



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(f)/2019

SUBJECT: RIGHT TO ACCESS INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND TRADE

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DECISION:

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations individuals residing on reserve, employees of Indian Bands and Indian Band owned businesses, along with Indian Bands as a collective entity, have been held separate and excluded from full enjoyment and benefit of the national and international economy;
- B. this exclusion is considered a form of economic discrimination by limiting the access of First Nations to international markets;
- C. First Nations consider international trade to be part of their inherent right, recognizing as part of their pre-colonial culture, millennia of trade throughout the Americas which was purposefully extinguished by colonial governments, only surviving as part of the 1795 Jay Treaty;
- D. this discrimination also impacts First Nations and other Indigenous peoples on reserves across Canada and in the northern territories on First Nation and Inuit settlement lands;
- E. it is understood that Export Development Canada (EDC) has established targets related to Indigenous access to export markets and that these targets are consistently not met;

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

A blue ink signature of Terry Teegee, the BC Regional Chief.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief

F. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the Government of Canada has adopted without qualification and has, alongside the Province of British Columbia, committed to implement, affirms:

Article 15 (2): States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

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.

Article 39 Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize the economic and social harm caused by the discriminatory exclusion from international markets and trade and are committed to working together to ensure that First Nations have access to effective tools, institutions and frameworks to permit them to fully re-establish this part of their history;
2. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to work together and collaboratively with First Nations in BC to support our nations in the re-engagement in international trade in a manner that is credible and recognized by the global economy;
3. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to draft letters requesting that the Federal Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion and the Minister of International Trade Diversification require Export Development Canada (EDC) to fully engage with Indigenous businesses and communities and to make available of the tools and supports provided to other Canadian businesses; and
4. that the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly demands that EDC set and publish quarterly and annual targets for the number of Indigenous business and communities supported in reaching export markets as well as total funding committed to Indigenous exporting and that there be direct impact to the performance assessment of EDC executives if they fail to meet their Indigenous participation targets.

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Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief