

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**TO: BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**  
**FROM: BC ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE SOCIETY**  
**DATE: February 27, 2018**  
**RE: First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Framework Implementation**

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## **PURPOSE**

As required by BCAFN Resolution 14/2017, to update Chiefs on the progress of First Nations and Indigenous ELCC framework development—and to support the assertion of First Nations leadership and authority with BC and Canada.

## **BACKGROUND**

By resolution #83-2017 the National Chiefs in Assembly endorsed the National First Nations ELCC Policy Framework “as a basis to support federal approval of the National Indigenous ELCC Framework.” By memorandum to cabinet, the federal government is soon to consider and approve the framework and its implementation beginning April, 2018.

Framework implementation is mandated by AFN Chiefs nationally to be co-developed by way of the continuing co-development work of the National ELCC Working Group of the Assembly of First Nations.

Regionally, a process both of advocacy for more and better ELCC supports for First Nations communities sits alongside one of the development of First Nations ELCC governance by which to empower nations and communities and direct national processes of ELCC governance transformation. The province of British Columbia has expressed a willingness to participate and partner with First Nations in developing this area of social policy governance.

First Nations leadership is vital and necessary to formalize certain implementation processes with BC so as to make concrete First Nations authority, direction and leadership in ELCC policy governance.

Regionally, the province has required leadership mechanisms be put in place by which to develop First Nations governance (pursuant to UNDRIP) in ELCC policy development.

Nationally, as federal processes of transformation loom nearer, First Nations leadership support of IELCC framework processes is required to hold the federal government to its commitments to IELCC pursuant to their nation-to-nation and UNDRIP commitments.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

With the federal government at a key juncture with respect to commitments to First Nations rights nationally to control and direct key First Nations child and family supports, and the provincial government's acknowledgement of the need for an "Indigenous-led" ELCC process regionally, it is vital to ensure the necessary First Nations political mechanisms are in place for BC First Nations to lead and meaningfully participate in First Nations-led ELCC framework implementation.

In this context, and in continuing to work to fulfill its mandate in the work of national and regional IELCC framework implementation, BCACCS recommends the following concrete actions by BCAFN without delay:

- 1) In collaboration with the First Nations Leadership Council, formalize an agreement in the form of an MOU with the province for First Nations ELCC framework implementation that will include full funding of First Nations capacity supports for ELCC governance development in addition to decision-making in relation to improvements and enhancements to ELCC service delivery and planning;
- 2) To ensure federal government follow-through on its IELCC commitments, BC Regional Chief work through the national AFN executive committee to assert the priority and urgency of First Nations ELCC governance support and development through the AFN ELCC National Working Group, including providing requisite capacity supports—*separate from* new program funding—for ELCC framework capacity development at local, regional and national levels, subject to First Nations assessments of need and ongoing direction.

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