



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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

Resolution 07(c)/2019

SUBJECT: CALL ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT COMMUNITY BASED COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIGENOUS URBAN AND OFF RESERVE CITIZENS (INCLUDING NON-STATUS AND NON-AFFILIATED)

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

WHEREAS:

- A. The Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS), administered by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), is set to evolve into the Indigenous Skills Employment and Training Program (ISETP) on April 1, 2019 to address employment and training services under a distinct society approach for First Nations, Metis, Inuit and Urban citizens across Canada;
- B. the BC ASETS agreement holders have historically served urban Indigenous citizens (non-status, status and non-affiliated) in urban, rural and on-reserve settings to improve employment outcomes and thereby have provided funded and non-funded services for all Indigenous citizens;
- C. The First Nations affiliated with the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association (PGNAETA) endorse the Urban Aboriginal Working Group model for community collaboration hosted by PGNAETA in which all Indigenous service organizations work together to ensure access to one-stop-shopping models for customized, culturally-appropriate labour market services.
- D. the *UN 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 peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their social and economic conditions, including inter alia, in the areas of education, employment and vocational training, and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

(2) States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvements 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.

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 programs affecting them, and as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions;

- E. discussions informing new urban approaches relevant to BC must encompass and support culturally appropriate delivery of services and labour market programs in British Columbia through a multi-stakeholder, community-driven approach focused on preparing and linking Urban Indigenous citizens to the labour market;
- F. there is currently only one ISET holder considered for funding under the urban and non-affiliated stream however all ISETS have historically served urban and non-affiliated indigenous citizens;
- G. it is expected there will continue to be an increase of the population of First Nations urban and non-affiliated citizens due to Bill S-3, migration, and increasing birth rates; and
- H. First Nations ISETS in British Columbia want the opportunity to receive consideration for the urban non-affiliated funding stream for community-based approaches designed by individual ISET agreement holders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to communicate to Employment and Social Development Canada their support for a new approach to the administration of the urban non-affiliated resources in British Columbia; and
2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to notify the federal government of their support for community collaborative approaches to service delivery in British Columbia. Locally administered Programs and services must be linked to the needs of the First Nations labour force and Urban/off reserve and non-affiliated Indigenous citizens through culturally relevant and impactful existing service mechanisms.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief