

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
Suite 401, 312 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

Final Resolutions of UBCIC 55th Annual General Assembly, October 4th – 6th, 2023

- 2023-41 Addressing Loss and Damage to First Nations Lands due to Climate Change
- 2023-42 Support for International Engagement and Joint Climate Action Between First Nations in BC and Indigenous Peoples Worldwide
- 2023-43 Upholding and Strengthening First Nations Water Rights in Federal Legislation
- 2023-44 Support for shíshálh Nation's Proposed Water Reservoir Construction
- 2023-45 Appointment to the First Nations Energy and Mining Council
- 2023-46 Commemorating 20th Anniversary of the Leadership Accord
- 2023-47 Call on Government of Canada to Increase First Nations Funding
- 2023-48 Call on Government of Canada to Provide Increased Sustainable Core Capacity Funding
- 2023-49 Support for UBCIC to Join National Coalition Supporting Gender-Affirming Healthcare Information
- 2023-50 Support for the Draft Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation
- 2023-51 Endorsement of the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in B.C. (2023 – 2030)
- 2023-52 Support for Equitable First Nations Languages Revitalization Funding

2023-53	Provincial Public Safety and Police and Modernization
2023-54	Adoption of 54 th AGA Minutes
2023-55	Adoption of Audited Financial Statements
2023-56	Support for Indigenous Child and Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society
2023-57	Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Children and Day of Action Against Discrimination
2023-58	Call for Increased Participation and Funding for a First Nations Fisheries Special Chiefs Meeting Regarding the Trilateral Salmon Accord
2023-59	UBCIC Coalition Intervention in Discovery Island Open Net-Pen Judicial Review
2023-60	Support for the Existence of Aboriginal Title to Submerged Lands Under Canadian and Provincial Law
2023-61	Repeal of Second-Generation Cut-Off and Two-Parent Rule in the Determination of Indian Status (Registration) under the Indian Act
2022-62	Support for the FNLC Relationship Protocol with the Ministry of Citizens' Services
2023-63	Appointment to the UBCIC Constitution Committee
2023-64	Appointment to the UBCIC Credentials Committee
2023-65	Appointment to the UBCIC Resolutions Committee
2023-66	Specific Claims Research Funding Shortfalls and Access to Justice
2023-67	Support for Community-Based Delivery of Post-Secondary Education Programs in First Nation Communities

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-41

RE: Addressing Loss and Damage to First Nations Lands due to Climate Change

WHEREAS global fossil fuel pollution and other human-caused factors have contributed to the climate crisis and its range of devastating impacts – including rising sea-levels, critical loss of wildlife species, and an increase in flooding, wildfires, and other extreme weather events – that disproportionately impact the lives and cultures of Indigenous peoples who have stewarded their lands and waters since time immemorial;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 8(2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources.

Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

(3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 28(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

(2): Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination;

WHEREAS First Nations are increasingly experiencing displacement and loss of lands due to climate change impacts, and are at significant risk of future displacement due to loss and damage of lands from future climate impacts;

WHEREAS there is currently no effective mechanism to adequately restore or replace lands lost due to climate disasters on First Nations; and

WHEREAS the loss of title lands is an urgent and existential issue for many First Nations for which existing policy options at the federal and provincial levels are insufficient and slow, and for which there is an urgent need for effective mechanisms for the expedient allocation of lands in the face of the deepening climate crisis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Governments of Canada and B.C. to work in partnership with First Nations to urgently address the risks that climate emergency impacts pose to First Nations lands, water, air and space, including the protection, recovery or replacement of lands lost and damaged, or through avulsion, and the relocation of reserves vulnerable to climate change impacts; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Governments of Canada and B.C. to ensure that their policies, processes, and legislation facilitate whole-of-government approaches to the loss and damage of First Nations lands, water, air and space including streamlining the Additions to Reserve policy and increasing capacity funding particularly the expedient purchase, transfer, and conversion of lands to replace First Nations lands lost or damaged due to climate change impacts.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Skawahlook First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Councillor Cory Sampson, Adams Lake Indian Band (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 4, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-41
Page 2 of 2

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-42

RE: Support for International Engagement and Joint Climate Action Between First Nations in B.C. and Indigenous Peoples Worldwide

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples worldwide have experienced consistent patterns of historical injustices and racism resulting from the colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, and the doctrines, policies and practices that supported colonialism. These ideologies often promoted the supposed superiority of certain groups or individuals based on national origin, race, religion, ethnicity, or cultural distinctions;

WHEREAS international action and solidarity between Indigenous Peoples have been immensely important in the struggle against colonialism, including in the drafting, advocacy and eventual adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 by the United Nations General Assembly;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 8(1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.

(2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities; (b) any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (d) any form of forced assimilation or integration.

Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination;

WHEREAS international exchange between Indigenous peoples has provided opportunities for First Nations in British Columbia, including through the UBCIC, to learn about many diverse experiences from around the world and to mutually strengthen efforts to advance recognition of Indigenous rights here and elsewhere, including at the United Nations;

WHEREAS exchange between Indigenous peoples worldwide continue to be a source of inspiration and strategy in support of the struggle to end all forms of colonialism, to seek redress for the injustices suffered by Indigenous Peoples to date, and to realize the full implementation and respect for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

WHEREAS it is unequivocal that human activities have warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land, increasing the average temperature of the Earth's surface to 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels and will continue to increase as more GHG emissions are produced, and larger climatic extremes and changes are anticipated with every incremental increase in global warming, including more heatwaves, precipitation, wildfires, floods and droughts, and disruptions in the global water cycle;

WHEREAS in 2019, the UBCIC Chiefs Council declared a Climate Emergency (UBCIC Resolution 2019-02), recognizing that “the breakdown of the stable climate and sea level under which human civilization developed constitutes a climate emergency;”

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples worldwide are uniquely vulnerable to the climate emergency – as the alarming loss of biodiversity, ongoing environmental degradation, and the often-precarious living conditions endured by Indigenous communities worldwide compound and intersect. Climate destruction represents a dire and pressing threat to the very survival of Indigenous communities, particularly remote communities, women and children, whose territories face severe disruption, jeopardizing not only traditional food sources and livelihoods but also languages, traditions, cultures, and fundamental rights;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS the severity of climate change and its inequality urge bold and decisive actions, including establishing robust global partnerships and collaboration across sectors and societies at the global, national and local levels, actively recognizing and respecting Indigenous knowledge systems while fostering horizontal collaboration with non-Indigenous knowledge systems; and

WHEREAS building bridges and collaboration between Indigenous peoples across the globe is essential to fighting the climate emergency and empowering Indigenous communities to address shared challenges, protect rights, and assert self-determination and cultural identity in a rapidly changing world – by building partnerships, Indigenous peoples could:

- Find strength in unity and solidarity to strengthen efforts to end all forms of colonialism, seek redress for ongoing injustices, amplify collective voices and advocate more effectively for environmental integrity, Indigenous human and inherent rights, interests, and concerns at local, national and international forums. Partnerships could provide a platform for joint advocacy and influence on climate policies, legislation and decision-making at different levels and forums, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other venues where Indigenous peoples are under-represented.
- Sharing Indigenous Knowledge, practices and wisdom accumulated over generations, which can be crucial for addressing climate challenges, including environmental conservation and sustainable resource management.
- Fostering the preservation and revitalization of languages, cultural practices, and traditions. Sharing cultural experiences and stories helps maintain cultural identities and strengthen connections to ancestral heritage.
- Enabling Indigenous communities to pool resources, both financial and human, to address shared issues such as land rights, economic development, healthcare, and education.
- Enhancing the climate resilience of Indigenous communities. Collective responses could lead to more robust strategies for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Sovereignty and Self-Determination. By forming partnerships, Indigenous communities could assert their sovereignty and self-determination more effectively. This allows them to make decisions about their own governance, development, and future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-Assembly reaffirm that First Nations’ traditional laws and legal orders, knowledge, teachings and practices of sustainable management and conservation serve as positive contributions in addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as First Nations’ community-based climate actions;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, based upon our unceded and inherent rights to diplomacy, to support the advocacy and development of partnerships between First Nations in B.C. with Indigenous peoples abroad, and in particular for projects which:

- i. Build relationships to act in unity and solidarity for the well-being of Indigenous peoples and the integrity of the environment worldwide.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

- ii. Support collective action and advance climate leadership.
- iii. Strengthen the recognition of Indigenous peoples' knowledge systems, worldviews, and values as contributions to addressing the climate emergency.
- iv. Advance the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights, assert sovereignty and self-determination both domestically and internationally.
- v. Strengthen Indigenous Peoples' representation in climate change forums and intergovernmental fora.
- vi. Prioritize the voices of Indigenous women and gender-diverse peoples in climate action;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to work with like-minded organizations to engage in our inherent rights of diplomacy and international advocacy at multiple scales, including at the United Nations and through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada and the Province of B.C. to recognize and support international Indigenous diplomacy and partnerships and to provide adequate funding for the representation of Indigenous peoples in international conferences, particularly youth, women and gender-diverse members from First Nations communities in British Columbia.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Skawahlook First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Representative
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 4, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-42
Page 4 of 4

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-43

RE: Upholding and Strengthening First Nations Water Rights in Federal Legislation

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has committed to introducing new legislation following the repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* on June 23, 2022, and in alignment with the legal obligations required by the 2021 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Class Action Settlement;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them;

WHEREAS under the United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan, the following actions are identified:

17. Continue efforts to advance water and wastewater service transfer to First Nations communities and support self-determined service delivery models in First Nations communities. This includes advancing development and introduction, in consultation with First Nations, of new proposed First Nations drinking water and wastewater legislation that includes pathways to protect source water

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

and legally enforceable safe-drinking water protections on First Nations lands comparable to those in place in provinces and territories.

49. Create a Canada Water Agency and advance the modernization of the Canada Water Act to reflect Canada's freshwater reality, including climate change and Indigenous rights;

WHEREAS Canada's public consultative draft legislation, *An Act respecting drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on First Nation lands*, does not meet First Nations requirements identified through UBCIC Resolution 2022-41 and AFN Resolution 23/2022, mandates provided by First Nations, and responses from regional engagements with First Nations; and

WHEREAS as part of Budget 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau committed to establishing the Canada Water Agency, including the modernization of the *Canada Water Act* in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Indigenous Services Canada to work in full co-development and partnership with title and rights holders to ensure that the minimum requirements as identified in UBCIC Resolution 2022-41 and AFN Resolution 23/2022 are incorporated into *An Act respecting drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on First Nation lands*, including full alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to support interested First Nations in filing a statement of claim, pursuing legal actions, and advocating nationally if the First Nations' requirements as outlined above are not being meaningfully incorporated into the legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Indigenous Services Canada to appoint a dedicated staff to work in co-development with First Nations title and rights holders on the implementation of the Act, including, at a bare minimum, the creation of the First Nations Water Commission, the development of a funding framework and the development of quality drinking water and wastewater quality standards; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Environment and Climate Change Canada to enact the *Canada Water Act* modernization process, in full co-development and co-drafting with First Nations, and recognize and uphold First Nations inherent title and rights. The modernization of the *Canada Water Act* and the creation of the Canada Water Agency must include a mechanism for First Nations to assert their water rights and have them recognized and must comply with the requirements of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and all Supreme Court decisions pertaining to water and the protection of water.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Representative
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 4, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-43
Page 2 of 2

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEPMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-44

RE: Support for shíshálh Nation's Proposed Water Reservoir Construction

WHEREAS shíshálh Nation and the lower Sunshine Coast are experiencing persistent and unprecedented drought conditions, in part due to the onset of climate change impacts;

WHEREAS water shortages, restrictions, and increasing challenges have led shíshálh Nation, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the District of Sechelt, and the Town of Gibsons to deepen collaborative action to secure water resources for the future and meet the needs of all who live in the region;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 26(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

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;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS shíshálh Nation has developed a plan to create a new water reservoir for summer to help address the ongoing drought, to be developed within an existing mine site on shíshálh Nation land in order to minimize new impacts; and

WHEREAS shíshálh Nation's proposed reservoir will benefit many residents on the lower Sunshine Coast including shíshálh Nation members, has broad support from local community leaders from the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the District of Sechelt, and the town of Gibsons, and can begin implementation immediately upon the receipt of adequate funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support and affirm shíshálh Nation's right to determine appropriate measures to develop and implement strategies for the use of their lands, territories, and other resources; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the provincial and federal governments, including Indigenous Services Canada, to expedite funding supports so that shíshálh Nation can begin building their reservoir immediately in order to fully benefit from the coming winter.

Moved: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation
Seconded: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 4, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-44
Page 2 of 2

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-45

RE: Appointment to the First Nations Energy and Mining Council

WHEREAS the First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC) operates under the authority of First Nations to support and facilitate their efforts to manage and develop energy and mineral resources in ways that protect and sustain the environment while enhancing the social, cultural, economic and political well-being of First Nations in British Columbia;

WHEREAS the FNEMC works to entrench the recognition of treaty and inherent rights and title in First Nations' social, political and economic relationships with the Crown, industry and other stakeholders; improve the environmental sustainability of practices in the energy and mineral sectors; enhance the economic self-sufficiency and social well-being of First Nations; incorporate traditional knowledge in management and development processes; and increase First Nations participation in all aspects of the energy and mineral sectors;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC circulated notice seeking application for one (1) representative to the FNEMC, for a three-year appointment beginning October 6, 2023, to be chosen in accordance with the UBCIC Elections Procedures and the FNEMC Bylaws, and received one application from Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly appoint Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, as the UBCIC representative to the First Nations Energy and Mining Council for a three-year appointment beginning October 6, 2023; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the UBCIC representative to the First Nations Energy and Mining Council to provide regular updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council and the UBCIC Executive.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band

Seconded: Chief Darrel Draney, Skeetchestn Indian Band

Disposition: Carried

Date: October 4, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-45
Page 2 of 2

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-46

RE: Commemorating 20th Anniversary of the Leadership Accord

WHEREAS on March 17, 2005, the political executives of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) First Nations Summit (FNS), and the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), signed the Leadership Accord. The purpose of the Accord is to: affirm mutual respect between the participating organizations; formalize a cooperative working relationship to politically represent the interests of First Nations in B.C. and develop strategies and actions to bring about significant and substantive changes to government policy that will benefit all First Nations in B.C.; and focus on a range of issues and initiatives of common interest or concern among First Nations in B.C., including consultation and accommodation, national processes, and social and economic program and service issues;

WHEREAS the working relationship among the UBCIC, FNS, and BCAFN described in the Leadership Accord is referred to as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC). It is a political coalition with the purpose of generating power through unity, cooperation, and collaboration between existing political First Nations organizations, each of which continues to uphold its own governance rules and accountability mechanisms to its constituents. The mandate of the FNLC is determined only through the mandates of each of its participating organizations – the UBCIC, FNS, and BCAFN – as established via resolution of their respective memberships;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions;

WHEREAS in 2010, an All Chiefs Task Force led a review of the processes of, and work undertaken by, the FNLC pursuant to the Leadership Accord, and shared recommendations to improve processes for increased unity and efficiency. This included effectively calling for the development of a Terms of Reference for the FNLC;

WHEREAS through a process of engagement and All Chiefs Assemblies in 2010 and 2011, a draft Terms of Reference for the FNLC was developed. In June 2011, the UBCIC passed Resolution 2011-09, Support of “In-Principle” Resolutions Adopted at the November-December 2010 All-Chiefs’ Assembly formally adopting Terms of Reference for the FNLC and noting that it must be interpreted and implemented in a manner consistent with the mandates and other legal and contractual obligations of the three political organizations;

WHEREAS since the adoption of the FNLC Terms of Reference in 2011, a number of political developments have occurred, including but not limited to the Commitment Document and Concrete Actions (2015), the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (2019), and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (2021). These have brought about a new political and legal landscape and, therefore, new opportunities for advancing common issues; and

WHEREAS March 17, 2025, will mark the twenty-year anniversary of the signing of the Leadership Accord, which is an opportunity for honouring our journey and accomplishments to date, recommitment through ceremony to unity on issues of common concern, and renewal of the processes of collaboration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Accord in 2025, including updating the Leadership Accord for renewal on March 17th, 2025, and updating the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) Terms of Reference;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to ensure that the process of renewal of the Leadership Accord and the FNLC Terms of Reference will include opportunities for title and rights holders to share their views individually and to come together to develop shared collective views and points of consensus;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-46
Page 2 of 3

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and the First Nations Summit (FNS) as the FNLC, to present the results of this process of renewal of the Leadership Accord and the FNLC Terms of Reference to an All Chiefs Assembly for review and consideration, as well as to each of the assemblies of the UBCIC, FNS, BCAFN; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the UBCIC Executive, working with the BCAFN and the FNS as the FNLC, to ensure that the process to renew the FNLC Terms of Reference and Accountability Framework is completed in advance of March 2025.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Skawahlook First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 5, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-46
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-47

RE: Call for Government of Canada to Increase First Nations Funding

WHEREAS the Government of Canada recently announced significant funding cuts to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). ISC forecasts an estimated spending drop from \$23.6 billion in 2022-2023 and \$39.6 billion in 2023-2024 (which includes a \$23 billion child welfare settlement) to \$16.9 billion in 2024-2025 and then to \$16 billion by 2025-26. ISC also plans to cut more than 1,000 full-time workers, from 7,070 this year to 5,907 in two years;

WHEREAS First Nations across Canada contend with competing crises of climate change, child welfare, infrastructure, housing and homelessness, youth suicide, health and mental health, gender-based violence, poverty and beyond, underpinned by systemic racism and discrimination and intensified by chronic underfunding and insufficient service delivery;

WHEREAS conditions of poverty amongst First Nations communities are directly linked to colonial policies of land dispossession, forced assimilation, oppression, discrimination, and systemic racism by the crown. Such colonial policies manifested in the loss of land and culture; fracturing of families and removal of children to residential schools and the child welfare system; disproportionate rates of gender-based violence towards women, girls, and two-spirit+ people; over-representation in the criminal justice system; discrimination in healthcare and education; and entrenchment in poverty;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced further unprecedented challenges and exacerbated pre-existing inequities, making it ever-apparent that dedicated sustainable funding is needed to solve the compounding crises affecting First Nations peoples, particularly elders, women and children, and those with disabilities, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadly opioid crisis, housing crisis, and climate emergencies;

WHEREAS ISC is responsible for addressing these concurrent crises and providing essential services to Indigenous people in the areas of Indian Status services, education, health, housing, social programs including family and child welfare and Jordan's Principle, and infrastructure and water in First Nations communities;

WHEREAS First Nations are further experiencing considerable engagement demands from Canada under its obligations under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA). Canada passed UNDA in 2021, but has not dedicated funding to support First Nations capacity to fully participate in its implementation;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2023-34 the UBCIC Chiefs Council called on Canada to proactively provide capacity funding to First Nations in BC to fully participate in consultation, collaboration, engagement and implementation regarding the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

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.

(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;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS under ISC's existing budget, service delivery and support for First Nations have been woefully insufficient, marked by underfunding, extensive delays and wait times that are maintaining socio-economic inequities, denying First Nations from accessing their inherent title and rights, and costing livelihoods, wellbeing, and lives;

WHEREAS ISC's proposed cost-cutting measures will come at the expense of generations of First Nations peoples' health and well-being and severely impact their ability to exercise their jurisdiction and self-determination. In an era where the Liberal Party and Prime Minister Trudeau have prioritized reconciliation and the made legal commitments under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, these budget cuts represent an egregious contravention of these commitments and promises made; and

WHEREAS the government of Canada has demonstrated a pattern of discriminatory funding practices against First Nations. In 2007, Cindy Blackstock and the Assembly of First Nations filed a human rights complaint alleging that the underfunding of child and family services on reserves was racially discriminatory. The complaint was paramount in the eventual delivery of \$23-billion proposed class-action settlement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada including but not limited to CIRNAC, ISC and other federal departments, to immediately increase and prioritize sustainable and ongoing funding directly to First Nations governments and Nation governments to exercise self-determination and jurisdiction over all their citizens whether on or off reserve, in alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and for First Nations service delivery and social programs delivered through Indigenous Services Canada.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 5, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-47
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-48

RE: Call for Government of Canada to Provide Increased Sustainable Core Capacity Funding

WHEREAS the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) is a First Nations political advocacy organization that provides critical support to First Nations in B.C. in the pursuit of First Nations title and rights, and treaty rights, through the revival of our way of life politically, legally, socially, economically, and spiritually at the municipal, provincial, federal and international forums. UBCIC relies on core capacity funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to carry out its mandates from the UBCIC Chiefs Council.

WHEREAS UBCIC works to hold the federal government to its fiduciary obligations and change its inherent rights, comprehensive and specific claims policies. Main priorities/objectives of UBCIC's mandate include Specific and Comprehensive Claims Policy Reform; Quality of Life; Economic; Development; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Health; Climate Change; Education; Social Assistance; Human Resource Development; Emergency Management; Housing; Justice; Gender-Based Violence; Forestry; Residential Schools and Survivors; First Nations Governance; Indigenous-Specific Racism and Discrimination; Poverty; and other mandated issues/activities as determined by membership;

WHEREAS UBCIC has continued to face unprecedented challenges due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and post-pandemic operational costs have escalated significantly. UBCIC has received no increase in core funding in over 10 years and the current core funding no longer reflects the actual costs the organization incurs to carry out our mandates. Our primary concern is our ability to

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

balance carrying out the urgent mandates of our membership with the health and safety of our staff and Executive;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 38: States in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration;

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;

WHEREAS UBCIC works closely with like-minded organizations including the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) across a wide range of priority portfolios for B.C. First Nations;

WHEREAS UBCIC continues to experience a high degree of engagement requests on policy and legislative initiatives by the Government of Canada and the Government of B.C. in alignment with their obligations under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. The volume of requests across portfolios requires ongoing monitoring and in-depth attention, and costly support from policy staff and legal counsel;

WHEREAS UBCIC welcomes these opportunities for engagement, but the extent and nature of our engagement is predicated upon having the resources to do so. Adequate resourcing permits us to meaningfully participate with federal counterparts;

WHEREAS UBCIC seeks an increase in core funding to be able to continue with operations, support staff and our Executive, uphold the mandates of our membership and respond to requests for engagement. UBCIC does not receive core funding from any other federal department for the purpose of maintaining a basic organizational capacity as a PTO. UBCIC's current funding is based on our engagement with the previous federal government, which was far less frequent and comprehensive. Additional core funding will allow the organization to continue the increased level of engagement with the current federal government, will support staffing, administrative needs, meetings, travel and legal fees, and most importantly, our membership; and

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS UBCIC reports to its members concerning the use of funds, activities undertaken and the results achieved. To this end, the UBCIC holds an Annual General Assembly, Chiefs' Council meetings (2-4 times per year depending on urgency of the issues and availability of funds), information is regularly distributed via our website, social media, email, fax and/or mail and technical meetings are held with community technicians on specific areas of interest (i.e. housing, fisheries, on- education, health) as mandated by resolution. UBCIC accommodates requests from both the provincial and federal government officials to report on their respective initiatives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to provide increased and sustainable core capacity funding to the UBCIC to support organizational operations, support staff and our Executive, uphold the mandate of our membership and advocate for B.C. First Nations and respond to requests for engagement.

Moved: Councillor Cory Sampson, Adams Lake Indian Band (Proxy)
Seconded: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 5, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-48
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE

Resolution no. 2023-49

RE: Support for UBCIC to Join National Coalition Supporting Gender-Affirming Healthcare Information

WHEREAS the forces of colonialism have contributed to the devaluing and diminishment of Two-Spirit identity which has impacted Two-Spirit peoples' wellness and connectedness to their communities and cultures;

WHEREAS Two-Spirit people are included and respected as valued community members, holding diverse and unique roles within First Nations communities;

WHEREAS the term "Two-Spirit" reflects complex Indigenous understandings of gender roles and spirituality and was introduced in 1990 by Elder Myra Laramée at the Third Annual inter-tribal Native America, First Nations, Gay and Lesbian American Conference;

WHEREAS not all Indigenous people who hold diverse sexual and gender identities consider themselves Two-Spirit;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all the human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law.

Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of the person.

Article 8(1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.

Article 24(1): Indigenous people have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

(2): Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right;

WHEREAS all First Nations people have the right to access quality, culturally appropriate and gender-affirming health care;

WHEREAS gender-affirming care encompasses a range of social, psychological, behavioral, and medical interventions designed to support and affirm an individual's gender identity;

WHEREAS Two-Spirit, trans and gender diverse people have individual, unique gender health goals and needs this may or may not include trans specific medical interventions;

WHEREAS several challenges pose barriers to gender-affirming care for Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people in B.C.:

- a) Lack of primary care attachment;
- b) Demand for culturally safer providers and trans-specific medical care exceeds capacity;
- c) Primary care providers lack awareness and knowledge in providing care;
- d) Lack of access to training and support for care providers wanting to get involved in care;
- e) Long waits for surgical readiness assessments, surgical consults, and surgery;
- f) Lack of publicly funded psychosocial/mental health supports, especially for young people; and
- g) Misinformation and malinformation campaigns are active in B.C., especially related to gender-affirming care for Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary children and youth, leading to an increase in barriers to accessing timely care for young people;

WHEREAS misinformation is a broad term for incorrect or misleading information. False information can be disproven with scientific evidence. Malinformation contains some truth, but is misleading and can cause harm;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-49
Page 2 of 3

WHEREAS First Nations people, including Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary children and youth, have the right to access accurate, culturally appropriate, and accessible information regarding their health, which will support gender-affirming care, rather than pose a barrier;

WHEREAS UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly have affirmed the inherent value of First Nations Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people; their rights to equity, justice, and inclusion; the role of colonialism and discrimination as barriers to the attainment of these rights; and First Nations governments' and organizations' responsibility to work to ensure the restoration and reclamation of wellbeing through UBCIC Resolutions 2023-10, 2019-25, 2019-44;

WHEREAS Trans Care B.C. is a part of the Provincial Health Services Authority, and their purpose is to work with partners to set direction and provide leadership for trans health services across B.C. to ensure Two-Spirit, trans and gender-diverse people of all ages get the care they need when and where they need it;

WHEREAS Trans Care B.C. is hosting a National Coalition that will involve community leaders and organizations partnering to share newly developed resources and tools that will support healthcare providers, families, and Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary youth to identify and address misinformation and malinformation. This project will highlight Two-Spirit, trans and non-binary joy and share knowledge and research related to best practices in youth gender health. This work will be guided by Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary youth, parents/caregivers, and healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS UBCIC has the opportunity to participate as a member in this National Coalition.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support UBCIC in joining the National Coalition to respond to the spread of misinformation and malinformation regarding gender-affirming care for Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary youth; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to support seeking funding and advance advocacy, together with like-minded organizations, that responds to the range of identified barriers to quality, culturally-appropriate, and gender-affirming healthcare for First Nations youth, in particular Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary youth.

Moved: Kukpi7 Stu Jackson, Lower Nicola Indian Band
Seconded: Kukpi7 James Hobart, Spuzzum First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 5, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-49
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-50

RE: Support for the Draft Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation

WHEREAS Nature Agreements are framework mechanisms to describe clear and strong commitments to nature conservation and protection and include mutually agreed upon actions and financial commitments from federal and provincial governments to reach conservation goals and should be codeveloped with inherent title and rights holders as partners. More specifically, Nature Agreements may include:

- Creation and expansion of protected and conserved areas, as well as key biodiversity areas, Indigenous-led conservation, and other effective area-based conservation measures;
- Protecting critical habitat and adopting land use planning measures to improve outcomes for species at risk and migratory birds;
- Facilitating information and data exchange to improve conservation outcomes;
- Mitigating and building resilience to climate change by reducing land use change and practices with greenhouse gas emission impacts, and facilitating carbon sequestration and storage through ecosystem restoration;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 10: Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Indigenous peoples

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

(3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

Article 28(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

(2): Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

(3): States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-50
Page 2 of 4

Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

(3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2023-08 the UBCIC Chiefs Council directed the UBCIC Executive working collectively with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to:

- a) Engage in tripartite discussions with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia to co-develop a draft tripartite Nature Agreement for consideration by the Chiefs;
- b) Ensure that any draft Nature Agreement: is consistent with and upholds Indigenous human rights described in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and related SCC decisions clarifying our inherent title, rights and treaty rights; takes a distinctions-based approach to ensure that the unique rights, interests, and circumstances of titleholding First Nations peoples in B.C. are acknowledged, affirmed, and respected; ensures that First Nations are full partners in the identification of areas for conservation and protection and in habitat enhancement and restoration initiatives; ensures that First Nations are full partners in any planning and decision-making processes, including for land use and species at risk protection and recovery; and includes a strong and central role for Indigenous knowledge and science, while upholding and respecting Indigenous data sovereignty;
- c) Ensure that the draft Nature Agreement enables and does not in any way constrain or impact the individual negotiations, joint decision-making, and joint planning that rightfully belongs between the Crown and title holders;
- d) Develop and implement a process for consultation and cooperation with First Nations on the draft Nature Agreement, and provide regular reports to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on the ongoing tripartite discussions; and bring any recommended draft Nature Agreement to the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly for review and endorsement by resolution; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, Province of British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council have codeveloped a draft tripartite Nature Agreement that addresses the foregoing mandate provided by First Nations in B.C., provided that Nature Agreement for review and input by First Nations, and addressed input provided by First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working collectively with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and First Nations Summit (FNS)

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-50
Page 3 of 4

as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to sign the draft Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation recognizing that these are unceded territories of First Nations in B.C.;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the BCAFN and FNS as the FNLC, to clearly articulate to the Government of Canada and the Province of B.C. that the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation must enable and in no way constrain or impede the individual negotiations, joint decision-making, and joint planning that rightfully belong to the First Nations title and rights holders of their respective unceded and ancestral territorial lands, as stewards of the lands, including on and off reserve, for their discussion between the Crown and First Nations title-holders which could include identification of natural resources as having the rights of personhood in the context of our inherent title and rights and legal orders; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the BCAFN and FNS as the FNLC, to provide regular reports to the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly on the implementation and coordination of activities under the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation, including the interim Tripartite Nature Committee.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Skawahlook First Nation (Proxy)

Seconded: Chief Marilyn Slett, Heiltsuk Nation

Disposition: Carried

Abstentions: 3

Date: October 5, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-50
Page 4 of 4

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-51

**RE: Endorsement of the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations
in B.C. (2023 – 2030)**

WHEREAS the United Nations Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction guides disaster risk reduction efforts, acknowledging the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, especially in light of climate change. The Framework emphasizes a people-centered and inclusive approach to disaster management, particularly for historically marginalized communities disproportionately affected by disasters;

WHEREAS the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction further states that Indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2021-44, Support for Development of a B.C. First Nations Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, established the need for a B.C. First Nations Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, recognizing the importance of First Nations' full and equal participation in emergency management decision-making and implementation processes in their territories;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepenc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

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 programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard;

WHEREAS as directed by resolutions, the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Emergency Services Society engaged independent contractor, Four Directions Management Services, to prepare a draft Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in B.C. (2023 – 2030) that identifies 30 Calls to Action to strengthen disaster risk governance, invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience, enhance disaster preparedness, and ensure a "Build Back Better" approach in recovery and reconstruction; and

WHEREAS the draft Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in B.C. (2023 – 2030) was presented at the 55th Annual General Assembly October 4-6, 2023, for consideration and adoption.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorse the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2023 – 2030) for First Nations in B.C., recognizing its significance in advancing disaster resilience, preparedness, and recovery for First Nations communities in B.C.;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the First Nations Summit and B.C. Assembly of First Nations as the First Nations Leadership Council to prepare an implementation plan to give effect to the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, and that the Implementation Plan not limit, interfere or prohibit First Nations or First Nation organizations from advancing at their own pace nor their locally developed mandates, priorities, strategies, authorities and representative organizations;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call for the modernized *Emergency Program Act* legislation, policies, and regulations to be informed by and subject to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and to respect, empower, and enable the 30 Calls to Action and intentions of the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in B.C. and any locally-developed actions plans or strategies for disaster risk reduction;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-51
Page 2 of 3

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly urgently request that the provincial and federal governments acknowledge the persistent underfunding of First Nations in emergency management and move towards rectifying historical and ongoing systemic challenges through the establishment and consistent replenishment of a “First Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Fund” to enable the meaningful implementation of the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in B.C. (2023 – 2030); and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support formally recognizing and adopting the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, initiated in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly. Held every October 13th, this day promotes a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction, celebrating efforts to reduce exposure to disasters and raise awareness about risk management. Utilizing this day for annual recognition and promotion will foster preparedness planning and encourage training drills/exercises to enhance community awareness among First Nations in B.C.

Moved: Councillor Brad Arnouse, Neskonlith Indian Band (Proxy)
Seconded: Chief Fred Sampson, Siska Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-51
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-52

RE: Support for Equitable First Nations Languages Revitalization Funding

WHEREAS First Nations have the inherent rights to revitalize, learn, use, transmit, and access services in their First Nations language;

WHEREAS the First Peoples Cultural Council's (FPCC) 2022 Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages reported that First Nations have seen an increase in First Nations language learners and semi-speakers, and affirms the role of increased funding in the success of First Nations language revitalization activities;

WHEREAS however, many First Nations still face barriers in their work to revitalize, learn, use, transmit, and access services in their First Nations language. A critical, well-known barrier is access to needs-based, sustainable, flexible funding that can support First Nations self-determined languages revitalization;

WHEREAS First Nations languages do not receive sufficient protections or supports, especially when compared to the privilege afforded to English and French as Canada's recognized official languages;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepenc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 13(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

Article 14(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

(3): States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

Article 16(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolutions 2019-58, 2017-05 and 2019-14 directing the UBCIC Executive to call on the Government of B.C. to co-develop and implement legislation to support the revitalization and protection of Indigenous languages in B.C. This builds on Resolutions 2005-05 and 2010-63 in support of language revitalization;

WHEREAS the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Revitalizing First Nations Languages: A Costing Analysis estimates the annual cost of First Nations languages revitalization across Canada to be \$2.003 billion;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has only committed approximately \$52 million to First Nations languages across Canada in 2024-2025 and subsequent years, despite their legislative commitments to facilitate the provision of adequate and sustainable funding for First Nations' languages in the Indigenous Languages Act;

WHEREAS FPCC estimates that the resulting funding gap for B.C. First Nations languages ranges from \$30-40 million each year from 2024-2029; and

WHEREAS in July 2023 at the AFN Annual General Assembly, First-Nations-in-Assembly voted to not pass draft resolution 26 Equitable Funding for Languages Revitalization, which sought ratification for a new Regional Allocation Formula for the Department of Canadian Heritage Indigenous Languages Component funding. This formula was proposed by the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL), however B.C. Chiefs expressed concern that the proposed formula would significantly negatively impact the amount of funding for the B.C. region (as well as several other regions), and that more work was needed to arrive at a consensus-based, data-driven formula.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to fulfill their legislative requirements to fund all First Nations languages, including First Nations in B.C., equitably based on the real costs to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen First Nations languages including tools such as dictionaries, apps, etc.;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to immediately address funding shortfalls for all First Nations regions that are oversubscribed for language revitalization initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly denounce the Government of Canada for forcing First Nations into the untenable position of having to decide which First Nations languages are harmed and which are supported through the Regional Allocation Formula, and acknowledge the importance of all First Nations languages across the country;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Chiefs Committee on Languages and Technical Committee on Languages to continue their work to develop an equitable Regional Allocation Formula and to arrive at a consensus-based recommendation to bring back to the AFN First Nations-in-Assembly to be reviewed;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Chiefs Committee on Languages, Technical Committee on Languages and AFN to continuously monitor the equitability of the Regional Allocation Formula and its impact on region's language revitalization activities; and engage in research that informs the future use of additional factors and improved data quality; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the AFN to ensure that its advocacy does not detract or hinder existing First Nations agreements which contain language components from advancing their current language processes.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Daniel Manuel, Upper Nicola Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 5, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-52
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-53

RE: Provincial Public Safety and Policing and Modernization

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has called upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems and the integration of Indigenous laws and legal traditions in negotiation and implementation processes involving Treaties, land claims, and other constructive agreements;

WHEREAS the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women recognized that, “colonial structures and policies are persistent in Canada and constitute a root cause of the violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people,” and which amount to genocide. The Calls for Justice included a number of imperatives directed at governments and police services focused on reform and transformation of justice and policing;

WHEREAS the historical and ongoing systemic discrimination perpetrated through Canada’s justice system targets and disproportionately impacts Indigenous peoples. First Nation communities and citizens have been subject to decades of discrimination, violence, racism, and bias within Canada’s justice system and there continues to be denial and suppression of First Nations’ jurisdiction in the areas of justice, community safety, and policing. This context has contributed to negative impacts on the safety, health, and well-being of First Nations individuals and communities;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepenc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self- government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.

(2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

Article 22(1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.

(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

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 programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

Article 37: Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements;

WHEREAS through UBCIC Resolution 2020-12, “Endorsement of the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy” the UBCIC Chiefs Council endorsed the joint B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy (the Strategy) and called upon the provincial government to continue to work collaboratively with the BCFNJC to implement the Strategy and to uphold the principles of change encompassed by the Strategy in all areas of the justice system;

WHEREAS on May 25th and 26th, 2022, the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and B.C. First Nations Justice Council held the Policing as an Essential Service Forum for First Nations Chiefs, leadership, experts, technicians, and community members to discuss their vision for transformative change in First Nations policing and community safety, and to inform federal and provincial legislative commitments for reforming existing policing and justice systems. The results and recommendations of this forum were consolidated in the What We Heard report and was supported via BCAFN Resolution 22/2022 “Support for the Findings and Recommendations from the “What We Heard” Report on Police Reform and Policing as an Essential Service;”

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS on April 2022, the provincial government released the ‘Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act’ (SCORPA) report with 11 recommendations for reforming policing in B.C., including ending B.C.’s contract with the RCMP and potentially moving towards a provincial policing model similar to Ontario and Quebec;

WHEREAS through the Declaration Act Action Plan, B.C. has committed to implement comprehensive policing reform to address systemic biases and racism through measures that include: updating the Police Act, B.C. Provincial Policing Standards, and mandatory training requirements; enhancing independent oversight and complaints processes; clarifying the roles and responsibilities of police officers in the context of complex social issues such as mental health, addiction and homelessness; contributing to the modernization of the federal First Nations Policing Program; and prioritizing implementation of the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy;

WHEREAS this work must be undertaken in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples in B.C. as required by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*; and

WHEREAS the provincial government has proposed the establishment of a working group which includes the FNLC, BCFNJC, and B.C. Government to support these initiatives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the UBCIC Executive and staff, working together with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and B.C. First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC), to establish a working group with the Province of B.C. to advance commitments related to policing and public safety modernization in alignment with the UN Declaration and the Interim Approach;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province of B.C. to engage directly with First Nations title and rights holders on provincial policing and public safety modernization as required by the UN Declaration; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call for the Province of B.C. to recognize First Nations jurisdiction and right to self-determination with respect to policing, community safety, and justice, and to establish coordination and enforcement mechanisms, and fiscal relationships which reflect First Nations inherent title, rights, laws, jurisdiction, and legal orders.

Moved: Wolf Director Louise Gordon, Taku River Tlingit First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-53
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-54

RE: Adoption of 54th AGA Minutes

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly adopt the minutes of the 54th Annual General Assembly (September 2022) as presented in the 55th Annual General Assembly kit.

Moved: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
Seconded: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-55

RE: Adoption of 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby adopt the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements as presented at the UBCIC 55th Annual General Assembly meeting of October 4th-6th, 2023.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Lynda Price, Ulkatcho First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-56

RE: Support for Indigenous Child and Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society

WHEREAS First Nations have an inherent right of self-determination including jurisdiction relating to the children and families of those Nations;

WHEREAS First Nations' inherent right of self-determination will only be achieved through the recognition of our inherent jurisdiction for our children and families, and our children and families are the cornerstone of our Nations' futures;

WHEREAS under an interim delegation model, over 120 First Nations communities (over 60% of the First Nations communities in B.C.) created their own Indigenous Child & Family Services agencies;

WHEREAS the 120+ First Nations communities affiliated with an Indigenous Child & Family Services agency have endorsed their agencies through Band Council Resolutions as their child & family service providers as an interim measure while they determine their pathways to resume jurisdiction and stand up their respective laws, legal orders and inherent and treaty rights regarding their children;

WHEREAS those Indigenous Child & Family Services agencies have operated for decades under colonial legislation and with inadequate funding, they have nonetheless developed culturally based programs and services to support wellness among First Nations children and families;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepenc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS First Nations have accumulated extensive experience and expertise through the operation of their Indigenous Child & Family Services agencies and benefit from the broad-based expertise and mutual support of the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society;

WHEREAS those First Nations that remain unaffiliated with an Indigenous Child & Family Services agency have not been supported to develop their own expertise in the development of child and family services;

WHEREAS the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society has created a Secretariat to provide centralized support for operations, practice, governance and research related to Indigenous child & family services, and is building the Secretariat into a regional centre for excellence in Indigenous child & family services;

WHEREAS the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society has expanded its membership criteria to include Nations not affiliated with an ICFSO agency, and membership remains optional for First Nations;

WHEREAS in 2017, the Government of Canada (represented by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)), the Government of British Columbia (represented by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)), and the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), working collectively as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) signed a Reconciliation Charter that committed the parties to work in partnership to achieve First Nations child welfare reform via a Tripartite Working Group (TWG) made up of Canada, the Province, and the FNLC to implement concrete actions to support legislative reform, program and policy development and an effective fiscal model to support First Nations children and families in B.C.;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 7(2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights;

WHEREAS through resolutions at the Chiefs' Assemblies (UBCIC Resolution 2017-06, FNS Resolution #0217.19, BCAFN Resolution 06/2017) the Chiefs in B.C. endorsed and supported the work on Child Welfare reform under the Tripartite process between B.C., Canada, and the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC, working together as the FNLC, and effectively and fully collaborating with First Nations Sectoral Councils, Delegated Agencies, and the First Nations Directors Forum; and

WHEREAS in June 2023, Chiefs supported the development of a long-term funding agreement, that ensures the holistic transformation of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) to a new fiscal framework, which supports First Nations resumption of jurisdiction over their children and families and realizes the intention and spirit of the UN Declaration and recent legislation and judicial decisions, through UBCIC Resolution 2023-26.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize that First Nations have exercised their inherent self-determination and jurisdiction over their children since time immemorial and must have full control over the delivery of services for their children. The UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly uphold the ongoing work of traditional Knowledge Keepers and communities, and call for Nations to have full control over all funding for children and families service delivery to their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society as an additional source of expertise in the development and delivery of Indigenous child & family services to support First Nations communities in establishing their own services;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and First Nations Summit (FNS) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and with B.C. and Canada as the Tripartite Working Group on Children and Families (TWG), to support the Our Children Our Way Society in their work to be an optional resource available to support all First Nations in B.C. in accessing and delivering culturally-based child & family services;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada and B.C. to provide the resources needed for the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society to provide operations, practice, governance and research support to all First Nations in B.C. who wish to access services from the Our Children Our Way Society, while continuing to fund First Nations who wish to access these supports in other ways; and

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-56
Page 3 of 4

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the UBCIC, working with BCAFN and FNS as the FNLC, and Canada and British Columbia as the TWG, to collaborate with the Indigenous Child and Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society in the TWG's ongoing work planning for the resumption of jurisdiction by Nations including developing policy and fiscal frameworks required for this resumption of jurisdiction.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Skawahlook First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Kukpi7 Stu Jackson, Lower Nicola Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-56
Page 4 of 4

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-57

RE: Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Children and Day of Action Against Discrimination

WHEREAS since time immemorial, First Nations successfully used traditional systems of care to ensure the safety and well-being of their children;

WHEREAS Canada and British Columbia's colonial laws and policies have specifically targeted First Nations children and the family structures they are nested within;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 7(2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination;

WHEREAS those colonial laws and policies, implemented via the residential school system and subsequently the child welfare system, have devastated our cultures and our family life;

WHEREAS Canada's own Minister of Indigenous Services has referred to the impact of the child welfare system on First Nations families as a "humanitarian crisis;"

WHEREAS our children continue to suffer and die within the colonial child welfare system;

WHEREAS Canada was found to have knowingly discriminated against First Nations children and families in the funding of First Nations child & family services, and was ordered by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to end that discrimination and to compensate the victims of discrimination;

WHEREAS the Representative for Children & Youth has found that British Columbia continues to perpetrate the same type of discrimination against Indigenous children in the funding of off-reserve child & family services;

WHEREAS Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, and in 2021 passed the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* which affirms the declaration as an international human rights instrument, which includes provisions specific to children;

WHEREAS British Columbia has not developed or ratified a provincial child rights framework but has passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

WHEREAS the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society has expanded its membership criteria to include Nations not affiliated with an ICFSD agency, and membership remains optional for First Nations;

WHEREAS the B.C. Office of the Representative for Children and Youth has demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting and upholding the rights of First Nations children; and

WHEREAS the watershed commitment made by the Province of British Columbia in 2002 in support of the Tsawwassen Accord must be reaffirmed given the urgency of the humanitarian crisis in the child welfare system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive working with the First Nations Summit and B.C. Assembly of First Nations as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and in collaboration with the B.C. Representative for Children and Youth to develop a Declaration on the Rights of First Nations Children that is consistent with Declarations that Nations have

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

put in place on the rights of their children, including expediting recognition of status for those children and youth who are waiting, to bring back to the UBCIC Chiefs Council for consideration; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-Assembly designate Universal Children's Day (November 20, 2023) as a Day of Action to end discrimination against First Nations children, including B.C.'s ongoing discrimination in the funding of off-reserve child & family services.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Skawahlook First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-57
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-58

RE: Call for Increased Participation and Funding for a First Nations Fisheries Special Chiefs Meeting Regarding the Trilateral Salmon Accord

WHEREAS wild salmon is integral to many First Nations livelihoods, culture, traditions and spirituality. First Nations continue to protect wild salmon from the threats of today, including climate change and the impacts of open net pen fish farms, in accordance with our ancestral stewardship obligations;

WHEREAS the declining salmon stocks and other fresh water and salt-water fisheries causes First Nations in B.C. to experience a loss of opportunity to practice their culture, harvest food resources, and be self-governing and reflects an infringement on First Nations food, social and ceremonial (FSC) rights;

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. have diverse interests, perspectives and priorities with respect to the managements, rehabilitation and protection of wild salmon, and as self-determining Nations, share a responsibility to manage resources in a manner that respects the interdependence we have with one another;

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. have a common interest in increasing decision-making and control with respect to the regulation, policy planning, management, protection and rehabilitation of fish, habitat and fisheries;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 20(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reasons of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

(3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

(3): States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact;

WHEREAS on June 21, 2023, the Government of Canada tabled the *United Nations Declaration Act's* National Action Plan, with the goal taking all measures necessary to ensure that federal laws are consistent with the Declaration. The Action Plan identifies the following action plan measures:

#36: Pursue amendments and reforms to fisheries legislation regulation or policies to support self-determination and the meaningful implementation and exercise of Indigenous fishing rights.

#37: Enhance collaborative tools agreements and transparent approaches to better deliver on the collaborative design, development, delivery and management of fisheries as well as conservation and protection of fish habitat.

#38: Provide predictable and flexible funding that will ensure Indigenous partners have the capacity to provide fisheries, habitat, science and oceans and marine-related services. Provide predictable and flexible funding to ensure Indigenous nations and organizations have the capacity

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

to meaningfully participate in advisory, co-management, and decision-making processes tied to aquatic resources and oceans management.

#39: Develop legislation, policy, program and funding to ensure fisheries guardians can meet community needs.

#40. Develop mechanisms that respect and incorporate Indigenous Knowledge as a distinct knowledge system in the management of fisheries, fish habitat, conservation, marine safety and protection of the marine environment.

#41. Implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative to protect and revitalize salmon populations and their habitats.

#43. Establish effective mechanisms and processes to address systemic racism in the enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations.

#44. Pursue the development of national aquaculture legislation;

WHEREAS the B.C. First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) was mandated to coordinate B.C. First Nations' fisheries interests and develop a cohesive and united voice among Nations;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2020-21, "The Decline of Pacific Salmon and Support For A Cohesive B.C. First Nations Fisheries Strategy," expressed its full support for the FNFC's development of a B.C. First Nations Fisheries Strategy that would let First Nation regional fishery organizations work together to advise the government and coordinate strategic action to restore salmon stocks, and directed UBCIC, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to work collaboratively with FNFC on the development of this strategy;

WHEREAS the FNFC is coordinating the collective efforts of First Nations from across British Columbia and Crown agencies to develop a strong model for trilateral collaboration between First Nations, the Province of B.C., and Government of Canada regarding the protection and conservation of wild Pacific salmon;

WHEREAS the model is comprised of:

Tier 1: (First Nation-First Nation) First Nations Salmon Steering Committee (Steering Committee);

Tier 2: (First Nation-Crown Agencies) Pacific Salmon Trilateral Table (Trilateral Table);

Strong foundation of formal agreements and processes between parties, which includes the Declaration of Urgency and the Trilateral Salmon Accord;

WHEREAS "The Declaration on the Urgent Need to Address Wild Pacific Salmon Populations in B.C." (Declaration of Urgency) was drafted by the FNFC, Department of Waters, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) as an initial step to confirm in writing the intent of each party to work together through shared interests and priorities to address the historic decline of wild Pacific salmon populations;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-58
Page 3 of 4

WHEREAS the Trilateral Salmon Accord is the first of its kind in Canada. Built upon the Declaration of Urgency, the Accord will formalize the commitment between First Nations in B.C., DFO, and WLRS to collaboratively address the decline of wild Pacific salmon. This binding accord outlines shared goals, resource commitments, and roles for each party;

WHEREAS the FNFC will be hosting a one-day special Chiefs meeting in mid-November (2023) for additional dialogue on the Trilateral Accord to discuss how it will be supported, how priorities regarding salmon recovery will be identified and how progress will be reported back to Nations. Any adoption of the Trilateral Accord will come back to the political organizations for consideration through resolution; and

WHEREAS many of the marine species on which our communities rely are in decline and remain at significant risk due to the ongoing climate crisis, the downstream impacts of industry, and the lack of robust First Nations monitoring and control of their territories and rights-based interests in fish, fisheries, and habitat.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to request that the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) extend their proposed one-day special chiefs meeting on the Trilateral Salmon Accord to a three-day forum to allow for a fulsome discussion from First Nations leadership and First Nations Fisheries Experts in B.C. on the needs and perspectives of their respective communities, and that given its significance, once an Accord is in a final draft that it be brought back to the assemblies of the UBCIC, B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), and First Nations Summit (FNS) for consideration through resolution;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to write a letter calling upon the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to provide the additional financial resources to fund the requested two-day extension and the participation of First Nations representatives from across B.C.; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to work with the BCAFN and the FNS as the First Nations Leadership Council, and FNFC to ensure that there are additional opportunities for leadership to discuss the Trilateral Salmon Accord, explore pathways to ensure compensation related to food, social and ceremonial fisheries and move forward a trilateral agreement between Canada, B.C. and the FNLC.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-58
Page 4 of 4

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Draft Resolution no. 2023-59

RE: UBCIC Coalition Intervention in Discovery Island Open Net-Pen Judicial Review

WHEREAS First Nations rely on marine resources in the ocean and rivers for their livelihoods, way of life, health, and well-being and have a sacred responsibility to protect fish from devastating impacts, such as open net-pen aquaculture;

WHEREAS open net-pen fish farming has long generated public concern and widespread opposition from First Nations due to the environmental devastation and health consequences for wild aquatic species, becoming focal points for salmon-related diseases and viruses, including Heart and Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI), Piscine Reo-Virus (PRV), and Tenacibaculum, and for hazardous levels of parasitic sea-lice impacting wild migratory juvenile salmon, and unnatural levels of predation targeting vulnerable herring stocks;

WHEREAS in December 2020, after consulting with First Nations, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced that open net-pen farms in the Discovery Islands would be phased out by June 2022. In April 2022, the Federal Court set aside the Minister's decision as she had not sufficiently explained the rationale or granted enough time for open net-pen fish farm companies to provide input, resulting in an additional phase of consultation with companies and First Nations from June-December 2022. The majority of the First Nations in the area indicated their opposition to open net-pen fish farms, while We Wai Kai Nation and Wei Wai Kum First Nation, collectively known as Laich-kwil-tach, supported the issuance of seven licenses, and Klahoose First Nation consented to one farm license;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS in February 2023, the Minister decided not to reissue licenses for 15 farms in the Discovery Islands, and three companies (Mowi, Cermaq and Grieg) as well as Laich-kwil-tach filed applications for judicial review to challenge the decision, which have been consolidated into a single proceeding;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C. committed to implement, affirms:

Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

(3): States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination;

WHEREAS in *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia*, 1997 3 SCR 1010, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed Indigenous Peoples' rights in the land (including waters) and rights to determine its usage, requiring full consent of Indigenous Nations for government actions on Aboriginal Title Lands;

WHEREAS wild salmon travel extensive migratory routes and are impacted by any open net-pen fish farms on their journey, which creates far-reaching effects on the title and rights of First Nations and requiring all impacted Nations free, prior and informed consent, including Nations along the Fraser River;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolutions 2008-19, 2009-35 and 2009-36 confirm UBCIC's commitment to work in solidarity with like-minded organizations and B.C. First Nations with respect to fisheries and aquaculture issues;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolutions 1998-01, 2002-06, 2006-42, 2018-07, 2020-08, 2022-28 and 2023-35 have consistently opposed the siting and expansion of fish farms in British Columbia, and have emphasized the need for free, prior, and informed consent for any existent farms, and Resolution 2022-42 affirmed this opposition to open-net pen farms and called for land-based closed containment;

WHEREAS while the vast majority of First Nations oppose open-net pen fish farms, some Nations rely on these operations for economic opportunities and would face undue hardship if the farms were removed without adequate support to develop alternatives, and UBCIC Resolution 2023-35 called for the Government of Canada to support and adequately fund these First Nations in developing alternatives;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-59
Page 2 of 3

WHEREAS through UBCIC Resolution 2021-07, Support for Intervention in the Judicial Reviews of the Federal Decision to Phase out Fish Farms in the Discovery Islands, the Chiefs Council endorsed UBCIC's participation in a First Nations coalition in 2021 to uphold the DFO Minister's decision against a challenge by the fish farm companies Mowi, Cermaq and Grieg;

WHEREAS UBCIC has precedent to intervene in the case to provide a better understanding of the far-reaching impacts of open net-pen fish farms and their implications on the title and rights of all First Nations with salmon that migrate through the Discovery Islands as well as First Nations laws and perspectives to inform the Minister's application of the precautionary principle;

WHEREAS given the strength of a coalition of groups to intervene, as well as the reduced resourcing required, a coalition approach to the intervention would be advantageous; and

WHEREAS the deadline to apply for intervenor status was in August 2023, and UBCIC was unable to bring this issue before the Chiefs Council prior to deciding to join, necessitating Executive Resolution 2023-E02, "Support for UBCIC Coalition Intervention in Discovery Island Open Net-Pen Judicial Review." In the Resolution, the UBCIC Executive supported the Intervention and committed to seeking further direction from the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the Annual General Assembly in October 2023.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the intervention by UBCIC into the Discovery Island open net-pen fish farm judicial review, as part of a coalition, subject to resourcing.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-59
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-60

RE: Support for the Existence of Aboriginal Title to Submerged Lands Under Canadian and Provincial Law

WHEREAS riverbeds, lakebeds, seabed and other “submerged lands” make up a significant part of many First Nations’ food sources and are integral to many Nations’ title and culture;

WHEREAS the Crown has asserted ownership over the lands of First Nations in British Columbia, including submerged lands, since 1846 based on false, racist premises such as *terra nullius* and the Doctrine of Discovery, and without regard to pre-existing and continuing First Nations laws, protocols, and systems of governance;

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia (the Province) has and continues to assert presumptive ownership of the lands of First Nations in British Columbia, including submerged lands within the Province, but subject to Aboriginal title;

WHEREAS the Province has taken, or effectively supported, the unsubstantiated position that Aboriginal title to submerged lands is in conflict and cannot co-exist with the common law public right of navigation, in *Saik’uz First Nation v Rio Tinto Alcan Inc.*, 2022 BCSC 15; and

WHEREAS Canada announced its position reversal, through legal counsel, in an appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal relating to Saugeen Ojibway Nation’s Aboriginal title case, accepting that the public right of navigation can co-exist with Aboriginal title (2023 ONCA 565).

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the position that Aboriginal title to submerged lands, and lands that are in the interface or have been subject to cumulative effects and natural disasters, avulsion, and with climate change losses by floods, fires, mudslides, etc. as well as impacts by right of ways, transport trucks, C.P. Rail and C.N. Rail on our lands and waters, exists according to Indigenous laws, in Canadian and Provincial law, and, through reconciliation, can co-exist with any public right to navigation; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province and Canada to accept in policy and in litigation, that Aboriginal title to submerged lands, and lands that are in the interface or have been subject to avulsion, does exist in Canadian and Provincial law and co-exists with the public right of navigation.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-60
Page 2 of 2

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-61

RE: Repeal of Second-Generation Cut-Off and Two-Parent Rule in the Determination of Indian Status (Registration) under the Indian Act

WHEREAS the federal government continues to subject First Nations to a disappearing formula under the *Indian Act* that, if left untouched, will result in the legislated extinction of First Nations;

WHEREAS the federal government's historic and ongoing attempts to terminate First Nations, have disproportionately targeted and discriminated against First Nations women and their descendants as a means of speeding up forced assimilation and legislative extinction. This extinction-based formula, which combines the two-parent rule and second-generation cut-off rule in the determination of entitlement to Indian¹ status, will terminate the existence of First Nations in the future;

WHEREAS the termination of First Nations individuals will also serve to terminate the legal existence of Indian Bands (First Nations), which are necessarily comprised of First Nations people registered under the *Indian Act*. The termination of Indian bands (First Nations) would impact the legal status, ownership, and ability to access any and all reserve lands, Aboriginal title lands, treaty lands, and/or fee simple lands, together with any monies held in trust for First Nations;

¹ The use of the term 'Indian' is used throughout as the legal definition for an entitled person under the *Indian Act*

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS from 1876 to 1985, the *Indian Act* had a one parent rule for transmission of status, which only applied to men who were status Indians, not to women who were status Indians. Amendments to the *Indian Act* introduced in 1985 via Bill C-31 introduced a new form of discrimination by creating a hierarchy of status between 6(1) for those, mostly men, who already had full status and had never lost it, and 6(2) or half status, for those women who had lost status because of ‘marrying out’ and were being reinstated;

WHEREAS 6(2) status Indians must have children with another status Indian if they wish to ensure that their children will have Indian status. This is referred to as the “second generation cut-off” or “two parent rule” because a 6(2) status Indian alone cannot transmit status to the next generation;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 8(1): Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.

(2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities; (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights; (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration; (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

Article 9: Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right;

WHEREAS the federal government has a legal duty and fiduciary obligation to ensure that legislation enacted under section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* complies with its own laws, including, but not limited to the following:

- Section 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms 1982*, which guarantees equality between men and women;
- Section 35(4) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* which guarantees that the inherent Aboriginal, treaty and land rights of “Indians” are guaranteed equality between male and female persons;
- Section 3(1) of the *Canadian Human Rights Act* prohibits the federal government from discriminating on the basis of race or sex;
- Section 4(a) of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act S.C. 2021, c.14*, confirms the application of *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) in Canadian law;
- Article 44 of the UN Declaration protect all rights and freedoms within the UN Declaration equally to male and female persons;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-61
Page 2 of 5

WHEREAS Articles 1 & 2 of the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* (ratified by Canada in 1952) confirms that the actions taken by a state (Canada) with the intention to destroy in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, or racial group (First Nations), is a crime.

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada noted that in all of its dealings with Indigenous peoples, Canada committed genocide. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls found Canada to be guilty of both historic and ongoing genocide, which includes the use of race and sex-based discriminatory Indian status rules to eventually extinguish the existence of First Nations. These and other commissions, inquiries, and court cases have called on Canada to end sex discrimination in Indian status registration;

WHEREAS by Resolutions 2010-08, 2012-18, and 2019-11, the UBCIC Chiefs Council has expressed concerns with government-imposed definitions of First Nations identity and belonging and has called upon Canada to immediately end sex-based discrimination in the *Indian Act*;

WHEREAS numerous reports on the sex-based discriminatory rules for registration under the *Indian Act*, including Section 6(2), and the one-parent rule which creates an extinctions-based formula, have been submitted to Canada by advocates including the Feminist Alliance for International Action Brief to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples Study on Bill S-3, UBCIC Comments on Proposed Amendments to the *Indian Act* and The Indian Act Sex Discrimination Working Group Briefing Note on ISC Proposed Amendment to the Indian Act in an effort for Canada to act in good faith and remedy this discrimination;

WHEREAS sex, race, and family-based discrimination in Indian status registration has led to the reduction in size of First Nations, with a view to ensuring their legal, political social, and cultural extinction over time. The primary legislative tool to ensure the legislative extinction of First Nations is the two-parent rule combined with the second generation cut-off;

WHEREAS this form of forced assimilation subjects First Nations people to racist conceptions of who is defined as Indian under the *Indian Act* which is based on an arbitrary and fictional notions of blood quantum in the determination and passing on of Indian status, which places unreasonable, undue and insurmountable social, cultural, legal and economic pressure on First Nations' choice with whom they have children with, in order for their children to maintain Indian status and its associated entitlements, like membership in their First Nations;

WHEREAS First Nations people were dispossessed of their lands and cultures, fragmented, and forcibly relocated to reserves and urban centers, creating conditions which have led to high rates of out-parenting and intermarriage between status Indians and non-status individuals. First Nations women were significantly more impacted by this process. Upon marriage to a non-status man, First Nations women ceased to be an Indian under the *Indian Act* and were forced to assume the legal identity of their husband. The same was not true for Indian status men, who retained their status if they "married out", and endowed

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-61
Page 3 of 5

Indian status on their non-Indian status wives and non-Indian status children, creating inequitable transmission of Indian Status for the descendants of First Nations men and First Nations women;

WHEREAS this sex-discrimination has impacted generations of First Nations women and their descendants by denying them their identities, cultures, and legal entitlements and has yet to be fully remedied or redressed by Canada;

WHEREAS Canadian citizenship is determined on a one parent rule basis and there are no other peoples in Canada that rely on blood quantum or a two-parent rule for citizenship, membership, or transmission of legal rights and culture; and

WHEREAS section 6(2) disregards familial relations and continues to break apart families and communities. Indian entitlements and Canada's fiduciary obligations are defined under the *Indian Act* and administered based on Indian Status, as opposed to self-determined or by traditional First Nations membership and citizenship laws. This is a significant barrier to the inclusion of future generations and expansion of band membership, which can result in non-status children facing band membership rejection. This is not only an obstruction to First Nations exercising self-determination over citizenship, but an imminent threat to the continued existence of Indian Bands (First Nations).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to abolish all remaining sex, race and family-based discrimination as identified by First Nations and advocates, including legacies of sex discrimination and gender discrimination, in the *Indian Act* including 6(2) status and the requirement to have two status parents to transmit status to the next generation, and ensure that all First Nations men and women alike can transmit status as one parent;;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to respect First Nations sovereignty and the right to determine their own membership and citizenship laws based on their First Nation laws and traditions and to uphold their fiduciary responsibility to First Nations irrespective of racist colonial definitions of citizenship based on blood quantum;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with like-minded organizations to advocate for restoration of First Nations self-determination, citizenship rights, an end to sex discrimination and repeal of Section 6(2) of the *Indian Act*, and amendment of other sections of the *Indian Act* which enforce and implement the second generation cut-off and two parent rule; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to release quantitative statistics on 6(1) and 6(2) status holders, demographic data related to birth and death rates, out-parentage rates, rates of children impacted by unstated paternity, membership affiliations for new registrations of status Indian children and the worst-case projected legislative

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

extinction dates for First Nations individuals, Indian bands (First Nations) and the impact on First Nations title and rights holders of their membership.

Moved: Chief Marilyn Slett, Heiltsuk Nation
Seconded: Chief Lynda Price, Ulkatcho First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart Phillip', written over a horizontal line.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-61
Page 5 of 5

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-62

RE: Support for the FNLC Relationship Protocol with the Ministry of Citizens' Services

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has created the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ) to provide a wide range of services to British Columbians across the province, both in person and online. Within CITZ, the B.C. Data Service (BCDS) leads cross-government data policy development and provides data analysis, tools, platforms, training, and support. The BCDS provides trusted data management, data analysis, and statistics about people in B.C. and is responsible for two major government priorities: implementation of B.C.'s *Anti-Racism Data Act* and delivery of the B.C. Data Plan, which includes co-development commitments on Indigenous data sovereignty and a framework for using Indigenous languages when interacting with the Government of B.C.;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 13: Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 31: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions;

WHEREAS the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan* commits the Province to the following actions that fall within the responsibility of CITZ:

Action 3.14: Advance the collection and use of disaggregated demographic data, guided by a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous data sovereignty and self-determination, including supporting the establishment of a First Nations-governed and mandated regional data governance centre in alignment with the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.

Action 3.15: Adopt an inclusive digital font that allows for Indigenous languages to be included in communication, signage, services, and official records;

WHEREAS the Province enacted the *Anti-Racism Data Act* with goals that include clarifying a purpose for collecting, using, and disclosing personal information to identify and eliminate systemic racism, and building trust with Indigenous peoples and racialized communities; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC, the B.C. Assembly of First Nations, and the First Nations Summit, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council, have developed in collaboration with CITZ a draft Relationship Protocol which aims to create a process for joint dialogue, action, and cooperation that respects and recognizes the human rights of Indigenous peoples and advances joint commitments described in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan* and the *Anti-Racism Data Act*.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-62
Page 2 of 3

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to sign the attached draft Relationship Protocol between the UBCIC, the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), and the First Nations Summit (FNS), working collectively as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ);

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to clearly articulate to the CITZ that the Protocol is not a substitute for CITZ to engage directly with Nations and is not a delegation of authority in any way; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the BCAFN and the FNS as the FNLC, and CITZ to provide regular reports to the UBCIC Chiefs Council on the ongoing collaborative objectives and efforts as identified in the attached Relationship Protocol.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Judy Wilson, Skawahlook First Nation (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-62
Page 3 of 3

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-63

RE: Appointment to the UBCIC Constitution Committee

WHEREAS Section XI(b) of the UBCIC Constitution and By-Laws provides that “Where the UBCIC at the direction of the Chiefs Council is considering amendments to its By-Laws, a Constitution Committee will be created to receive and process requests for By-Law amendments;”

WHEREAS the UBCIC wishes to do a general update of the By-Laws, including making amendments to allow for ongoing virtual participation by its members in Annual and Special Chiefs Council and Executive Meetings, in order to remove geographic, health, economic and any other barriers to their participation;

WHEREAS such changes would require the UBCIC to review and amend its By-Laws; and

WHEREAS the Constitution Committee must have between 3 to 5 Full Members and will consider and propose any amendments it deems necessary or advisable to the UBCIC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly appoint a UBCIC Constitution Committee, and appoint the following Full members of the UBCIC to be ready to consider potential amendments to the UBCIC Constitution and By-Laws that may be proposed by the UBCIC Chiefs Council:

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepenc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

1. Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esketemc
2. Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
3. Kukpi7 Darrel Draney, Skeetchestn

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Constitution Committee to work with UBCIC legal counsel and staff to consider any potential By-Law amendments that may be suggested by the UBCIC Chiefs Council, and bring forward to the UBCIC Chiefs Council for discussion and review.

Moved: Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-63
Page 2 of 2

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-64

RE: Appointment to the UBCIC Credentials Committee

WHEREAS the Union of BC Indian Chiefs' By-Laws state that:

VI (f): The Chiefs-in-Assembly at the start of each AGA where an election for President is taking place will appoint a Credential Committee, comprised of three Full or Active Members in good standing who are members of three separate Indian Nations (and not merely Indian Bands), and are not standing for election; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the Chair of the Assembly to call for nominations from the floor to participate in the UBCIC Credentials Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby appoint the following persons as the Credentials Committee of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs for the upcoming three-year term ending at the Annual General Assembly in October 2025:

- 1) Spokesperson Charmaine Thom, Taku River Tlingit First Nation
- 2) Kukpi7 Willie Sellars, Williams Lake First Nation
- 3) Chief Daniel Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band

Moved: Wolf Director Louise Gordon, Taku River Tlingit First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Kukpi7 Stu Jackson, Lower Nicola Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepenc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEPMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-65

RE: Appointment to UBCIC Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS the UBCIC By-Laws state that:

XI (a): Prior to the end of each meeting, the Chiefs Council or Chiefs-in-Assembly shall appoint a Resolutions Committee comprised of no less than three and no more than five Full or Active Members who will be responsible with the Executive Committee and UBCIC staff for receiving and reviewing resolutions to be presented at the next Chiefs Council, AGA, or Special General Assembly. If a new Resolutions Committee is not appointed prior to the next meeting, the current Resolutions Committee will continue to sit;

WHEREAS there is one vacancy on the UBCIC Resolutions Committee; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council directed the Chair of the Assembly to call for nominations from the floor to participate in the UBCIC Resolutions Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby recognize the following persons as the Resolutions Committee of the UBCIC:

- 1) Councillor Debbie Abbott, Lytton First Nation (continuing)
- 2) Chief Lynda Price, Ulkatcho First Nation (continuing)
- 3) Councillor Colin Linger, Xa'xtsa Nation

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Moved: Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Representative
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-65
Page 2 of 2

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWPEMC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-66

RE: Specific Claims Research Funding Shortfalls and Access to Justice

WHEREAS the historical actions illegally undertaken by the colonial government of British Columbia and successive governments of Canada have resulted in the dispossession of First Nations, including the illegal alienation of our lands; the creation of and subsequent failure to protect Indian reserves, villages and fishing areas; the systematic denial of rights to fish and access to water; and the illegal disruption and removal of sacred sites and grave sites;

WHEREAS these historical and ongoing losses are the result of false, racist premises such as terra nullius and the doctrines of discovery and denial which provided colonial governments justification for alienating land through the Western notion of private land, and organized systems of pre-emption and land grants to accelerate non-Indigenous settlement on Indigenous territories, and later through systems of land alienation legalized and exploited under the *Indian Act* and often in clear violation of the minimal protections contained in colonial or federal law. These acts of land dispossession ignored Indigenous laws, protocols, and systems of governance;

WHEREAS redress of these historical wrongs is Canada's lawful obligation, and the honour of the Crown necessitates rightful action on the part of the federal government, and the full, fair negotiation of all claims;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), through the Specific Claims Branch (SCB) and the Negotiation and Support Directorate (NSD), has taken active and deliberate steps in the last two years to encourage all First Nations to seek specific claims research funding by a) unilaterally revising its research funding guidelines and publishing them on its public website and b) recommending to First Nations with multiple claims in progress that they apply for funding individually rather than through a Claims Research Unit as a more expedient path to the resolution of their specific claims;

WHEREAS CIRNAC undertook these actions without making any attempts to increase the overall annual budget for specific claims research and development funding (currently \$12 million), despite representatives of Claims Research Units (CRUs) urging them to do so in anticipation of a greater number of funding requests from First Nations;

WHEREAS in response to its annual call for proposals, NSD received 160 applications for specific claims research funding from CRUs and individual First Nations, totaling \$30.5 million, resulting in an \$18.5 million shortfall;

WHEREAS NSD has confirmed that 98 First Nations have been denied funding on the basis that all available funding has been allocated. Many of these First Nations were actively encouraged by Canada to apply for funding and are in the middle of researching and developing their claims. This work must now be put on hold indefinitely, jeopardizing these First Nations' access to justice and redress of their historical claims. First Nations denied funding received perfunctory emails notifying them that their requests for funding were denied;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

Article 8(2): States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for (b): Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (c): Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights.

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-66
Page 2 of 4

Article 28(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

(2): Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights;

WHEREAS on July 20, 2023, the National Claims Research Directors (NCRD) released an open letter to then Minister of CIRNAC, Marc Miller, calling on Canada to take immediate steps in the short term to ensure that First Nations who submitted proposals for specific claims research funding in the current fiscal year receive the resources to continue their critical work, and to work in full partnership with First Nations to attain a substantial increase in the budgetary allocation for specific claims research funding being conducted according to the existing Specific Claims Policy to ensure First Nations' access to justice for their historical losses as required under the UN Declaration;

WHEREAS to date, 28 First Nations, Tribal Councils, and like-minded organizations have formally endorsed the NCRD open letter via letters and emails sent to the new CIRNAC Minister, Gary Anandasangaree. The Interim National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Joanna Bernard, also sent a letter to the Minister on August 1, 2023, urging him to provide additional funding to First Nations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and renew the existing funding envelope and to significantly increase the annual funding (currently only \$12M) to support First Nations' access to justice;

WHEREAS to date neither the NCRD, the AFN, or any individual First Nation has received any reply to their letters, exacerbating First Nations' frustration and mistrust of Canada's funding policy and decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS Canada's continuing failure to provide adequate resources to research and develop specific claims will increase the financial costs of resolving these claims exponentially and heighten the possibility that First Nations will take direct, on the ground action, seeing it as the only viable means of seeking redress for their historical grievances.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the National Claims Research Directors and all individual First Nations who have been denied specific claims research funding for the 2023-24 fiscal year and their calls for an immediate restoration of lost funding and an increase of funding moving forward;

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to take immediate action to ensure that First Nations who submitted proposals for specific claims research funding in the 2023-24 fiscal year receive the resources to continue their critical work; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to work in full partnership with First Nations to attain a substantial increase in the budgetary allocation for specific claims research funding being conducted according to the existing Specific Claims Policy to ensure First Nations' access to justice for their historical losses as required under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Moved: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
Seconded: Judy Wilson, Skawahlook First Nation (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 4, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 4th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-66
Page 4 of 4

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: 250-828-9746
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2
Tel: 604-684-0231
Fax: 604-684-5726
1-800-793-9701
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Web: www.ubcic.bc.ca

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
55TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 4TH TO 6TH, 2023

CARIBOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX, WILLIAMS LAKE (SECWEPENC TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2023-67

RE: Support for Community-Based Delivery of Post-Secondary Education Programs in First Nation Communities

WHEREAS First Nations have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions as an aspect of their inherent rights of self-determination and self-government, as affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) and also as recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982;

WHEREAS the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, requires B.C. and Canada respectively, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to take all measures necessary to ensure that the laws of B.C. and Canada are consistent with the UN Declaration, and to develop and implement action plans to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration;

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. have worked for more than two decades to build the B.C. First Nations Education System, which is premised fundamentally on quality education for First Nation students and First Nations control of First Nations education;

WHEREAS B.C. First Nations have demonstrated their capacity to build effective, relevant, responsive, and B.C.-specific models for First Nations education through the development of the B.C. Tripartite

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

Education Agreement signed in 2018 by Canada, B.C., and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC);

WHEREAS the Province of B.C. (Province) committed in the 2022 Declaration Act Action Plan to work with First Nations to “provide funding for self-determined, community-led programs to upgrade skills, obtain credentials, secure employment, and develop and support community economies (Action 4.41);

WHEREAS B.C. First Nations have demonstrated their capacity to effectively administer funding for community-based delivery of post-secondary programs, including the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSP), and while the Province provided one-time funding in 2020 and 2022 to support First Nations and First Nations-Mandated Post-Secondary institutes to deliver community-based programs funded through the PSP, there is no commitment to provide ongoing funding;

WHEREAS the Province committed in the 2022 Declaration Act Action Plan to “support Indigenous language revitalization through sustainable funding” (Action 4.30);

WHEREAS First Nations-mandated post-secondary institutes, First Nations, the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) and FNESC have worked with public post-secondary institutions to develop a Language Fluency/Proficiency Degree framework as one avenue to meet the urgent need for language revitalization and language speakers, and while the Province provided one-time funding in 2019 and 2022 and has identified further funding to support the implementation of the framework, based on the needs identified by First Nations and the costs of program delivery, funding is insufficient to support existing programs and to support First Nations to implement additional programs;

WHEREAS the Province has committed in the 2022 Declaration Act Action Plan to “develop and implement an effective recruitment and retention strategy to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in the K-12 public education system” (Action 4.2);

WHEREAS the Province has identified funding for Indigenous teacher recruitment and retention, but funding is insufficient to meet the need to significantly increase the number of First Nations students completing teacher education programs, and First Nations have been clear that funding must be directed to community-based delivery of First Nations teacher education programs to be effective;

WHEREAS FNESC and IAHLA, under the direction of First Nations in B.C., are developing a B.C. First Nations Tripartite PSE Model, which includes “four pillars”: First Nations Learners; First Nations-Mandated Post-Secondary Institutes; Community-Based Program Delivery; and a Respectful and Responsive Public Post-Secondary System;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2021-57, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly called on the Province to provide ongoing core and capacity funding to First Nations-mandated post-secondary institutes, and to work with FNESC and IAHLA to co-develop legislation recognizing the critical role of the institutes and

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

committing to provide ongoing core funding, consistent with the First Nations-Mandated Post-Secondary Institutes pillar; and

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2022-10, the UBCIC Chiefs Council affirmed their support for continued development of the B.C. First Nations Tripartite PSE Model, recognizing that the B.C. First Nations Tripartite PSE Model will evolve as further direction is received from First Nations, and their support for the four pillars, including the Community-Based Program Delivery pillar.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province of British Columbia to commit new stable and predictable multiyear funding that meets the need for community-based delivery of post-secondary programs in First Nations communities, to be administered through a First Nations-controlled process that is equitable, accountable and transparent;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to develop regional policy and guidelines, under the direction of First Nations, for the administration of both federal and provincial funding for First Nations community-based delivery of post-secondary programs that will supersede existing policies and guidelines established by the federal and provincial governments;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province of B.C. to provide increased and ongoing funding for the Indigenous Language Fluency Degree to implement Declaration Act Action 4.30, including providing fair compensation for Language Champions including Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Youth involved in teaching languages, and meet the urgent need to address language revitalization and the need for fluent language speakers, including funding for dictionaries, apps and other teaching tools; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province of B.C. to provide increased and ongoing funding for teacher education programs, consistent with Declaration Act Action 4.2 to be delivered in First Nations communities to meet the immediate and urgent need for First Nations teachers and First Nations language teachers to be administered through a process jointly determined with First Nations.

Moved: Kukpi7 Stu Jackson, Lower Nicola Indian Band
Seconded: Councillor Cory Sampson, Adams Lake Indian Band (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 6, 2023

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 6th day of October of 2023 in Secwepemc territory



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

2023-67
Page 3 of 3