



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Merritt, BC
March 7 & 8, 2019

Resolution 07(a)/2019

SUBJECT: CALL FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY ON CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ORGANIZED CRIME, MONEY LAUNDERING AND THE OPIOID AND AFFORDABILITY CRISES

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

WHEREAS:

- A. British Columbia has experienced an unprecedented opioid crisis with direct connections to money laundering, organized crime, and the real estate market as reported by CBC, Global News, CTV, and the Provincial government;
- B. a Global News investigation shows criminal syndicates that control chemical factories in China are shipping narcotics, including fentanyl, to Vancouver, and are responsible for laundering the drug sales in British Columbia's casinos and high-priced real estate, and transferring laundered funds back to Chinese factories to repeat this deadly trade cycle. Regulators believe approximately \$1.7 billion from 2013 to 2017 has flowed through special B.C. Lottery Corp. high-roller accounts, with large amounts funded by loan sharks and criminal bank drafts;
- C. the First Nations Health Authority's report, *Overdose Data and First Nations in BC Preliminary Findings*, revealed that First Nations people are five times more likely than non-First Nations to experience an overdose event, and three times more likely than non-First Nations to die due to an overdose;
- D. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the Governments of British Columbia and Canada have adopted without qualification and have committed to implement, affirms:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 8th day of March, 2019, at NVIT, Merritt, BC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Teegee".

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

Article 21(1): Indigenous people 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. **(2):** States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities; and

- E. a growing number of voices, organizations, and institutions recognize that a public inquiry into the connections between organized crime, the opioid crisis, money laundering and real estate is the best way to learn the truth about a crisis that has claimed thousands of lives, and which has made B.C. the most unaffordable province to live in Canada for First Nations people.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports a public inquiry into the connections between organized crime, money laundering and the opioid and real estate crises;
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief to work with like-minded organizations to call on the Provincial government to order a comprehensive public inquiry that will result in clear plans and action to address and rectify the disproportionate number of First Nations impacted by the opioid drug trade;
3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief to write a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Finance, and the BC Attorney General, communicating UBCIC's support for a public inquiry, and to request the terms of reference for this Public Inquiry include:
 1. An investigation modelled after the Charbonneau Commission in Quebec that can work alongside other police investigations to get to the bottom of the crisis;
 2. Investigate money laundering in Vancouver real estate that may have deepened the city's housing affordability crisis; and
 3. Investigate links between organized crime, money laundering, and the overdose opioid poisoning crisis, which resulted in the deaths of nearly 1,500 people across BC in 2018; and
4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly recognizes that the Opioid Overdose Crisis constitutes a state of emergency that imperils the health and welfare of First Nations, and fully supports the strategies and efforts of First Nation communities to address this crisis, including the planned First Nations Opioid Conference, "Opioids: Wiping the Tears. Healing the Pain," that will be held in Tsuut'ina Territory May 6-7, 2019 to outline a clear pathway of actions and recommendations for First Nations coping with and remedying the crisis.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief