

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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Final Resolutions of UBCIC 57th Annual General Assembly October 7th-9th, 2025

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
57TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 7TH – 9TH, 2025
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-42

RE: Appointment to the UBCIC Elections Appeal Committee

WHEREAS the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs' By-Laws state that:

IX(a): The Chiefs-in-Assembly on the first day of an Assembly where the election for the position of President is to occur shall appoint an Elections Appeal Committee comprised of three Full or Active Members in good standing who are not standing for election for the position of President and who are members of three separate Indian Nations (and not merely Indian Bands); 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 Elections Appeal Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby appoint the following persons as the Elections Appeal Committee of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs for the upcoming three-year term ending at the Annual General Assembly in October, 2028:

- 1) Kukpi7 Helen Henderson, Tsq̓ésc̓en First Nation
- 2) Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
- 3) Chief Don Harris, Xa'xtsa

Moved: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 7, 2025

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

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Resolution no. 2025-43

RE: Appointment to the UBCIC Credentials Committee

WHEREAS the Union of B.C. 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 B.C. Indian Chiefs for the upcoming three-year term ending at the Annual General Assembly in October, 2028:

- 1) Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
- 2) Chief Chakeenakwaut (Pam) Jack, Penelakut Tribe
- 3) Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band

Moved: Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band

Seconded: Kukpi7 Helen Henderson, Tsq'ésceñ First Nation

Disposition: Carried

Date: October 7, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-44

RE: Specific Claims Research Funding Crisis

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 the federal specific claims process is one of the few mechanisms available for First Nations to exercise their right to redress for historical breaches of lawful obligation by the Crown and access to specific claims research and development funding is fundamental to the entire process: First Nations cannot enter any part of the specific claims process, including the Specific Claims Tribunal, without

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having conducted research to support their legal arguments and submitting a historical report and supporting documents to Canada;

WHEREAS since 2019, Canada has budgeted \$12 million for specific claims research and development across Canada and 2025-26 is the last year of this budget commitment, when the amount of available funding will revert to \$4 million unless Canada commits to renewing and increasing available funding;

WHEREAS there is an alarming shortfall in specific claims research funding according to Canada's own data which shows that Claims Research Units (CRU) and individual First Nations together applied for over \$34 million in 2025-26, a shortfall of \$22 million, and an \$8 million increase over last year's shortfall;

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. account for 53 percent of filed claims currently in progress, 43 percent of claims that have been through the process but have been rejected for negotiation or had their files closed, and have the largest number of claims currently in research and development;

WHEREAS the specific claims process has, since its inception, been plagued by delays, barriers, and institutionalized conflict of interest, including Canada's control over access to specific claim research and development funding;

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; (c): Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights.

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;

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WHEREAS CRUs, such as UBCIC’s Specific Claims Research Program, are specialized historical research centres established and mandated by First Nations to research and develop specific claims on their behalf and receive annual funding from Canada to do this work. CRUs research and develop over 80 percent of all active claims across Canada and are a critical means by which First Nations pursue justice for their historical claims;

WHEREAS First Nations have the right to determine how their historical grievances are researched and advanced—whether through mandated CRUs or as individual applicants—and Canada must ensure equitable and appropriate funding for both pathways, consistent with First Nations’ mandates, needs, and right to redress;

WHEREAS Canada recently and suddenly changed its method of distributing specific claims research funding across Canada resulting in devastating operational budget cuts to CRUs by up to 83 percent, and to First Nations who applied directly for funding, who received 25 percent less than the already inadequate \$40,000 per claim maximum and 50 to 75 percent less than their demonstrated need based on the amounts requested;

WHEREAS Canada made and implemented this decision unilaterally, with no warning or communication. CRUs were notified about their funding offers in late June and early July 2025, one quarter into the fiscal year, after CRUs had already committed staff and resources based on previous levels and past funding practices, incurring unrecoverable costs and leaving a fraction of resources to carry out work plans over the remainder of the fiscal year;

WHEREAS Canada failed to apply or communicate any consistent, transparent methodology for how it distributed funding, creating sudden, destabilizing shortfalls to CRUs that will derail ongoing research work, bar First Nations from advancing new claims, waste already scarce resources, and undermine First Nations’ access to justice;

WHEREAS on September 23, 2025 CIRNAC announced that a \$2.65 million supplement to 2025-26 specific claim research and development funding will be made immediately available to eligible CRUs in response to First Nations’ calls to provide an urgent supplement to the 2025–2026 research envelope to reach a minimum of \$35 million, in line with need demonstrated on work plans to uphold First Nations’ mandates to have CRUs research and develop their claims;

WHEREAS the September 23rd supplement is far below the need demonstrated on CRU work plans and even with this top-up to their budgets, many CRUs continue to face significant hardship as they struggle to retain staff and afford legal costs associated with claim development, and conduct research activities;

WHEREAS Canada’s actions will result in a dramatic reduction in the number of claims advanced, stalling research and wasting resources, leading to structural failure and long-term system paralysis; and

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WHEREAS Canada's actions contravene its obligations under the UN Declaration, fail to uphold the honour of the Crown, and contradict its public commitment to reconciliation and redress of past harms, and as such will trigger litigation, loss of credibility, and escalating political conflict.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on Canada to increase its urgent supplement to the 2025–2026 specific claims research envelope to reach a minimum of \$35 million, in line with the demonstrated need to uphold First Nations' mandates to have Claims Research Units (CRUs) research and develop their claims and to maintain this level of funding until a reformed specific claims research funding model has been fully co-developed and endorsed by First Nations;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to co-develop, in full partnership with First Nations, a reformed specific claims research funding model that is transparent, equitable, needs-based, and grounded in the UN Declaration, Treaty rights, and First Nations' right to choose their own representatives and research mechanisms;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly demand that until the co-development of a new funding model, Canada commit to maintaining the current level of funding or increasing it to providing sufficient, stable research funding to First Nations that reflects their needs as documented on the work plans of CRUs and individual First Nation applicants, ensuring all First Nations are able to fully participate in the specific claims process and exercise their right to redress; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Prime Minister and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to address the urgent need for Canada to return to the co-development table to honour its past commitments by re-engaging in good faith with First Nations to co-develop a fully independent specific claims policy and process, beginning with adequate, stable, and transparent research funding that enables First Nations to investigate, prepare, and advance their claims through mechanisms of their own choosing.

Moved: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band
Seconded: Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk'eteme
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 7, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-45

RE: Support for the UBCIC Research Department: Specific Claims Research Program and Library and Archives

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 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; (c):

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Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights.

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 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;

WHEREAS First Nations leaders in British Columbia came together in 1969 to form the UBCIC in a collective act of resistance to Canada's White Paper, and to fight for the recognition of our title and rights, treaty rights, and right of self-determination, establishing one of the organization's foundational principles: that despite the many differences between our Nations, we are stronger when we stand together and speak with a unified voice, a voice of strength grounded in our laws, cultures, histories, inherent rights, and connection to our lands in our common pursuit of truth, justice, and restitution;

WHEREAS the need to collect historical information about our Nations, control our own resources, conduct our own research, and share information with each other has been integral to these efforts, first formalized in UBCIC Resolution 1972-13 and through the founding in 1973 of a centralized UBCIC research and resource centre dedicated to First Nations' land claims, rights, and treaty rights;

WHEREAS the UBCIC's rejection of the federal government's comprehensive claims policy and its extinguishment provisions led to a focus in the Research Department on historical grievances that fall under the federal specific claims policy, leading to the Research Department being recognized as a Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research (TARR) Centre under the 1982 federal Native Claims Policy;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Research Department, through its Specific Claims Research Program, is a Claims Research Unit (CRU), mandated by B.C. First Nations to undertake specialized and complex historical research and specific claims development on their behalf. As the oldest, and largest First Nations research organization in B.C., the Research Department utilizes economies of scale and benefits from the dedicated and specialized expertise First Nations have built up over five decades, as well as our longstanding relationship with the Mandell Pinder law firm, all of which enables the Research Department to carry out research, legal work, claim development, claim support, and advocacy at no cost to First Nations;

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WHEREAS under the direction of the Research Department, the UBCIC Library and Archives has been the premiere First Nations land rights research facility in B.C. for over 50 years and continues to be the heart of knowledge and information sharing at the UBCIC. The Library and Archives holds the organization's institutional memory, and is a gateway to vital information for our members and First Nations communities in B.C., providing library and reference services to community researchers, research support and reference services to the UBCIC staff, acquiring, preserving and making accessible records documenting the history and activities of the UBCIC, and endeavoring to increase access to its holdings by providing online digital collections and document delivery services;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Research Department encourages, maintains, and models the highest standards in land rights research and specific claims practice, promotes research excellence, and supports historical land rights research education in B.C.'s First Nation communities;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Research Department continues to be at the forefront of specific claims policy reform and the work to advance a truly independent specific claims process that eliminates Canada's conflict of interest and enacts Indigenous laws, includes women's historical losses and resolves claims in a fair, just, and timely way in alignment with the UN Declaration. The Research Department leads the advocacy efforts of the National Claims Research Directors, works closely with the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group and creates opportunities for dialogue and data sharing with First Nations, CRUs, legal counsel, and sister organizations to hold Canada accountable for changes to policy and practices, challenge existing laws, advocate for systemic reform, and achieve justice for B.C. First Nations;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Research Department and UBCIC Library and Archives are committed to information sharing among B.C. First Nations and more broadly, and advocate strongly for First Nations' right of access to information, consistently developing electronic and physical tools, research resources, hands-on workshops, and undertaking community outreach initiatives and projects that support learners, engage First Nations, and create spaces for our communities to exchange ideas and work together to achieve justice; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council and Chiefs-in-Assembly have confirmed their support for the UBCIC Research Department, the Specific Claims Research Program, and the UBCIC Library and Archives through previous Resolutions (2020-31; 2015-37; 2015-36; 2014-19; 2005-06; 2007-11; 2010-57; 2011-64; 2008-44, 2007-46, 2007-13, 2006-28, 2005-07, 2004-02, 2004-01, 2003-10, 2003-08).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the continued work of the UBCIC Research Department and its Specific Claims Research Program, and the UBCIC Library and Archives; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support and encourage the efforts of the UBCIC Research Department and UBCIC Library and Archives to seek resourcing for mandated activities, projects, and initiatives.

Moved: Chief Shana Thomas, Lyackson First Nation
Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Representative
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 7, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-46

RE: Appointments to the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group

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, including the full, fair negotiation of all claims, regardless of the federal government's preliminary estimate regarding settlement value;

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WHEREAS compensation and redress for these illegal actions has either been improperly administered or systematically denied by Canada’s specific claims resolution process which has, since its inception, been plagued by delays, barriers, and institutionalized conflict of interest wherein a) Canada controls the management and assessment of claims, including access to funding, records, negotiations, and adjudication, and b) specific claims policy, legislation, rules, and norms are based on Canadian law and legal traditions, to the exclusion of the laws and legal traditions of First Nations participating in the process;

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; (c): Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights.

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 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;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2013-25 “Creation of UBCIC Specific Claims Working Group”, Resolution 2013-18, “Support for the Draft Term of Reference, Draft Strategic Action Plan and Draft Work Plan of the UBCIC Specific Claims Working Group,” and Resolution 2025-25 “Support for the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group Strategic Action Plan,” the UBCIC Chiefs Council created a B.C. Specific Claims Working Group (BCSCWG) to work toward the fair and just resolution of B.C. specific claims, and supported its draft terms of reference and strategic plans;

WHEREAS the BCSCWG is comprised of political leaders and members of UBCIC member First Nations in good standing, as well as UBCIC technicians; and

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WHEREAS Judy Wilson (Neskonlith Indian Band) and Mark Point (Skowkale First Nation) have volunteered to sit on the BCSCWG, joining current Chair Chief Dalton Silver (Sumas First Nation), and members Kukpi7 Fred Robbins (Esk'eteme), Councillor Sherry McIntyre (Skuppah Indian Band), and Kevin Whitney (T'it'q'et).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby recognizes the following persons as the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group for an indefinite term:

1. Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation (Chair, continuing)
2. Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk'eteme (continuing)
3. Councillor Sherry McIntyre, Skuppah Indian Band (continuing)
4. Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band
5. Mark Point, Skowkale First Nation; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group to provide regular updates on its work to the UBCIC Chiefs Council.

Moved: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
Seconded: Kukpi7 Helen Henderson, Tsq'escen' First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 7, 2025

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
57TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 7TH- 9TH, 2025
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-47

RE: Support for Xatsūll First Nation in their Appeal for the Mount Polley Mine Tailings Dam Raise and Broader Mining Reform

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. have inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction to our respective territories, and, as the original caretakers of these territories, we continue to exercise our traditional and ecological knowledge, laws and jurisdiction to protect and steward the environment, lands and waters;

WHEREAS Xatsūll First Nation continues to face long-term environmental, cultural, and social impacts from the 2014 Mount Polley Mine tailings dam failure, the largest mining disaster in Canadian history, which released 25 million cubic meters of toxic mining waste and contaminated material into their territory and disrupted vital ecosystems;

WHEREAS despite causing the worst mining disaster in Canadian history and an ongoing legacy of harm, the Mount Polley Mine resumed operation, and in March, 2025, B.C. unilaterally authorized the Mount Polley Mine to raise the height of its tailings dam without first conducting an environmental assessment or obtaining Xatsūll First Nation's free, prior, and informed consent;

WHEREAS in April 2025, Xatsūll First Nation sought judicial review of B.C.'s authorizations and decision to not conduct an environmental assessment for the Mount Polley tailings dam raise;

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart Phillip'.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

WHEREAS the B.C. Supreme Court’s dismissal of Xat’súll’s injunction and judicial review regarding the Mount Polley Mine tailings expansion weakens First Nation rights and protections, raises serious environmental justice concerns, and casts doubt on the Province’s implementation of meaningful consultation and consent-based decision-making under the 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 BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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 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 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 by UBCIC Resolution 2014-17 “Support for Xat’sull and Williams Lake First Nations, Call for Public Inquiry and Mining Reform in the aftermath of the Mount Polley Disaster” UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly supported Xat’sull in ongoing work related to the Mount Polley Disaster; and

WHEREAS Xat’súll First Nation is exercising its inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights to safeguard its lands, waters, and future generations, and on September 3, 2025, Xat’súll First Nation filed an appeal to overturn the B.C. Supreme Court’s decision and overturn B.C.’s authorizations for the tailings dam raise.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support Xatsúll First Nation's appeal of the Mount Polley Mine expansion decision and affirm solidarity with their efforts to pursue justice, accountability, and environmental protection;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province of British Columbia to clearly outline how it will uphold meaningful consultation and consent-based decision-making under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and to suspend any further approvals or expansions at Mount Polley Mine until full and proper consultation and free, prior and informed consent are secured; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to collaborate with Xatsúll First Nation and supportive organizations to advocate for stronger oversight of mine tailings facilities, enhanced protection of First Nations rights, and comprehensive remediation of the Mount Polley disaster site.

Moved: Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Fred Robbins, Esk'eteme
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 7, 2025

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MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-48

RE: Protecting First Nations Access to Archival Metadata and Ensuring Community-Led Processes with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

WHEREAS First Nations in British Columbia are leading critical work to identify, document, and honour children who died or went missing while attending Indian Residential Schools (IRS) and associated institutions, including research into unmarked burials and student deaths, work that is foundational to truth, justice, and healing;

WHEREAS the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), established through the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), holds and manages records documenting the history and legacy of the residential school system and has the mandate to make these records accessible to Survivors, their families and communities, researchers, educators, and the public in accordance with privacy and access legislation;

WHEREAS the B.C. Indian Residential School Technical Working Group (TWG) has raised serious concerns that the NCTR has eliminated community researchers' ability to access and download archival metadata—descriptive information essential to identifying and organizing records—thereby undermining the efficiency and integrity of First Nations-led research and creating barriers to exercising the right to truth;

WHEREAS the TWG has also identified concerns with the NCTR's Missing Children Project, including insufficient and inconsistent community consultation, duplication of work already being carried out by First

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Nations research teams, and lack of clarity regarding datasets on burial sites reportedly held or transferred by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC);

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the Government of Canada has adopted without qualification and which the Government of British Columbia has committed to implement through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, affirms:

Article 18(1): 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...; and

Article 26: Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired...” including the right to control and protect cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and intellectual property;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2025-13, the UBCIC Chiefs Council directed the UBCIC Executive, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and First Nations Summit (FNS) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to work with the TWG to identify issues and develop recommendations to support the advancement of B.C. First Nations Community-led Residential School and Indian Hospital Investigations;

WHEREAS the TWG, composed of representatives from B.C. First Nations conducting IRS investigations, provides collective technical support and coordination to lead communities across the province and is actively working to secure access to NCTR records and to safeguard First Nations-led research; and

WHEREAS supporting documentation, including the June 18, 2025 *Briefing Note from the BC IRS Technical Working Group regarding the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation*, outlines detailed concerns and recommendations and is attached to this resolution for reference.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the B.C. Indian Residential School Technical Working Group (TWG) in their efforts to protect First Nations access to archival metadata and to ensure that all research regarding missing children and unmarked burials is led by and accountable to First Nations including a transparent review process to assess metadata access practices;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) to immediately restore and maintain full community researcher access to download archival metadata in its internal database, subject to privacy severance provisions under section 9 of the *National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Act*, and to clearly identify any legal restrictions on records;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly urge First Nations with existing Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with the NCTR to amend their agreements to explicitly guarantee access to and the ability to download metadata;

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THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with the TWG, NCTR, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), and other like-minded organizations to:

- a) obtain clarity and access regarding any burial site datasets;
- b) ensure NCTR community consultation processes are led by and accountable to First Nations; and
- c) advocate that federal resources prioritize and support First Nations-led research teams and not duplicate their work; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to seek federal and provincial funding, including from CIRNAC and other appropriate sources, to support these advocacy efforts and to ensure that First Nations have the technical and financial resources necessary to carry out this critical research.

Moved: Chief Victor Isaac, ‘Namgis First Nation
Seconded: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 7, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-49

RE: Endorsement of the *Declaration Rejecting Indian Residential School Denialism*

WHEREAS the Indian Residential School (IRS) system, which operated from the 1830s to the late 1990s, was part of a deliberate policy to dismantle Indigenous Nations, cultures and identities. Children were forcibly removed from their families and communities, and endured abuse, neglect, disease, and experimentation. Children died at these institutions. The IRS system inflicted profound and lasting harm to Indigenous children, families, and communities across generations;

WHEREAS following decades of advocacy by IRS survivors and their families and communities, and comprehensive reports from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, many investigations into missing children, deaths and unmarked burials connected to IRS institutions began in 2021, after the announcement of ground-penetrating radar results at Kamloops Indian Residential School;

WHEREAS increasingly, since the publicization of these investigative findings, IRS denialism has been increasing, and directed towards survivors, former students, families, communities, and researchers as a part of a deeply troubling pattern of anti-Indigenous racism and questioning and distortion of facts and truth;

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 1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all 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.

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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 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;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolutions 2003-14, 2006-23, 2008-04, 2010-34, 2011-14, 2011-38, 2013-16, 2013-42, 2015-35, 2016-45, 2021-29, 2021-49, 2021-50, 2022-65, 2024-33, and 2024-61 address the numerous horrors of Indian Residential Schools, the recent rise in Residential School denialism and the need for comprehensive healing supports for survivors, families and communities;

WHEREAS in 2022, the B.C. First Nations Community-led Indian Residential School Investigations Technical Working Group (TWG) was established to support IRS and Indian Hospital investigations in British Columbia;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2025-13 directs the UBCIC Executive, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and First Nations Summit (FNS) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to work with the TWG to identify issues and develop recommendations to support the advancement of B.C. First Nations Community-led Residential School and Indian Hospital investigations; and to advance recommendations and key concerns identified by the TWG and First Nations conducting Indian Residential School and Indian Hospital investigations in British Columbia to all levels on government;

WHEREAS the TWG wrote and adopted the *Declaration Rejecting Indian Residential School Denialism (2025)* (the Declaration) as a rejection of all forms of denialism, and to lay out a foundation for understanding Indian Residential School and Indian Hospital experiences and ongoing research into missing children and unmarked burials; and

WHEREAS the Declaration includes rejections of misinformation and denialism, recognizes the harms of denialism, and calls for action on government and churches to address denialism, anti-Indigenous racism, and create safeguards for prevention.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorse the *Declaration Rejecting Indian Residential School Denialism* as adopted by the B.C. First Nations Community-led Indian Residential School Investigations Technical Working Group in June 2025;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly reaffirm UBCIC Resolution 2024-33 and reject all forms of Indian Residential School (IRS) denialism, including misinformation, minimization, and distortion of the historical and ongoing impacts of the IRS system; condemn harassment and hate directed at

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survivors, families, communities, and researchers; and support sound, community-based investigations into missing children, unmarked burials and deaths related to the IRS system; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly reaffirm calls on the governments of Canada and B.C. to:

- commit to sustainable long-term funding to support community-based investigations into missing children and unmarked burials; and
- work in collaboration with First Nations to actively prevent and challenge IRS denialism and misinformation in B.C., including by developing targeted education campaigns to counter denialism in the public and private sector.

Moved: Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 7, 2025

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Declaration Rejecting Indian Residential School Denialism

Adopted June 18, 2025

We, Indigenous and allied researchers, working together to gather information about the Indian Residential School experience, unequivocally reject in the strongest of terms any form of denialism of the truths about Indian Residential School student experiences.

We define denialism as the rejection or misrepresentation of the Indian Residential School (IRS) system. It is a form of anti-Indigenous racism. Denialism is not simply denying the existence of the IRS system but minimizing or partially acknowledging the intent, outcomes and impacts of the system. Such arguments impede healing for Survivors and their communities and disrupt reconciliation within Canadian society.

Context of the IRS System

Understanding the Indian Residential School (IRS) system within the context of the relationship between global, European-based empires and Christian Churches founded on the Doctrine of Discovery, justified through notions asserting that only European-style agriculture secured rights to land, and rationalized by the colonial assumption that Indigenous people were a ‘vanishing race.’ Together these factors dehumanized Indigenous peoples and were used by European Nations to justify the colonization of the Americas through dispossession of the land, forced conversion to Christianity and assimilation into settler society.

Recognizing that the Canadian government and Christian institutions, including the Roman Catholic, Methodist (United), Anglican and Presbyterian Churches, implemented deliberate and systematic policies of dismantling Indigenous societies and identities. These policies were designed to contribute to settler colonialism – a distinct system of colonial oppression and violence motivated by settlers’ desire for Indigenous lands, water, resources and labour. Settler colonialism continues today in the form of settler amnesty¹ and impunity, protecting the status quo and empowering misinformation about residential schools.

Emphasizing that the IRS system was a central part of colonial policies by removing children from their families, communities, land, water, resources, languages and cultures.

Recalling that Indian Residential Schools in Canada operated from 1831 into the 1990s and were located in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador. 150,000 Status and Non-Status Indians, Inuit and Metis children are estimated by the federal government to have attended IRS institutions during that period.

Recalling the inextricable connections between Indian Residential Schools, Indian Day Schools, day scholars, Boarding Homes, Indian Hospitals and Sanatoriums in this system of colonial oppression and violence.

Remembering the Government of Canada's failure to establish health and safety standards nor enforce its own minimal standards and regulations for children within its custodial care.

Acknowledging the profound and enduring harm inflicted on thousands of children subjected to violence, abuse, disease, experimentation and neglect in the IRS institutions.

Listening to former students who have shared deeply personal and painful stories about their time at an IRS institution.

Highlighting that while students may have positive memories in an IRS institution, the foundational, underlying policies of assimilation borne from the IRS system were part of a structure intended to destroy Indigenous people. These policies encapsulate genocide under the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Recognizing that children at IRS institutions died at higher rates than those of the general school-aged population. IRS institutions were not properly maintained and were regularly overcrowded. Children were often undernourished and subject to harsh punishments, leaving students susceptible to infection, thereby undermining their ability to overcome disease. Many of these institutions permitted criminal behaviour among staff who subjected students to many forms of abuse, including harms resulting in death. Some students died at the schools, while others were sent to hospitals or their home communities where they succumbed to their injuries or illnesses from their time at an IRS institution.

Recognizing that parents were not always notified of their children's illnesses, transfers to hospitals, deaths, or burials.

Recalling that while some children who died were returned home for burial, others were buried on or around school grounds, in nearby Church, reserve or municipal cemeteries. Consideration was not provided for maintenance of residential school burials after the IRS system concluded, accounting for a portion of unmarked burials but not all clandestine burials of children.

Remembering Canada's recognition of the intent and impact of the IRS system as genocide in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the House of Commons in 2022 and the acknowledgement of the harmful impacts of the IRS system in public apologies by Canada and church institutions.

Our Research Process

Applying a community-directed and community-informed approach to gathering information about IRS experiences and associated deaths.

Affirming the validity and quality of evidence of IRS experiences from oral testimony and that witness statements are common in forensic investigations, and that interviews are standard practice in the academic realm.

Acknowledging the information, knowledge and wisdom of former students and elders is respected, honored and revered within Indigenous communities.

Recalling that oral history is recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* as a foundational evidentiary principle in Indigenous legal systems as having equal standing with other types of evidence.

Adhering to intellectual and academic standards for social sciences, humanities and natural science research practices.

Applying peer-reviewed best practices and research processes as valid, reliable and substantiated from a robust set of information and experiences.

Accepting records in available government and church records documenting abuse, neglect and deaths directly and indirectly resulting from the IRS experience.

Acknowledging the faults and flaws in available information and research processes: gaps in archival records due to lost or destroyed records, withheld records; the subjective bias of documents created by the institutions responsible for the IRS system; the physiological effects of trauma on memory; and the limitations of geophysical survey technology, such as ground-penetrating radar.

Affirming that it is common in investigations that information is not shared publicly during ongoing work.

Emphasizing that attempts to downplay, distort, or erase the harms associated with the IRS system impedes healing for Survivors and their communities and disrupts reconciliation within the wider Canadian society.

Acknowledging the intergenerational impacts of *culture stress*, as defined by the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples as the cumulative impact of assimilative policies, including the IRS system, has had and continues to have, on Indigenous people.

Sharing a common concern about growing Indian Residential School denialism, as spread by those producing denialist arguments and by those who are consuming and sharing it.

What We Reject

We declare our rejection of the following:

- the perpetuation of misinformation diminishing the experience of Indigenous children while in attendance at, or as a result of, attending an IRS institution;
- the actions of anyone perpetuating harm or harassment against any Survivor, family member, or IRS researcher;
- unsound research and research practices used to study the IRS system, specifically the selective use of evidence such as the use of non-representative data, mischaracterizations of quantifications of uncertainty as mistakes, and the obscuring of errors through citational cycling and inflation which perpetuates reliance on invalid conclusions;
- those who minimize, deny, or reject the existence of Indigenous rights; and
- increasing tolerance for denialism.

What We Recognize as Harms

Consequences and harms of misinformation spread by denialism:

- traumatizing those who have already suffered;
- trespassing in communities;
- promoting online hatred, hate speech, and in-person verbal and physical harassment of communities and community members;

- supporting online and in-person targeted attacks on individual IRS investigators and/or groups of IRS investigators;
- causing confusion and misinformation about what happened at residential schools;
- casting doubt on the credibility of Indigenous-led research and investigations;
- disparaging Indigenous oral history and Indigenous rights;
- perpetuating settler colonial genocidal ambitions and actions; and
- perpetuating settler-colonial amnesty.

Our Calls for Action

We Acknowledge The Need For:

- governmental and religious institutional public rejection of denialism;
- ongoing sound research into the IRS system and its continuing impacts; and
- community-informed content about Indigenous rights and the IRS system incorporating outcomes of community-led, collaborative IRS research in public education.

We Call Upon:

The federal and provincial governments of Canada to:

- meet their legal obligations to protect those under Canada's *Indian Act* and to work with self-governing Nations;
- actively prevent and challenge anti-Indigenous racism, denialism and misinformation;
- improve hate crime legislation, including considerations to address increasing IRS denialism and the complexities of how information is spread online;
- fully implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action with an emphasis on Calls to Action 62-65 on education and reconciliation, Calls to Action 71-76 on missing children and burial information and Calls to Action 79-82 on commemoration;
- fully implement the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential School's Obligations 35-37 on denialism;
- provide resources, including long-term financial commitments:
 - to support Survivors and their families,
 - to support community-led initiatives addressing denialism;
 - for community-based IRS investigations;

- for community-based curriculum development for schools and public education initiatives; and
- work collaboratively with Indigenous communities towards healing and meaningful reconciliation.

The Churches of Canada to:

- actively prevent and challenge anti-Indigenous racism, denialism and misinformation;
- educate themselves about the IRS system and about denialist strategies and arguments;
- fully implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action 59-61;
- provide support and resources, including long-term financial commitments, for community-based IRS investigations; and
- continue to support Indigenous communities in their efforts towards healing and self-determination.

People of good conscience to:

- actively challenge anti-Indigenous racism, denialism and misinformation;
- educate themselves about the IRS system² and denialist strategies and arguments;
- identify the psychological discomfort and harmful coping strategies in themselves and in others when confronted with conflicting beliefs or values³; and
- support Indigenous communities towards healing and self-determination.

Endnotes

¹ “Canada’s settler amnesty is disguised through the State’s purposeful avoidance of investigations into the systemic harms that the children faced as well as its refusal to adopt laws or join human rights bodies that would have provided Indigenous victims and Survivors with meaningful avenues for accountability.” (Office of the Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Site associated with Indian Residential Schools, *Upholding Sacred Obligations: Reparations for Missing and Disappeared Indigenous Children and Unmarked Burials in Canada*, Vol. 1 (Ottawa, 2024) 277)

² Resources: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Final Report, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the Office of the Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools, and resources developed by local Indigenous communities

³ One of the roots of denialism and its spread is the socio-psychological premise of Cognitive Dissonance. Cognitive Dissonance is the psychological discomfort we experience when we hold two or more conflicting beliefs, attitudes, or values simultaneously. To resolve this tension, we often change, justify, or ignore the conflicting information.

Appendix: How Indian Residential School Denialism Can Appear

- As **conspiracy theories** or unsubstantiated stories, suggesting, implying, or accusing researchers associated with Indigenous communities and organizations of exaggerating deaths at an IRS institution in order to push political agendas and/or to enrich Indigenous leadership and allied researchers.
- As a **rejection or misrepresentation of historical knowledge**.¹ Some examples:
 - *“The harms of Indian Residential Schools have been overstated and positive aspects downplayed. The positive and negative aspects must both be presented in order to tell the whole story.”* This is a “false balance” bias and misrepresents the overall effect of the IRS system as something other than part of a purposefully-designed structure intended to dismantle Indigenous societies and identities.
 - *“The experiences at the schools, including deaths, were typical of the time period.”* Volume 4 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Final Report showed Indigenous children in residential school died at much higher rates than school-aged children in the general population from the beginning of the IRS system until 1950. While rates fell after 1950, they were still higher than those of the general school-aged population.
 - *“What occurred at residential schools is not genocide.”* This argument narrows the United Nations definition of genocide to only consider murder as genocide. The UN definition of genocide is broader and requires three elements, of which the IRS system meets all three: (1) Victims are part of a protected group because of their race, nationality or religion; (2) To commit intentionally one of the five prohibited acts: murder, causing serious bodily or mental harm, inflicting on the group conditions of life that leads to its destruction, preventing births within the group, transferring children of the group to another group; and (3) [t]o commit these acts with the specific intent to destroy the group. That Canada failed in its attempt to destroy Indigenous people does not mean that genocide did not occur.
 - *“There are no missing children. The children who died are all accounted for.”* The term “missing” is used in different ways. We define “missing” as any child

¹ “This form of denialism relies on rejecting or misrepresenting the well-established facts about the System. It relies on the techniques of historical research and analysis and falsely presents itself as a correction of the historical record.” (Office of the Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Site associated with Indian Residential Schools, *Executive Summary: Final Report on the Missing and Disappeared Indigenous Children and Unmarked Burials in Canada* (Ottawa, 2024) 177)

who did not return home from an IRS institution. Many student death certificates record the name of a cemetery where a child may have been buried, however these locations were not always shared with the families, and often the specific burial plot within the cemetery is unknown. There are also children who “disappeared” as per the definition of this term under international law.

- “*Not a single body has been found.*” This argument ignores the high instance of documented student burials at schools and in community cemeteries.
- As **errors of fact, logic, misdirection, and irrelevances** regarding the investigations. Some examples:
 - “*GPR cannot distinguish graves.*” Ground penetrating radar (GPR) identifies patterns of sub-surface anomalies consistent with burials. Additionally, GPR and other geophysical techniques such as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and photogrammetry combined together with evidence found in archival records and oral statements demonstrates the probability of burials.
 - “*Where are the bodies?*” This argument implies that exhuming human remains is the only way to prove that children died and that graves are present near schools or in community cemeteries. It distracts from the complex research being done to gather knowledge about deaths related to IRS institutions from fieldwork, oral histories and archives.

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
57TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 7TH – 9TH, 2025
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-50

RE: Mandatory In-Person Coroner Assessments at Death Scenes

WHEREAS the role of the B.C. Coroners Service (Coroners Service) includes determining the facts of all sudden, unnatural and unexpected deaths, all children’s deaths, and all deaths in designated institutions and conducting inquests into deaths in the custody of peace officers or when there is strong public interest in a death or a need to review a dangerous practice or circumstance. It begs the question of how this duty can be performed if a death scene is not investigated in-person;

WHEREAS an August 28, 2025, media story in the Vancouver Sun detailed that the Coroners Service stopped requiring coroners to go to certain death scenes in person as of 2019 citing financial constraints;

WHEREAS in November 2019, a group of field coroners wrote to their regional director to push back against the policy directive, worrying it would mean “reduced attendance” at certain death scenes and that it would result in a lower quality of service to families;

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

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(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 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;

WHEREAS rates of death, particularly violent or suspicious deaths requiring investigation, are disproportionately high amongst Indigenous peoples. Indigenous people are more likely to be impacted by the toxic drug crisis, police violence, and gender-based violence resulting in death and the crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ People (MMIWG2S+);

WHEREAS in June 2025, Dr. Kim Stanton published her Final Report *Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence* (Final Report), which was commissioned by the Attorney General;

WHEREAS Dr. Stanton's Final Report found that gender-based violence is normalized in B.C. and documented concerns from across the province that drug overdose may have become a means of femicide, highlighting the dangers of the intersecting crises for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;

WHEREAS Indigenous victims, particularly women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, face systemic barriers to accessing justice including racism, sexism, misogyny, over-policing, neglect, jurisdictional mismanagement, and profound mistrust of police and the justice system. Recent revelations of the practice of coroners under the B.C. Coroners Service attending death scenes remotely in some cases, adds to these systemic barriers in the justice system and concerns for deceased individuals, victims of crime, and their families;

WHEREAS the Calls for Justice in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls are aimed at ending genocide, tackling root causes of violence, and promoting the rights of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. These include:

- Ensuring that all cases of Missing and Murdered Women and Girls are duly investigated and prosecuted (Call for Justice 1.2 iii, which calls on Canada to implement the recommendations from the United Nations' CEDAW Inquiry) and to implement protections for the rights of Indigenous women and children in compliance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and
- Call for Justice 1.5, for governments to prevent, investigate, punish and compensate for violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people;

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WHEREAS 13-year-old Noelle O'Soup, an Indigenous youth, and a woman named Elma Enan, along with their families, were let down by investigators and the justice system when Noelle's and Elma's bodies went unnoticed by the attending police officer and community coroner tasked with the death scene of Jimmy Van Chung Pham in a Downtown Eastside Single Occupancy Room (SRO). The coroner attended the scene 'remotely' by speaking to the investigating police officer by phone;

WHEREAS the attending police officer is now facing a neglect-of-duty investigation by the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner;

WHEREAS the Coroners Service has been criticized in a number of cases involving deceased Indigenous individuals and their families as well as within a [2011 report](#) by former B.C. auditor general John Doyle for its labour practices, as well as by staff citing its on-call staffing model, low pay, and a lack of mental health supports for coroners attending death scenes;

WHEREAS Recommendation 7 of Dr. Stanton's Final Report recommends that the Province create a standing Gender-Based Violence Death Review Committee (GBV-DRC), a multidisciplinary body composed of people with expertise in the area of intimate partner violence and family violence, from various sectors including law, law enforcement, mental health, and anti-violence advocacy. The purpose of a GBV-DRC is to work with the Office of the Chief Coroner in the investigation and review of intimate partner violence-related deaths and femicides to make recommendations to help prevent future deaths. A death review committee is a critical concrete policy to address gaps in death investigations and must also include experts in Indigenous-specific racism;

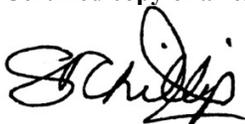
WHEREAS the Representative for Children and Youth, responsible for investigating critical injuries and deaths of children and youth receiving services from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, has made numerous calls for a "whole-of-government" approach to addressing violence, and to addressing children and youth being lost or missing in the child welfare system, while highlighting the over-representation of Indigenous youth and Indigenous girls in particular amongst missing populations;

WHEREAS on May 5, 2025, UBCIC joined Justice for Girls and the families of Tatyanna Harrison, Chelsea Poorman, and Noelle O'Soup in calling for a coroner's inquest into their three deaths, following an independent forensic pathologist's review which disputed the findings of the Coroners Service regarding the cause of Tatyanna Harrison's death;

WHEREAS while the Chief Coroner directed an inquest into the death of Tatyanna Harrison on May 6th, 2025, the families of Noelle O'Soup and Chelsea Poorman continue to wait and seek justice for their loved ones; and

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2024-20 called on B.C. to create a Collaborative table to Implement the Calls for Justice alongside First Nations, families and survivors to support a cross-government approach to addressing the MMIWG2S+ crisis and underlying gender-based violence. A whole-of-government cross-ministry approach to addressing the deeply systemic roots of these deaths and failed investigations

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will require conceded effort by ministries across government in the areas of health, justice, public safety and policing, social development, child welfare and beyond.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly reaffirm the public call made on May 5, 2025, to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to direct a coroner’s inquest into the deaths of Tatyanna Harrison, Noelle O’Soup and Chelsea Poorman;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the government of British Columbia to provide sufficient funding and mandate to the B.C. Coroners Service to ensure that coroners are supported to attend death scenes in person and to take a culturally safe approach when working with Indigenous families and in cases of murdered and deceased Indigenous peoples to support the justice process; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the government of British Columbia to prioritize the implementation of Recommendation 7 from Dr. Stanton’s *Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System’s Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence* to amend the *Coroner’s Act* to legislate a standing Gender-Based Violence Death Review Committee which includes First Nations representatives and experts in Indigenous-specific racism.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Osoyoos Indian Band (Proxy)
Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Nooaitch Indian Band (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-51

RE: Prioritizing Safety, Equity and Gender-Based Violence Prevention in Industrial Work Camps and Infrastructure Development Projects

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada recently passed Bill C-5, *An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act*, and the Legislative Assembly of B.C. passed Bills 14, *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act*, and 15, *Infrastructure Projects Act*, despite widespread opposition from First Nations. Bills 14 and 15 provincially and Bill C-5 federally, along with the government of Canada's announcement of a new federal Major Projects Office and 32 new fast-tracked infrastructure projects, including two in B.C., appear to have limited or no gender-based analysis+ or human rights impact assessment approach and raise significant concerns for the title and rights and safety of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people and land defenders;

WHEREAS the relationship between extractive industries and increased rates of gender-based violence, particularly in relation to work camps, has been widely documented. Extractive industries fueling the climate crisis have been directly linked to violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry) and reports, including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, murders, and human trafficking, through hyper masculine cultures and industry settings where misogyny and white supremacy are prevalent, through physical and sexual violence and abduction, and militarization of police forces upholding the colonial agenda in service to extractive industries against land defenders;

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WHEREAS addressing underlying systemic issues within industrial sector “work camps” or “man camps” is a crucial priority measure for upholding labour rights, human rights, safety, equity and preventing gender-based violence, both within them, and in the communities in which they operate. It is also a crucial priority measure in protecting the workers’ home communities and families, who must bear the ongoing impacts of learned behaviour and traumas that the workers bring back home from camp, which can include gender-based violence, racism and drug use;

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 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.

Article 24(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 the National Inquiry’s Calls for Justice, *Red Woman Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside*, and *Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report* provide concrete actionable recommendations and a clear path to creating systemic change and ending violence by calling on government as well as industries and extractive industries;

WHEREAS the National Inquiry’s Calls for Justice 13.1, 13.2, 13.4, and 13.5 call upon resource extraction and development industries to address the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, and for governments to approve and monitor development projects to complete gender-based socio-economic impact assessments on all proposed projects as part of their decision making and ongoing monitoring of projects, to fund further inquiries and studies into resource extraction, development and violence against Indigenous women, and to recognize increased demand on social infrastructure due to resource extraction;

WHEREAS on December 13, 2019, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued a Decision (CERD 1(100)), and subsequent letters to Canada, urging the State party to freeze present and future approval of large-scale development projects affecting indigenous peoples that do not enjoy free, prior and informed consent from all Indigenous peoples affected;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolutions 2022-12 and 2023-23 address human rights violations, including incidents of gender-based violence against Indigenous women in relation to resource extraction, and called for the disbandment of the RCMP Community Industry Response Group;

WHEREAS on May 4, 2022, UBCIC submitted “The Deadly Intersections of Resource Extraction and Gender-Based Violence in Canada” to the Status of Women Committee of House of Commons: Study on Resource Development and Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls that addresses the intersections of resource extraction, gender-based violence, MMIWG2S+ crisis, and climate emergency;

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WHEREAS on October 30, 2024, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) reviewed the tenth periodic report of Canada and issued Concluding Observations which call on Canada to: take action on increased rates of gender-based violence and conflicts over land and criminalization of Indigenous women in relation to extractive industries and environmental degradation (41.b; 41.c); eradicate gender-based violence against Indigenous women and girls, including environmental violence that is attributable to extractive industries (42.b); strengthen its legal framework to ensure that mining and extractive industries are subject to free, prior, and informed consent with affected Indigenous women (42.c); ensure Indigenous women are fully consulted (42.d); and develop mechanisms to prevent criminalization of land defenders and to ensure Canadian extractive companies are held accountable for human rights violations (42.e);

WHEREAS the Canadian natural resource sector employs approximately two million people in Canada. Workers have raised issues with employment conditions, particularly in relation to temporary housing facilities, where transient workers often reside in relative isolation, removed from their families, communities and support systems in hyper-masculine settings where gender-based violence has been shown to be prevalent and women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ workers, who are widely unrepresented, face workplace violence, harassment and harms without accessible, reliable remedies or recourse;

WHEREAS key findings from a 2025 study by Emma Barnes “highlight the complex and systemic nature of sexualized violence in industrial work camps, revealing a range of issues, including ineffective regulation, insufficient reporting mechanisms, and inadequate training...[and] the impacts of male-dominated work environments, a lack of community support, and substance use on the safety and well-being of workers, particularly women”;

WHEREAS under-regulation, lack of accountability and enforcement of health and safety within industrial work sites and temporary housing represents a serious concern for the wellbeing of workers, including Indigenous workers, and contributes to an environment that permits exploitation, informal economies, racism, discrimination, gender-based violence and the MMIWG2S+ crisis;

WHEREAS the costs of greenhouse gas emitting extraction and infrastructure projects are deeply environmental and social. Global fossil fuel extraction has contributed to the climate crisis and its range of devastating impacts that disproportionately affect the lives and cultures of Indigenous peoples, while also accelerating the establishment of temporary labour camps. UBCIC Resolutions 2021-55, 2019-08, 2019-02, and 2016-34 stand in opposition to fossil fuel extraction projects and infrastructure, including Liquefied Natural Gas, and their impacts on the climate; and

WHEREAS the provincial and federal governments’ stated priorities on infrastructure project development have intensified the urgency for a streamlined whole-of-government plan to address systemic issues of safety, equity and gender-based violence prevention within industry work culture, the climate crisis, and the systemic crisis of gender-based violence to ensure the wellbeing of the environment, the rights of workers, and the security of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the governments of Canada and B.C., including the Environmental Assessment Office of B.C., and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to:

- address health, safety, equity, labour, and housing conditions for workers in industrial work camps, including developing protocols to be resourced by industry employers, to provide mental health supports, substance abuse supports, education and cultural awareness training on gender-based violence and MMIWG2S+ developed by First Nations, as well as and safe reporting mechanisms, in recognition of the hyper-masculine work culture and conditions contributing to systemic rates of gender-based violence within work camps, surrounding First Nations communities, and in the home families and communities of these workers;
- create a regulatory framework for oversight, enforcement, compliance, and accountability which, as a condition of industrial project approvals, stipulates that all employers that accommodate workers must work with First Nations and provide staff with ongoing education and awareness training, safety checks, and a transparent accountability framework to uphold the rights and safety of First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ peoples, of neighbouring First Nations communities, and of those in the home families and communities of these workers, and including a Regulatory Impact Analysis and Socioeconomic Impact Analysis in full alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the UN Declaration;
- to take a gender-based analysis+ and human rights impact assessment approach which upholds the title and rights and free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations, and First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQA+ peoples in the development of any and all new infrastructure and/or resource development projects prioritized under Canada’s *Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act* and the *Building Canada Act* (which were both enacted through Bill C-5), and B.C.’s *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* (previously known as Bill 14), and *Infrastructure Projects Act* (previously known as Bill 15); and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the UBCIC Executive, working with like-minded organizations, to advance advocacy and collaboration on resource extraction and gender-based violence issues and uphold and protect the rights and safety of First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ peoples, land defenders, grassroots organizations, and other like-minded organizations, and ensure that resource extractive industries operating domestically and abroad are held accountable for human rights violations.

Moved: Chief Marilyn Slett, Heiltsuk First Nation
Seconded: Kukpi7 Rhonda Phillips, Xat’sull First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-52

RE: Urgent Action on the Epidemic and Systemic Crisis of Gender-Based Violence

WHEREAS gender-based violence is pervasive throughout Canada and disproportionately impacts Indigenous women. 46% of Indigenous women have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime compared to 33% of non-Indigenous women. Similarly, 61% of Indigenous women have experienced intimate partner violence, compared to 44% of all women. In 2023, the rate of intimate partner violence was highest in the North;

WHEREAS current provincial and federal policy and legislative approaches are failing to meaningfully address gender-based violence rooted in patriarchy, colonialism, racism and intersecting oppressions, or to prevent the crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People (MMIWG2S+);

WHEREAS Canada's recent enactment of Bill C-5, *An Act to Enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act*, and B.C.'s enactment of Bills 14, *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act*, and 15, *Infrastructure Projects Act*, along with the government of Canada's establishment of a new federal Major Projects Office and 32 new fast-tracked infrastructure projects, including two in B.C., appear to have little or no gender-based analysis+ approach and raise significant concerns for the title and rights and safety of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people;

WHEREAS the relationship between extractive industries and increased rates of gender-based violence, particularly in relation to work camps, has been widely documented. Extractive industries fueling the

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climate crisis have been directly linked to violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry) and reports through hyper masculine cultures and industry settings where misogyny and white supremacy are prevalent, through physical and sexual violence and abduction, and militarization of police forces upholding the colonial agenda in service to extractive industries against land defenders;

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 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 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;

WHEREAS the provincial and federal governments' stated priorities on infrastructure project development have intensified the urgency for a streamlined whole-of-government plan to address the systemic crisis of gender-based violence and ensure the security of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people;

WHEREAS in 2015, the United Nations declared gender-based violence to be a global pandemic and in October 2024, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) called upon Canada to prevent and protect Indigenous women from gender-based violence in relation to extractive industries;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2024-20 "Collaborative Table to Implement the Calls for Justice" calls on the provincial and federal governments to take a collaborative approach alongside survivors and families of MMIWG2S+ and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, First Nations and women's organizations in the establishment of a dedicated table to implement the Calls for Justice;

WHEREAS in November 2024, the YWCA Metro Vancouver, in collaboration with a coalition of numerous anti-violence organizations, academic experts, business leaders, community advocates and educators, launched an initiative to declare gender-based violence an epidemic in B.C. and issued an open letter to Premier Eby;

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WHEREAS on June 3, 2025, the sixth anniversary of the publication *The Final Report of the National Inquiry and Calls to Justice*, UBCIC publicly called on Prime Minister Carney to declare gender-based violence a national epidemic;

WHEREAS Dr. Kim Stanton was directed by the Attorney General of B.C. to conduct an independent, systemic review of the treatment of sexual violence and intimate partner violence in the province's legal system and to propose recommendations. In June 2025, Dr. Stanton published her Final Report *Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence*, finding that gender-based violence is normalized in B.C.;

WHEREAS Dr. Stanton's independent report highlights the systemic roots of gender-based violence which perpetuate its normalization and devaluation including forms of oppression such as misogyny, colonialism, racism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of systemic discrimination. Her findings demonstrate systemic failures across criminal, civil, and family legal systems in B.C. and identify a lack of institutional accountability, siloed government response, insufficient prevention, and a gap in understanding the social, human, and fiscal cost of inaction as significant barriers;

WHEREAS the report issued 21 system-wide and legal system recommendations, including for the Legislature to formally declare gender-based violence an epidemic and for the creation of new structures like an independent Gender-Based Violence Commissioner and Death Review Committee;

WHEREAS the B.C. Attorney General's office has since established an Action Committee Table to respond to Dr. Stanton's recommendations;

WHEREAS many Canadian jurisdictions have adopted the terminology of epidemic in relation to gender-based violence including the federal government, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and one hundred Ontario municipalities. At least one municipality in B.C. (Prince George) has also declared an epidemic of gender-based violence;

WHEREAS in his July 17, 2025, mandate letter to the Minister of Finance and the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, Premier Eby directed them to "Work with partners to address the national epidemic of gender-based violence as it relates to our province, and work with stakeholders to ensure that government programs and initiatives reflect the interests and concerns of people with lived experience"; and

WHEREAS the Premier's clear recognition of a national epidemic falls short of a commitment to a formal provincial declaration of the epidemic and systemic crisis of gender-based violence which can be used as a framework for acknowledging the severity of the societal issue, increasing public awareness, promoting education, and as a platform for an urgent tangible whole-of-government approach for addressing and preventing the crisis across society.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support recommendations Dr. Kim Stanton makes in her report *Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence* and call on the government of British Columbia, particularly the Attorney General and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, to collaborate and oversee their implementation alongside the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice in partnership with First Nations, First Nations women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, survivors and families. Further, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call for the Province to apply a gender-based analysis+ lens, a rights-based approach and to include experts in Indigenous-specific racism in the implementation of the recommendations, including around the Attorney General's Action Committee Table;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the governments of British Columbia and Canada to join other jurisdictions in making a formal declaration of gender-based violence as an epidemic and systemic crisis in acknowledgement of the profound and widespread crisis, and as a critical framework to support a cross-ministry and whole-of-government approach to raise public awareness, signal urgency, take action and accountability, and implement meaningful policy and legal recommendations with sufficient resourcing;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly acknowledge that for a formal declaration to be meaningful, it must go beyond recognition and span across government to enact public education, decisive action and tangible policy and legislative implementation; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with like-minded organizations to advance the implementation of Dr. Stanton's recommendations, including to advocate for a formal provincial declaration of gender-based violence as an epidemic and systemic crisis which disproportionately impacts First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, simultaneous with announcing how the Province will take concrete action.

Moved: Deb Foxcroft, Tseshah First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Representative
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-53

RE: B.C. First Nations Justice Council’s Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan Priority Strategies

WHEREAS the B.C. First Nations Justice Council’s (BCFNJC) Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan (IWJP) is grounded in foundational reports and inquiries and does not seek to duplicate existing First Nations’ efforts or compete for funding for Indigenous communities or other likeminded organizations working in this space;

WHEREAS First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ justice is inseparable from environmental justice. The militarization of First Nations lands as a violent means of advancing the Crown’s two-fold project of controlling lands and resources and undermining First Nations title and rights and sovereignty is part of a colonial legacy of deploying armed police forces to invade First Nations lands and targeting, criminalizing, and disempowering First Nations land defenders, especially First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+;

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 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.

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Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their own 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 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.

Article 24(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 the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' (National Inquiry) Calls for Justice, *Red Woman Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*, and *Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report* provide concrete actionable recommendations and a clear path to creating systemic change and ending violence by calling on government as well as industries and extractive industries;

WHEREAS the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice 13.1, 13.2, 13.4 and 13.5 call upon resource extraction and development industries to address the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples, and for governments to approve and monitor development projects to complete gender-based socio-economic impact assessments on all proposed projects as part of their decision making and ongoing monitoring of projects, to fund further inquiries and studies into resource extraction, development and violence against Indigenous women, and to recognize increased demand on social infrastructure due to resource extraction;

WHEREAS on October 30, 2024, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) reviewed the tenth periodic report of Canada and issued Concluding Observations which call on Canada to: take action on increased rates of gender-based violence and conflicts over land and criminalization of Indigenous women in relation to extractive industries and environmental degradation (41.b; 41.c); eradicate gender-based violence against Indigenous women and girls, including environmental violence that is attributable to extractive industries (42.b); strengthen its legal framework to ensure that mining and extractive industries are subject to free, prior, and informed consent with affected Indigenous women (42.c); ensure Indigenous women are fully consulted (42.d); and develop mechanisms to prevent criminalization of land defenders and to ensure Canadian extractive companies are held accountable for human rights violations (42.e);

WHEREAS in 2020, the BCFNJC developed the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy (the Strategy), which contains 25 individual strategies and 43 lines of action, and which was endorsed through UBCIC Resolution 2020-12. Strategy 11 of the Strategy calls for the creation of an Indigenous Women's Justice Plan (IWJP) as well as a strategy to address the challenges of intimate partner violence, which was endorsed by the UBCIC Chiefs Council in June 2024 by Resolution 2024-21;

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WHEREAS in fall 2023, the BCFNJC engaged with title and rights holders across B.C., holding 17 in-person engagements and three virtual sessions, to develop an IWJP that reflects the needs, priorities and vision of First Nations and uplifts work towards self-determination and reclamation;

WHEREAS on April 8, 2024, at the 3rd Annual BCFNJC Justice Forum, the IWJP–Final Draft was presented. The IWJP–Final Draft includes 15 individual strategies and 42 lines of action calling for systemic transformations across many sectors, including policing, accountability, prevention, gender-based violence, and safety;

WHEREAS the IWJP is a living document that is responsive to the unique needs and priorities of title and rights holders and can be updated to meet future needs, this version is termed the “Final Draft” to reflect both its readiness for implementation and adaptability;

WHEREAS of the 15 strategies within the IWJP, three strategies were identified as implementation priorities. The three strategies were agreed to and endorsed by the Province of B.C. through the Bilateral Joint Implementation Plan between the signatories of the Strategy, the Ministry of Attorney General, and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The three priority strategies are:

- a. Strategy 8: Man Camps, Resource Extraction, and Land Exploitation
- b. Strategy 9: Crisis Response
- c. Strategy 15: Legislation and Policy (as it relates to Strategy 8 and 9); and

WHEREAS the IWJP focuses on self-determination and autonomy, revitalization of legal traditions, respect for rights, values of Indigenous peoples, specifically Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+. With the current political landscape and passing of provincial legislation in 2024 *Intimate Images Protection Act* and the *Victims, Family and Community Healing and Safety Act* and federal legislation in 2022 *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, through a broad advocacy coalition framework, BCFNJC will be co-developing implementation plans with concrete action items with partners across First Nations allied organizations and governments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and the First Nations Summit (FNS) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to fully endorse the B.C. First Nations Justice Council’s (BCFNJC) Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan (IWJP) priority Strategies 8 (Man Camps, Resource Extraction, and Land Exploitation), 9 (Crisis Response), and 15 (Legislation and Policy [as it relates to Strategy 8 and 9]) as a framework to protect and prevent Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ from the impacts of man camps, resource extraction, and infrastructure development and the continued MMIWG2S+ genocide through de-siloed crisis response planning, long-term reliable funding, legislative alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and policy change;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the BCFNJC to continue working collaboratively with title and rights holders and likeminded organizations in their priority strategies and lines of action implementation plans to uplift ongoing work and avoid duplication;

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THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the governments of Canada and B.C., including the B.C. Human Rights Commission, Environmental Assessment Office of B.C., and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to provide resources to support BCFNJC with the co-development of mandatory education and training models to be administered to government, employers and workers in resource extractive industries, first responders, the Independent Investigations Office, and justice authorities with whom families, grassroots activists, First Nations, and First Nations communities interact with during incidents involving man camps, resource extraction, land exploitation, and crisis response. Mandatory education must include gender-based violence prevention and cultural training, education on the MMIWG2S+ crisis, ongoing cultural awareness, anti-racism, anti-violence, and gender-equality training; 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 utilize the B.C. First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan to advocate for the prioritized implementation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice 13.1, 13.2, 13.4, and 13.5, which are centered on ensuring safety and security and reducing impacts to Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples throughout man camps, resource extraction, and land exploitation.

Moved: Chief Marilyn Slett, Heiltsuk First Nation
Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-54

RE: Adoption of 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby adopt the 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements as presented at the UBCIC 57th Annual General Assembly meeting of October 7th – 9th, 2025.

Moved: Chief Victor Isaac, ‘Namgis First Nation
Seconded: Chief Dean Nelson, Lil’wat First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-55

RE: Support for UBCIC Filing Complaints at LNG Financers

WHEREAS Canada passed Bill C-5, *An Act to Enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act* and the *Building Canada Act*, and B.C. passed Bills 14, *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act*, and 15, *Infrastructure Projects Act*, despite widespread opposition from First Nations. The government of Canada has established a Major Projects Office and released a list of projects to be “fast-tracked” including the expansion of the LNG Canada export terminal on the North Coast of B.C.;

WHEREAS new proposed LNG projects in B.C. such as Ksi Lisims, the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) Pipeline, and LNG Canada phase 2, do not have the consent of all impacted First Nations. These projects are awaiting a final investment decision (FID);

WHEREAS additional LNG exports, such as those transmitted through the proposed Ksi Lisims, PRGT Pipeline, and LNG Canada phase 2 projects would put B.C. even further behind its greenhouse gas reduction targets and its responsibility to follow the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations to limit warming to 1.5°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:

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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.

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.

Article 32(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;

WHEREAS Chief Na'Moks, John Ridsdale, of the Wet'suwet'en Nation and Gwii Lok'im Gibuu, Jesse Stoepler, of the Hagwilget Village Council and Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition have been filing complaints with foreign companies and banks who are financing and investing in oil and gas projects in B.C. that do not have the free, prior, and informed, consent of their people. The complaints site violation of First Nations rights, ecological destruction, and climate impacts; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council has continually opposed expansion of the LNG industry in B.C. UBCIC Resolutions 2016-34, 2019-08, 2021-55, 2022-14, and 2024-45 support First Nations in B.C. opposing LNG projects in their territories, call for a stop on investments and approvals of new oil and gas projects in B.C, and call for a transition to a net-zero economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the First Nations who are engaging, and filing complaints about the financing of LNG projects in their territories with

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investment banks and corporations that choose to fund projects that impact their inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, cause ecological destruction, and increase climate impacts;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to file complaints on behalf of the UBCIC with potential financiers and investors of Ksi Lisims, the PRGT Pipeline, and LNG Canada Phase 2, citing violation of First Nations rights, ecological destruction, and climate impacts, and continue to engage with the potential financiers to ensure the title and rights of First Nations in B.C. are respected in investment decisions; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the federal and provincial governments to obtain free, prior, and informed consent from all impacted First Nations on major projects in B.C. before approval.

Moved: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation
Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Representative
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-56

RE: Indigenous Advisory Council of the Major Projects Office

WHEREAS First Nations hold inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights to their lands, waters, and resources, which cannot be delegated, overridden, or bypassed by federal or provincial governments or any advisory body;

WHEREAS the government of Canada has created a new Major Projects Office (MPO) under the *Building Canada Act* with a mandate to “streamline regulatory approvals and advance major projects in Canada”;

WHEREAS the government of Canada has appointed members to a new Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) to provide advice to the MPO, announcing the IAC without transparency on how members were selected, without terms of reference, and without clarity on how its advice will be used, raising concerns that the IAC may be used by the MPO and government of Canada to legitimize major project fast-tracking and approvals without consulting and cooperating with affected First Nations title and rights holders in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent;

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(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves.

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

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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 32(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples... in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources;

WHEREAS advisory structures such as the IAC cannot substitute for direct consultation and cooperation with affected First Nations title and rights holders in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent, or displace First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights to their lands, waters, and resources including related jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2025-24 "Opposition to Proposed National Interest Legislation and Call for Coordinated First Nations Response" the UBCIC Chiefs Council called for the government of Canada to engage in full and meaningful consultation and cooperation with First Nations in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent prior to adopting Bill C-5 or legislation like Bill C-5, as required by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that the Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) of the Major Projects Office (MPO) does not displace First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights to their lands, waters, and resources including related jurisdiction, or the government of Canada's obligation to consult and cooperate with affected First Nations title and rights holders in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the government of Canada to publicly clarify that the IAC's role is advisory only, and that major project fast-tracking and approvals will not be made without the government of Canada consulting and cooperating with affected First Nations title and rights holders in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to monitor the MPO and IAC, and to advocate for processes that respect and uphold free, prior, and informed consent, ensuring that First Nations governments are the decision-makers on projects impacting their lands, waters, and resources; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to advise the government of B.C. and the government of Canada that any future federal or provincial processes on major projects must be grounded in recognition of First Nations title and rights, and must not use advisory structures as a substitute for decision-making authority of First Nations title and rights holders or consulting and cooperating with affected First Nations title and rights holders in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent.

Moved: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Rep
Seconded: Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk'eteme
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-57

RE: Advancing First Nations Jurisdiction and Protection of Water

WHEREAS First Nations have inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights in relation to our waters and freshwater resources, which includes the inherent right of self-determination and self-government over their stewardship, conservation, and protection, which we have exercised since time immemorial;

WHEREAS water is life and is a sacred and vital resource, essential for salmon, drinking water, healthy ecosystems and integral to the exercise and protection of our inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights and our ability to practice and transmit our culture to future generations;

WHEREAS droughts, the climate crisis, and cumulative environmental impacts are placing our waters under severe threat, further endangering salmon populations, community drinking water sources, and the balance of our freshwater ecosystems;

WHEREAS under the *United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan*, the government of Canada committed to the creation of a Canada Water Agency and to advance modernization of the *Canada Water Act* to “reflect Canada’s freshwater reality, including climate change and Indigenous rights”;

WHEREAS the *Canada Water Agency Act*, SC 2024, c 15, s 209, establishing the Canada Water Agency as a stand-alone entity outside of Environment and Climate Change Canada, came into force on October 15, 2024;

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WHEREAS Canada has created the Canada Water Agency and committed to modernizing the Canada Water Act, yet has not adequately engaged all First Nations in B.C. or obtained their free, prior, and informed consent in shaping the Agency's mandate or freshwater policies;

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 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.

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 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 by UBCIC Resolutions 2022-41 and 2023-43 the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly called for the Canada Water Agency to include a mechanism for First Nations to assert and have recognized their water rights and opportunities for First Nations to meaningfully participate in state-led processes, decision-making, and national and regional transboundary efforts to protect and sustain our waters, and for Canada to enact the *Canada Water Act* modernization process, in full co-development and co-drafting with First Nations, recognizing and upholding First Nations inherent title and rights, and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the UN Declaration and all Supreme Court decisions pertaining to water and the protection of water;

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WHEREAS in 2022, as supported and endorsed by UBCIC Resolution 2021-43, UBCIC, working with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), hosted engagement sessions with First Nations in B.C. to update the 2013 FNLC Water Rights Strategy to reflect and align with the implementation of the UN Declaration and to advance First Nations water rights and jurisdiction in B.C. Through these engagements, First Nations emphasized that any government legislative, policy, and decision-making processes must uphold First Nations' title and rights to water and the UN Declaration, and must include opportunities and resources for First Nations to participate in these processes; and

WHEREAS the work of the Canada Water Agency and the modernization of the *Canada Water Act* must include First Nations as partners and include mechanisms for First Nations co-governance in decision-making, conservation, and protection of freshwaters nationally and transnationally, and any work towards First Nations co-governance of water and freshwater ecosystems must include all First Nations who wish to participate, and this must be done through a process that does not impact or infringe on those First Nations choosing not to be involved.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the government of Canada and the Canada Water Agency to recognize and uphold First Nations' full jurisdiction and authority over water, and engage in a rights-based, consent-driven process, not limited to "co-management", for all freshwater decision-making, including Canada Water Act modernization; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff, working with the First Nations Summit and B.C. Assembly of First Nations as the First Nations Leadership Council, to pursue convening a Water Forum/Convention on Water Governance with First Nations title and rights holders and like-minded organizations, and to secure resources for advancing a First Nations-led approach to freshwater governance and protection.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Osoyoos Indian Band (Proxy)
Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-58

RE: Unwavering Support for *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* Respecting B.C.'s North Pacific Coast

WHEREAS the North Pacific Coast of what is now known as British Columbia (B.C.) is one of the most pristine cold water marine ecosystems in the world. Additional pipeline and tanker projects will expose the North Pacific Coast and First Nations communities to the risk of oil spills and environmental degradation, pose an unacceptable risk to the health, safety, culture, livelihoods, and continued survival of First Nations throughout B.C., and contribute to accelerating global climate change;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council passed Resolution 2011-54 "Support for the Save the Fraser Declaration, The Coastal First Nations Tanker Ban, and the Indigenous laws Banning Crude Oil Pipeline and Tanker Shipments through British Columbia" due to the risk that pipeline and tanker projects would have on First Nations across B.C. and the downstream impacts of the oil sands experienced by First Nations in Canada and all peoples of the world because of global climate change;

WHEREAS the government of Canada passed the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* in 2019 which prohibits oil tankers carrying crude or persistent oil in an amount over 12500 tons from mooring or anchoring at a port or marine installation on the North Pacific Coast of B.C. between the northern tip of Vancouver Island and the Alaska border, and the government of B.C. has stated they support the tanker ban on B.C.'s North Pacific Coast;

WHEREAS in 2010 the Coastal First Nations (CFN) issued a Declaration banning Tar Sands crude oil tanker traffic from their territories. The declaration was prompted by the proposed 1,170 kilometre-long

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Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline project that would have stretched from the Alberta Oil Sands to Kitimat, B.C. and would result in an estimated 225 crude oil and condensate tankers a year travelling through the territories of Coastal First Nations;

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 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 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.

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 programs 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 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;

WHEREAS the Premier of Alberta has been publicly advocating for a new oil pipeline from Alberta to the North Pacific Coast of B.C.; and

WHEREAS CFN and its member First Nations continue to unanimously oppose oil tanker traffic through their coastal territories.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly declare their unwavering support for the government of Canada's *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* and the 2010 Coastal First Nations Declaration banning oil tankers in their waters;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the government of Canada to re-affirm its continued support for and commitment to the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*, and a tanker ban on the North Pacific Coast of B.C.;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly strongly oppose any new pipeline and tanker projects that aim to transport oil to and through the Pacific North Coast of B.C.; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with like-minded organizations to advocate that the government of Canada continue to uphold and enforce the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* and tanker ban on the North Pacific Coast of B.C.

Moved: Chief Marilyn Slett, Heiltsuk First Nation
Seconded: Chief Donald (Duffy) Edgars, Old Massett Village Council
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 8, 2025

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OCTOBER 7TH – 9TH, 2025
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-59

RE: Adoption of 56th AGA Minutes

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly adopt the minutes of the 56th Annual General Assembly (October 2024) as presented in the 57th Annual General Assembly kit.

Moved: Chief Victor Isaac, ‘Namgis First Nation
Seconded: Spokesperson Charmaine Thom, Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 9, 2025

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57TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 7TH-9TH, 2025
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^WMƏΘK^WƏY^ƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-60

RE: Regional Consultation on Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services

WHEREAS in *First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada et al. v. Attorney General of Canada (for the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)*, 2016 CHRT 2 (the Merit Decision), the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (the Tribunal) found Canada was discriminating against First Nations children and their families by failing to implement the full scope of Jordan's Principle and denying First Nations children the equal provision of child and family services, and ordered Canada to stop its discriminatory policies and practices;

WHEREAS since the 2016 Merit Decision, the Tribunal has issued numerous procedural and non-compliance orders against Canada. The case (numbered T1340/7008) is ongoing, and the Tribunal retains jurisdiction over these orders;

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 BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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

Article 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 24(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;

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WHEREAS on September 25, 2024, through UBCIC Resolution 2024-49, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly rejected the draft Final Settlement Agreement on the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program dated July 11, 2024, which was subsequently rejected by the First Nations-in-Assembly on October 18, 2024, through AFN Resolution 60/2024;

WHEREAS a National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) with representation appointed by every region has been established by AFN Resolution 60/2024 to provide direction and oversight to renewed national negotiations on long-term reform of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle;

WHEREAS on February 10, 2025, Canada, the Chiefs of Ontario and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation announced they had reached an Ontario-specific draft final settlement on long-term reform of FNCFS which has yet to be approved by the Tribunal;

WHEREAS on February 13, 2025, through Resolution 2025-21, the UBCIC Chiefs Council expressed support for the NCCC and urged the federal government to engage in good faith negotiations on national agreements on long-term reform, while concurrently, through Resolution 2025-22, directing the UBCIC Executive, working with the First Nations Summit and the BC Assembly of First Nations as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to advance and advocate for a B.C.-specific pathway for long-term reform of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle;

WHEREAS on July 16, 2025, Canada provided a non-committal response to FNLC's March 17, 2025, correspondence asking if Canada was open to considering B.C.-specific negotiations on the long-term reform of FNCFS and Jordan's Principle;

WHEREAS on August 20, 2025, through 2025 CHRT 80, the Tribunal ruled that within four months of the date of its ruling (December 20, 2025), the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the AFN must consult with the NCCC, First Nations Chiefs, and other experts, including First Nations and First Nations organizations outside Ontario, as well as those that have filed interested party motions, to develop an evidence-based, comprehensive national FNCFS long-term reform plan and requested remedies outside Ontario;

WHEREAS on September 4, 2025, by way of AFN Draft Resolution 52/2025, *Approving Terms of Reference for FNCFS and Jordan's Principle Tables*, First Nations-in-Assembly approved the terms of reference of the NCCC and the NCCC negotiation team and expressed support for the NCCC to implement 2025 CHRT 80; and

WHEREAS to inform the national FNCFS long-term reform plan and ensure regional perspectives and interests are included, the NCCC and the Caring Society, with input from the AFN, are initiating a consultation strategy to solicit input from First Nations.

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UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the National Children's Chiefs Commission's (NCCC) development of a national plan for the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) program and Jordan's Principle informed by meaningful consultation with First Nations in B.C.;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly invite the B.C. representatives on the NCCC to provide regular updates on the development of a national plan and to seek the support of the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly prior to any substantive changes in their approach to long-term reform;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly reiterate the need for a long-term reform process that upholds the free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations in B.C. and that recognizes their distinct needs and realities;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to convey the UBCIC Chiefs Council's support to the AFN National Chief at the upcoming AFN Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for October 20, 2025, to allocate \$1 million to the NCCC from the AFN's budget in order to implement the mandate provided to the NCCC by the First Nations-in-Assembly; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive, working with the First Nations Summit and the BC Assembly of First Nations as the First Nations Leadership Council, to support the NCCC in consulting with B.C. First Nations on the development of a national plan.

Moved: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Representative
Seconded: Judy Wilson, Osoyoos Indian Band (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 9, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-61

RE: Amendments to the *Wildlife Act*

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. have inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction and, as the original caretakers of our respective unceded territories, we continue to exercise our laws and jurisdiction to protect, conserve, and steward the environment and our lands, territories, and resources;

WHEREAS the government of B.C., through the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), has begun preliminary work on proposed updates to the *Wildlife Act*, through which the government of B.C. purports to govern wildlife management, conservation, and harvesting throughout BC;

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 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;

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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 establish and implement assistance programmes for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection;

WHEREAS these updates provide an opportunity to address long-standing issues raised by First Nations including the legislative recognition of inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction, and the need for co-management and shared and consent-based decision-making in wildlife stewardship;

WHEREAS the UBCIC in its January 25, 2023 submission emphasized that any amendments to the Wildlife Act and related policies must respect the inherent title and rights of First Nations, uphold the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and incorporate Indigenous knowledge and science on an equal footing with Western science, UBCIC highlighted the need for a true distinctions-based approach, stronger recognition of First Nations' governance and laws in wildlife and habitat management, protection of Indigenous intellectual property, and clear safeguards to ensure policies are not colonial in nature or in conflict with shared territories, treaties, or other agreements; and

WHEREAS by Resolution 2023-08 "Support for Development of a Tripartite Nature Agreement", the UBCIC Chiefs Council called upon the UBCIC Executive to ensure that First Nations are full partners in the identification of areas for conservation and protection and in habitat enhancement and restoration initiatives as well as ensuring that First Nations are full partners in any planning and decision-making processes, including for land use and species at risk protection and recovery.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province of B.C., through the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), to ensure that First Nations are involved from the earliest stages of the *Wildlife Act* amendment process through co-development of policy, drafting, and decision-making and meaningfully consulting and cooperating with First Nations in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent, including with respect to their unceded territories before adopting the amendments, consistent with the 2021 "Interim Approach to Implement the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act";

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call for amendments to the *Wildlife Act* to explicitly recognize and protect First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction including over their unceded territories, incorporate co-management and shared and consent-based decision-making mechanisms, and embed the standard of free, prior, and informed consent before adopting and implementing any legislative or administrative measures under the *Wildlife Act* that may affect First Nations; and

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THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with member Nations, and other like-minded organizations to develop a coordinated First Nations position on the *Wildlife Act* amendments, that upholds their inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights including over their unceded territories, and to advocate for their adoption by the Province of B.C.

Moved: Chief Dean Nelson, Lil'wat First Nation
Seconded: Rodney Teed, Saik'uz First Nation (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Opposition: Xa'xtsa
Abstention: (1)
Date: October 8, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-62

RE: Support for the Recognition and Resurgence of First Nations Fire Stewardship

WHEREAS as First Nations, we continue to exercise our inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and treaty rights, to steward our unceded territories, and our governance systems and laws including the responsibility to care for the land through respectful and intentional use of fire;

WHEREAS First Nations communities have felt the devastating effects of the climate and ecological crises through heat waves, forest fires, and floods; declines in vital food sources for First Nations peoples demonstrate the urgent need for change and First Nations-led action that restores Indigenous knowledge and decision-making in conservation and stewardship efforts;

WHEREAS First Nations' fire stewardship, grounded in our own laws and responsibilities, sustains ecological balance, enhances biodiversity, and mitigates the impact of climate change by reducing catastrophic wildfire risk, thereby protecting food systems and the health and resilience of forests and communities;

WHEREAS the B.C. First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan and the First Nations Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in B.C. identifies actionable priorities including reducing fire risk through cultural burning, supporting Indigenous-led land stewardship, strengthening emergency management, and building community capacity and resilience;

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WHEREAS First Nations’ fire stewardship directly advances these priorities by revitalizing traditional laws and practices, reducing fuel loads, restoring ecosystem health, and enhancing local expertise and preparedness;

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 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.

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 32: 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;

WHEREAS provincial wildfire laws and policy recognize the value of cultural burning, yet provincial laws and policies require First Nations to conform to and comply with provincial wildfire requirements rather than coordinating and aligning provincial laws and policies with the inherent laws and jurisdiction of First Nations;

WHEREAS meaningful collaboration with First Nations, recognizing inherent title and rights, and traditional laws, strengthens First Nations’ fire stewardship laws and governance, strengthening our collective safety and resilience in the face of the climate emergency; and

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2023-41 “Addressing Loss and Damage to First Nations Lands due to Climate Change” the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly called 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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the recognition of First Nations’ rights to continue the exercise and defence of their inherent title and rights, and laws and

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legal traditions, to steward their unceded territories through the intentional use of fire, and to respond to any unjustified infringement through their own laws and Canadian constitutional law;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to work in solidarity with like-minded organizations and partners to advocate for the recognition that First Nations' inherent title and rights, laws and jurisdiction, and traditions and culture, include the right to govern the land through fire stewardship and that this right is protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the provincial government to engage in meaningful dialogue with B.C. First Nations to align provincial laws and policies with First Nations' fire stewardship rights, consistent with First Nations' inherent rights and jurisdiction, including through negotiations in good faith under section 23.1 of the *Wildfire Regulation*; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to support ongoing work and engagement related to First Nations fire stewardship and to seek resourcing to sustain these efforts.

Moved: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Nooaitch Indian Band (Proxy)

Seconded: Chief Dean Nelson, Lil'wat First Nation

Disposition: Carried

Opposition: Xaxli'p

Date: October 9, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-63

RE: Opposition to Mining in OKIB Watersheds and Protection of Syilx Water, Salmon, and Sacred Sites

WHEREAS as First Nations people we continue to exercise our inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights to protect our lands, our waters, and our coasts, and we have the responsibility and jurisdiction to take care of the lands and resources for our future generations;

WHEREAS the Brett Mine, now owned by Ximen Mining Corp., has a long history of exploration proposals in the Whiteman Creek watershed, and since the 1990s the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) has consistently opposed these activities due to risks to water quality, watershed stability First Nations title, and Syilx cultural values;

WHEREAS the Okanagan Indian Band is part of the syilx nation, which the British Crown encountered upon first contact, therefore, the proposed mining activity is located within unceded syilx territory and doesn't have a treaty with the Crown according to the *Royal Proclamation of 1763*, which is embedded in section 25 of the *Constitution Act of Canada* (1982), therefore, the Okanagan Indian Band does not consent to any mining activity in the Browns Creek Watershed, which is located near our sacred Tahaetkun Mountain;

WHEREAS OKIB holds legally recognized water licenses that originate in the watersheds proposed for mining activity, and therefore has a legal right and responsibility to protect these critical sources of drinking water and community use;

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WHEREAS the OKIB has raised serious concerns regarding the proposed mining activities within the affected watersheds, which lies within OKIB’s unceded and ancestral territory and provides vital drinking water and habitat for fish, wildlife, and culturally significant resources;

WHEREAS mining operations and associated exploration activities in this watershed threaten to irreversibly damage water quality, traditional land use areas, and the health and safety of OKIB members and surrounding communities;

WHEREAS watersheds are essential for sustaining life by providing access to clean drinking water and healthy and sustainable fish populations. Healthy watersheds help mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing the risk of flooding, drought, and erosion while also maintaining biodiversity and ecological resilience;

WHEREAS the 2021 White Rock Lake Wildfire caused severe and lasting damage to these watersheds, including slope destabilization, heavy sediment loading, and unpredictable water flows, and mining activities would further escalate these risks through blasting, excavation, road building, and chemical exposure;

WHEREAS Tahaetkun Mountain forms part of these watersheds and is an important spiritual and cultural site for the Syilx people, whose responsibilities to protect sacred places and uphold cultural practices are affirmed by our inherent laws and teachings;

WHEREAS mining in these watersheds would place community water security, aquatic ecosystems, and the spiritual integrity of Tahaetkun Mountain at unacceptable risk, undermining both OKIB’s legal rights and sacred responsibilities to future generations;

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 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 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 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

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WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2025-17 “First Nations Watershed Security”, UBCIC recognized First Nations’ rights to continue the exercise and defence of their inherent title and rights to ensure the protection of their self-determined watersheds and seek to mitigate or litigate unjustified infringement measures through the implementation of their laws and section 35 constitutional law advocating for the health of watersheds, called for First Nations jurisdictional water rights and water laws on their unceded traditional lands, and restoring and maintaining ecosystem services and watershed health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) in its opposition to mining activities in all OKIB watersheds, including Whiteman Creek and Tahaetkun Mountain;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of B.C. and the Government of Canada to immediately stop accepting applications and issuing permits for mineral exploration or mining in the watersheds of the OKIB, including Whiteman Creek and Tahaetkun Mountain;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly urge the federal and provincial governments to recognize and uphold Indigenous water rights and water licenses, ensuring First Nations have decision-making authority over watersheds in their territories;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Province to align all mining laws and permitting processes with *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, requiring free, prior, and informed consent before any mining-related approvals are granted.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the OKIB in seeking legal and policy reforms that prohibit mineral exploration and development in critical community watersheds and sacred cultural landscapes; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with the OKIB and the Okanagan Nation Alliance, as well as other like-minded organizations, to advocate for the permanent protection of the Browns Creek watershed from industrial development.

Moved: Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Samuel Schooner, Nuxalk Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 9, 2025

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Resolution no. 2025-64

RE: Expanding Multilateral Emergency Management Negotiations Timeline

WHEREAS by Resolution 2022-22, the UBCIC Chiefs Council mandated the UBCIC, working with the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to negotiate the transition from the bilateral Emergency Management Agreement to a B.C. Multilateral Emergency Management Agreement. The current 10-yr bilateral agreement expires on March 31, 2027;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2024-16, the UBCIC Chiefs Council supported the creation of a First Nations collaborative negotiation team (“Negotiations Team”) comprised of three (3) First Nations Leadership Council representatives (BCAFN Regional Chief Terry Teegee, FNS Political Executive Robert Phillips, one vacant spot from UBCIC) along with six (6) expert First Nations leadership (Tribal Chair Tyrone McNeil, Chief Matt Pasco, Chief Niakia Hanna, Chief Jerry Jack, Spokesperson Charmaine Thom, and Judy Wilson) and technical support for a total of nine (9) First Nations representatives, to enter into the multilateral emergency management services funding negotiations with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) in order to create a multilateral funding and policy models that First Nations can use immediately as a bare minimum, or draw down on to enter into their own tripartite negotiation tables with ISC and EMBC;

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 BC, passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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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 the original scope of the negotiation as mandated by Resolution 2024-16 was to include:

1. Immediate needs and economic analysis including adequate, predictable, sustainable funding directly to bands for Emergency Management Coordinators, funding for backlogged mitigation projects and existing Community Emergency Preparedness funding to go directly to First Nations.
2. A high-level overarching rights-based framework including funding for rights holders.
3. Achieving full recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over emergency management services by 2026; and

WHEREAS the Negotiations Team would like to extend the timeline for point 3, through a measured, phased approach. An expanded timeline will allow the team to focus on transferring programs and services to either service providers, communities, or to remain with EMCR, all at the direction of First Nations, prior to the bilateral expiry date of March 31, 2027, and including adequate, safe transition. Then over a two-to-five-year period a Joint Business Case will be developed to prioritize closing the systemic and chronic underfunding gaps in communities and informing the economic analysis. The culmination of this work will bring us to the Recognition of Full Jurisdiction over a 5-to-10-year period, which would include new authorities and funding models to support that jurisdiction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs political and technical appointees, working with representatives from the First Nations Summit and the B.C. Assembly of First Nations as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) Negotiations Team (Negotiations Team), in adopting a phased approach to emergency management jurisdiction for First Nations in B.C. and that phased agreement does not negatively impact First Nations advancing their own agreements;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC representatives to the Negotiations Team to develop two (2) related case studies (one on the 2021 atmospheric river and one on the Lytton wildfire) to help inform the multilateral negotiations table, and continue to participate in the collaborative development of the multilateral agreement, working toward a signed agreement for March 31, 2027 and the realization of full-jurisdiction through a series of phases, brought to the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly for regular updates, input, and approval; and

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THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC representatives to the Negotiations Team to report on the rights-based framework agreement development, and an enhanced description of the pathway to full emergency management jurisdiction at the next scheduled UBCIC Chiefs Meeting in the spring of 2026.

Moved: Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil, Scowlitz First Nation (Proxy)
Seconded: Chief Matt Pasco, Oregon Jack Creek
Disposition: Carried
Date: October 9, 2025

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OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
57TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 7TH – 9TH, 2025
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X^wMƏƏK^wƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2025-65

RE: Appointment to the UBCIC Constitution Committee

WHEREAS Section XI(b) of the UBCIC Constitution and By-Laws provides that when 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 by UBCIC Resolution 2023-63, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly committed 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 further by UBCIC Resolution 2023-63, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly appointed Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esketemc, Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band and by Resolution 2025-20 appointed Chief Judi Thomas, Ditidaht First Nation, to the Constitution Committee in order to work with UBCIC legal counsel and staff to consider any potential By-Law amendments and bring forward to the UBCIC Chiefs Council for discussion and review;

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:

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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 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards; 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 hereby appoint the following people to the UBCIC Constitution Committee:

- 1) Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esketeme (continuing)
- 2) Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band (continuing)
- 3) Chief Judi Thomas, Ditidaht First Nation (continuing)
- 4) Spokesperson Charmaine Thom, Taku River Tlingit
- 5) Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band; and

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

Moved: Namaste Marsden, Gitanyow Nation (Proxy)

Seconded: Chief Darrell Bob, Xaxli'p

Disposition: Carried

Date: October 9, 2025

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