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UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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Final Resolutions of UBCIC Chiefs Council June 2nd-3rd, 2026

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CHIEFS COUNCIL

JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-19

RE: Support for the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and Section 8.1(3) of the *Interpretation Act*

WHEREAS First Nations in what is now known as British Columbia (B.C.) are sovereign Indigenous Nations and peoples and inherent, human, and Aboriginal title and rights holders with their own laws, governance systems, and jurisdictions that pre-exist and continue regardless of Crown assertions of authority;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) is an international human rights instrument that affirms the minimum standards necessary for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous peoples, and does not create new rights but affirms longstanding, broadly accepted, and existing international human rights norms;

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada called upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the UN Declaration as the framework for reconciliation;

WHEREAS the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act or DRIPA) was co-developed with First Nations and unanimously passed by the B.C. Legislature in November 2019 to affirm the application of the UN Declaration to the laws of B.C. and requires the government of B.C. to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of B.C. are consistent with the UN Declaration, establishes processes for action planning and reporting, and enables the entering of decision-making agreements with Indigenous Governing Bodies;

WHEREAS the *Interpretation Act* (Interpretation Act) was amended by the B.C. Legislature in November 2021 to enact section 8.1(3) which provides that every Act and regulation (each as defined in the Interpretation Act) must be construed as being consistent with the UN Declaration;

WHEREAS the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, 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 international human rights law.

Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from discrimination in the exercise of their rights.

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination.

Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights.

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.

Article 43: The rights recognized in the Declaration constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the Indigenous peoples of the world;

WHEREAS in response to the B.C. Court of Appeal’s decision in *Gitxaala v. British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2025 BCCA 430 (*Gitxaala*), in which UBCIC acted as an intervenor along with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, the government of B.C. has proposed to amend and/or suspend the Declaration Act and/or section 8.1(3) of the Interpretation Act, which amendments would weaken and narrow their legal effect and justiciability, and diminish the remedial role of the courts in their interpretation and application;

WHEREAS the government of B.C. has also been granted leave to appeal *Gitxaala* to the Supreme Court of Canada and in their Application for Leave to Appeal the government of B.C. advanced various regressive arguments that, if accepted by the Supreme Court of Canada, would undermine the Declaration Act, section 8.1(3) of the Interpretation Act, and the domestic enforceability of the basic human rights of First Nations as recognized by the UN Declaration;

WHEREAS the Declaration Act and section 8.1(3) of the Interpretation Act provide a critical backstop of certainty and stability for Indigenous peoples, Crown governments, investors, and the public by clearly affirming that reconciliation, human rights, and the rule of law must guide legislative and policy development and interpretation in B.C.;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council has consistently and unequivocally supported the unqualified implementation of the Declaration Act and the UN Declaration, including through UBCIC Resolutions 2020-20 “Implementation of Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act”, 2021-34 “Implementation of DRIPA Action Plan and Alignment of Laws”, 2022-33 “Declaration Act Action Plan”, 2024-59 “Intervention in Challenge to DRIPA”, 2025-05 “Independent Mechanism to Monitor Declaration Act Implementation”, and 2026-01 “Opposition to Amending the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* or Related *Interpretation Act*” all of which collectively affirm that the Declaration Act and UN Declaration must be protected, fully implemented, and not rolled back;

WHEREAS on April 21, 2026, Premier David Eby sent a letter to all Chiefs and Leaders advising that the government of B.C. would not be proceeding with legislation to amend or suspend the Declaration Act and Interpretation Act in the spring legislative session and proposed to immediately form a political and technical process “...to implement the promise of the Declaration Act while addressing the provincial government’s concern about litigation risk”; and

WHEREAS on May 15, 2026, Attorney General Niki Sharma sent a letter inviting First Nations’ representatives to an All-Chiefs Meeting to be held on June 8, 2026, and advising that a key goal of the meeting “...will be to endorse and launch the process [the government of B.C.] will use to work with First Nations through the next few months.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reaffirms its unequivocal opposition to the government of B.C. amending and/or suspending the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) and/or section 8.1(3) of the *Interpretation Act* (Interpretation Act) in response to the B.C. Court of Appeal’s decision in *Gitxaala v. British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2025 BCCA 430 (*Gitxaala*);

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council affirms that the Declaration Act must remain a stable, rights-affirming framework for reconciliation and that the focus of the Province must be on full, unqualified implementation, not legislative retreat or revision;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council supports a process with the government of B.C. designed to create better understood and more structured implementation approaches for aspects of the Declaration Act and section 8.1(3) of the Interpretation Act that includes equitable, active, and substantive participation mechanisms for First Nations and their representatives that do not privilege or prioritize engagement with certain First Nations over others, structurally or otherwise, and core working tables made up of political and technical representatives of the government of B.C. and First Nations representative political bodies including UBCIC, B.C. Assembly of First Nations, and the First Nations Summit working together as the First Nations Leadership Council; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the government of B.C. to drop its appeal of *Gitxaala* so that the work between First Nations and the government of B.C. can focus on moving forward with the implementation of the Declaration Act and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in a constructive manner; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to continue working with First Nations, and with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, and like-minded organizations, to defend the integrity of the Declaration Act and section 8.1(3) of the Interpretation Act.

Moved: Chief Jerry Jack, Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation

Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

Disposition: Carried

Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-20

RE: Support for Intervention in Appeal of *Gitxaala v. British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*

WHEREAS First Nations in what is now known as British Columbia (B.C.) are sovereign Indigenous Nations and peoples and inherent, human, and Aboriginal title and rights holders with their own laws, governance systems, and jurisdictions that pre-exist and continue regardless of Crown assertions of authority;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) is an international human rights instrument that affirms the minimum standards necessary for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous peoples, and does not create new rights but affirms longstanding, broadly accepted, and existing international human rights norms;

WHEREAS the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) was co-developed with First Nations and unanimously passed by the B.C. Legislature in November 2019 to affirm the application of the UN Declaration to the laws of B.C. and requires the government of B.C. to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of B.C. are consistent with the UN Declaration, establishes processes for action planning and reporting, and enables the entering of decision-making agreements with Indigenous Governing Bodies;

WHEREAS the *Interpretation Act* (Interpretation Act) was amended by the B.C. Legislature in November 2021 to enact section 8.1(3) which provides that every Act and regulation (each as defined in the Interpretation Act) must be construed as being consistent with the UN Declaration;

WHEREAS in *Gitxaala v. British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2025 BCCA 430 (*Gitxaala*), in which UBCIC acted as an intervenor jointly with First Nations Summit, B.C. Assembly of First Nations, and British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, the B.C. Court of Appeal made important findings on the scope and effect of the Declaration Act and section 8.1(3) of the Interpretation Act, and the domestic enforceability of the basic human rights of First Nations as recognized by the UN Declaration and concluded "...that the [Chief Gold Commissioner]'s conduct in establishing an online system allowing for automatic registration of mineral claims

without requiring prior consultation and cooperation of affected Indigenous peoples is inconsistent with article 32(2) of [the UN Declaration].”

WHEREAS the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, 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 international human rights law.

Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from discrimination in the exercise of their rights.

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination.

Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights.

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.

Article 43: The rights recognized in the Declaration constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the Indigenous peoples of the world;

WHEREAS the government of B.C. has been granted leave to appeal *Gitxaala* to the Supreme Court of Canada and in their Application for Leave to Appeal the government of B.C. advanced various regressive arguments that, if accepted by the Supreme Court of Canada, would undermine the Declaration Act, section 8.1(3) of the Interpretation Act, and the domestic enforceability of the basic human rights of First Nations as recognized by the UN Declaration; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council has consistently and unequivocally supported the unqualified implementation of the Declaration Act and the UN Declaration, including through UBCIC Resolutions 2020-20 “Implementation of Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act”, 2021-34 “Implementation of DRIPA Action Plan and Alignment of Laws”, 2022-33 “Declaration Act Action Plan”, 2024-59 “Intervention in Challenge to DRIPA”, 2025-05 “Independent Mechanism to Monitor Declaration Act Implementation”, and 2026-01 “Opposition to Amending the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* or Related *Interpretation Act*” all of which collectively affirm that the Declaration Act and UN Declaration must be protected, fully implemented, and not rolled back.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the Gitxaala and Ehattesaht Nations in their efforts to respond to the government of B.C.’s appeal of *Gitxaala v. British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2025 BCCA 430 (*Gitxaala*);

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council recognizes the critical importance of the outcome of the government of B.C.’s appeal of *Gitxaala* to substantive implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and section 8.1(3) of the *Interpretation Act*, and the domestic enforceability of the basic human rights of First Nations as recognized by the UN Declaration; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports and authorizes the UBCIC Executive to advance an intervention by UBCIC in the government of B.C.’s appeal of *Gitxaala* at the Supreme Court of Canada, on its own or jointly with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council, and/or like-minded organizations, subject to resources.

Moved: Chief Justin Kane, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation

Seconded: Judy Wilson, Shuswap Band (Proxy)

Disposition: Carried

Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-21

RE: Advancing Reform of the B.C. Treaty Commission Process Consistent with the UN Declaration

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. are inherent title and rights holders with governments, laws, and legal orders that have governed their territories since time immemorial;

WHEREAS the Crown is required pursuant to section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 to achieve a just reconciliation with First Nations based on the recognition and implementation of title and rights;

WHEREAS for decades First Nations in B.C. have identified that the Crown does not have principled, recognition-based, and rights-based approaches to negotiations and reconciliation within the B.C. Treaty Commission (“BCTC”) process, including longstanding concerns regarding overlap and shared territory issues, Statement of Intent processes, and the advancement of negotiations and agreements without the free, prior, and informed consent of all impacted 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 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 26(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’

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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.

WHEREAS recent concerns raised by First Nations regarding the advancement of modern treaty legislation have once again highlighted longstanding structural concerns within the BCTC process respecting unresolved overlaps, shared territories, neighbouring Nation consent, and the Crown’s continued failure to establish fair and principled processes that uphold relationships between First Nations and respect the inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights of all impacted Nations;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolutions 2021-52 “Updated UBCIC Political and Legal Action Plan to Move Beyond the BC Treaty Process,” 2022-43 “Negotiations Forum for First Nations Outside the BCTC,” 2022-44 “Alignment of Statement of Intent Mechanism in BCTC with UN Declaration,” and 2025-12 “UBCIC Negotiators Forum Terms of Reference,” the UBCIC Chiefs Council directed the UBCIC Executive and staff to advance principled, recognition-based, consent-based, and rights-based approaches to negotiations and agreements with the Crown; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC Negotiators Forum has identified the need for continued collaborative work among First Nations respecting negotiations strategy, boundary resolution work, overlap issues, and the development of legislative, policy, and structural reforms to Crown negotiation practices and processes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reaffirms that all negotiations and agreements with the Crown must be based on the recognition and implementation of inherent and constitutionally protected First Nations title and rights, respect First Nations sovereignty and self-determination, and meet the minimum standards articulated in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), including free, prior, and informed consent;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon Canada and British Columbia to work collaboratively with First Nations to reform the B.C. Treaty Commission (BCTC) process and associated mechanisms, including the Statement of Intent process, to ensure consistency with the *UN Declaration* and recognition-based, and principled approaches to negotiations and reconciliation;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon Canada and British Columbia to ensure that treaty negotiations, treaty-related legislation, and agreements affecting shared territories or overlapping claims are not advanced without meaningful consultation, accommodation, and the free, prior, and informed consent of all impacted Nations, and that Canada and British Columbia must cover the costs of any further negotiations for resolving shared territories and overlaps;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to continue advocating for legislative, policy, and structural reforms to Crown negotiation practices and the BCTC process, including reforms necessary to ensure negotiations do not undermine relationships between First Nations or infringe upon the title and rights of Nations outside of the BCTC process; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to continue engaging with First Nations, legal counsel, technical experts, and like-minded organizations to advance principled, transparent, distinctions-based, and consent-based negotiation frameworks consistent with the recognition and implementation of First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights.

Moved: Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk’eteme
Seconded: Chief Don Harris, Xa’xtsa
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-22

RE: Support for Dzawada'enuxw First Nation Civil Claim for Indian Settlement Lands

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 Dzawada'enuxw First Nation ("Dzawada'enuxw") has maintained a continuous, law-based relationship with the lands and waters at the head of Kingcome Inlet since time immemorial, governed by ancestral legal orders that predate the arrival of the Crown and the creation of the Canadian state;

WHEREAS contemporary conservation efforts by third-party organizations, while framed as environmental protection, often perpetuate colonial dispossession when they are built upon Crown-granted titles that fail to recognize the underlying and unextinguished inherent jurisdiction of the rightful title holders;

WHEREAS the Dzawada'enuxw have filed a Notice of Civil Claim (Court File No. VLC-S-S-260624) to rectify the historical and ongoing alienation of their Settlement Lands, which were improperly converted into private and "protected" holdings through a cycle of administrative dishonour;

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 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;

WHEREAS the cumulative impact of industrial extraction by the current logging company that “owns” the land in question and its predecessors, has resulted in ecological degradation of the Kingcome River Valley and its delicate estuary system, causing a "biological debt" through the removal of ancient forests and the disruption of the river's natural flow and regenerative capacity; and

WHEREAS these industrial practices, authorized under a colonial tenure system that ignored Dzawada’enuxw law, have caused lasting harm to the salmon and eulachan habitats that are the lifeblood of the Nation, constituting a violation of the Dzawada’enuxw’s inherent responsibility to protect and sustain the lands and waters for future generations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the Dzawada’enuxw in their legal and political efforts to restore the integrity of their territory and to ensure that their own legal traditions, rather than just colonial "settlement" history, dictate the future of the Kingcome River Valley;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council asserts that "conservation" must never be used as a shield to validate the alienation of First Nations lands, and calls on the Province of B.C. and environmental organizations to recognize that true sustainability is only possible through the restoration of First Nations governance and land-care systems;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council urges the Province of B.C. and the Government of Canada to move beyond adversarial litigation and toward a "multi-juridical" approach that respects Dzawada’enuxw laws as a valid and equal source of authority in the management of their ancestral lands; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to advocate for a resolution to this claim that results in the full return of the Alienated Lands to the jurisdiction of the Dzawada’enuxw, ensuring these lands are once again governed by the laws and customs of the People of the Dzawada’enuxw.

Moved: Chief Rick Johnson, Kwikwasut’inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation

Seconded: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band

Disposition: Carried

Date: June 2, 2026

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SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-23

RE: Calling on Canada to Uphold its Legal Obligations and Public Commitments on Specific Claims Resolution and Reform

WHEREAS the historical actions illegally undertaken by the colonial governments of British Columbia and Canada have resulted in the dispossession of First Nations, including the illegal alienation of their lands; the creation of and subsequent failure to protect Indian reserves, villages and fishing areas; the systematic denial of rights to fish and access 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* – 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;

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

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2013-25 created a UBCIC Specific Claims Working Group (referred to as the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group) to advocate for the just and fair resolution of specific claims for First Nations in British Columbia and advance this issue as a national political priority;

WHEREAS since its inception, the specific claims process has been plagued by delays, barriers, and institutionalized conflict of interest;

WHEREAS since the election of the Liberal government under Prime Minister Mark Carney in April 2025, the federal government has taken concrete measures that indicate it is retreating from upholding its lawful obligations and public commitments to First Nations to resolve their historical claims and reform the specific claims process in alignment with the UN Declaration;

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

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

Article 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 recent shifts by the government of Canada away from specific claims resolution have included:

- Walking away from the joint reform work that began in 2017 which was formalized in 2022 to co-develop a fully Independent Specific Claims Resolution Centre grounded in the UN Declaration and that enacts Indigenous laws, contrary to the commitments made in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan;
- Failing to address the specific claims research funding crisis outlined in UBCIC Resolution 2025-44. The current government has, in fact, exacerbated the funding crisis this year by reducing the national specific claims research funding envelope from \$12 million (\$4 million base A funding plus a seven-year \$8 million supplement) to \$8 million (\$4 million base A funding plus one-year in \$4 million base B funding). This reduction comes at a time when First Nations' requests for funding through claims research units and individually are increasing (\$35 million in 2025-26 to \$42.4 million in 2026-27). As a response to the growing crisis, Canada's funding body is suggesting that new claims or those in preliminary stages of research will not receive funding;
- Creating barriers in negotiations in the form of prolonged delays, changing or non-existent mandates, reduced funding, refusing to accept First Nations experts, such as independent appraisers, issuing take-it-or-leave-it offers, failing to communicate clearly, openly, and consistently with First Nations and their legal counsel; and demonstrating a lack of capacity and consistency among federal negotiators;
- Cancelling the expedited resolution framework which has been in place since May 2023 for agricultural benefits claims arising from broken treaty promises, dramatically prolonging settlement of these claims;
- Failing to ensure that the Specific Claims Tribunal has sufficient members, including a full-time Chair and full-time judges, to meet demanding caseloads, jeopardizing First Nations' timely access to the adjudication of their claims;

- Failing to provide requested funding data and engage in clear, open, and transparent communication with First Nations and their representative organizations regarding the future of reform work and the functionality, integrity, robustness, and sustainability of the specific claims process overall;

WHEREAS the federal government under Prime Minister Mark Carney has made “economic reconciliation” with First Nations the cornerstone of the Crown-First Nations relationship to facilitate the One Canadian Economy major projects agenda. This agenda emphasizes accelerated infrastructure and industrial development on First Nations lands while minimizing federal obligations and rights-based commitments to resolve First Nations historical claims, ensure Canada’s processes for doing so align with the UN Declaration, and uphold the honour of the Crown and First Nations’ constitutionally protected rights; and

WHEREAS Canada’s relationship with First Nations is integral to realizing economic development projects. Such projects must be undertaken in full partnership with First Nations and require full recognition of First Nations’ inherent sovereignty and human rights, including making tangible progress on the fair, transparent, and equitable resolution of their historical claims.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the government of Canada to take immediate action to uphold its obligations and public commitments to First Nations by:

- a. reactivating the joint work to co-develop an Independent Specific Claims Resolution Centre that fully enacts First Nations laws;
- b. addressing the crisis in specific claims research funding by providing an emergency supplement to the 2026-27 funding envelope to ensure all First Nations can access the process to research and develop their claims, regardless of research stage or mechanism, and working with First Nations to co-develop a fair, equitable, and sustainable funding model;
- c. working with First Nations to establish concrete pathways, including mandates, protocols and agreements to include the formal participation of the Province of British Columbia in the specific claims process;
- d. removing barriers to negotiations;
- e. reinstating the expedited resolution framework for agricultural benefits claims;
- f. ensuring the Specific Claims Tribunal is sufficiently staffed with its full complement of judges; and
- g. prioritizing the provision of requested funding data and clear, transparent communication about the status of the process overall;
- h. including ensuring settlement costs of the participating First Nation are covered; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group (BCSCWG) to develop a letter from the BCSCWG to the Prime Minister, and Ministers of Justice and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, to call on Canada to uphold its legal obligations and public commitments regarding specific claims, in alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the honour of the Crown; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to work with the BCSCWG and likeminded organizations to develop and share advocacy initiatives, including public-facing strategies to advance these issues.

Moved: Chief Dan Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band
Seconded: Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk’eteme
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-24

RE: Call for AFN to Reinstate Lands Sector and Retain Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories, and Resources (CCOLTR) in Lands Portfolio

WHEREAS the historical actions illegally undertaken by the colonial governments of British Columbia and Canada have resulted in the dispossession of First Nations, including the illegal alienation of their 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* – 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;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2013-25 created a UBCIC Specific Claims Working Group (referred to as the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group) to advocate for the just and fair resolution of specific claims for First Nations in British Columbia and advance this issue as a national political priority;

WHEREAS the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories and Resources (CCOLTR) is mandated by the First Nations-in-Assembly to support First Nations' self-determination and protect First Nations' inherent title, rights, and jurisdiction over their traditional lands, territories, and resources;

WHEREAS at a meeting of the CCOLTR held on March 19, 2026, Chiefs and technicians were informed of changes to the AFN's organizational structure, including the phasing out of the Lands Sector and subsumption of the CCOLTR under the Economic Development portfolio. These changes were made without the CCOLTR's knowledge or input and took immediate effect;

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

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

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 the AFN's organizational changes are out of alignment with the CCOLTR's rights-based mandate to protect First Nations' inherent title, rights, and jurisdiction over their traditional lands, territories, and resources, and seek justice for Canada's unlawful actions and resulting harms to First Nations. While economic development opportunities may flow from redress for Canada's unlawful actions, they are outcomes of rights-based processes grounded in justice rather than intrinsic objectives;

WHEREAS the AFN's organizational changes instead reflect the priorities of the federal government under Prime Minister Mark Carney, whose One Canadian Economy major projects agenda foregrounds accelerated infrastructure and industrial development on First Nations lands while effectively abandoning a rights-based approach and previous commitments and obligations to First Nations that align with the UN Declaration;

WHEREAS since 2020, the AFN CCOLTR and AFN Lands Sector have worked in close collaboration with the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group to advance a rights-based approach to the resolution of specific claims and have been instrumental in providing timely, robust, and effective political and technical support to advance rights-based issues that UBCIC member First Nations identify as key priorities in the pursuit of justice for their historical claims, including:

- Co-developing a fully independent Specific Claims Resolution Centre that enacts Indigenous laws and convening a Council of Experts on Indigenous Laws to guide this work (Resolutions 2017-44 and 2020-11);
- Removing the arbitrary \$150 million cap on claim settlements at the Specific Claims Tribunal (Resolution 2021-03);
- Protecting the Tribunal's institutional and judicial independence (Resolution 2021-51);
- Ensuring land return is a widely available remedy in settling specific claims (Resolution 2022-18);
- Reforming Canada's additions to reserve policy (Resolution 2019-29); and

- Fighting for fair, equitable, sustainable, and sufficient specific claims research funding (Resolutions 2013-65, 2014-07, 2023-66, 2024-31, 2025-44);

WHEREAS the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed key resolutions which provide clear mandates to the CCOLTR and the Lands Sector to carry out work on these issues (09/2020: Jointly Develop a Fully Independent Specific Claims Process; 37/2021: Full Involvement of First Nations in All Aspects of Specific Claims Policy Development; 38/2021: Protecting the Institutional and Judicial Independence of the Specific Claims Tribunal; 17/2023: Prioritize Land Back Through All Federal Laws, Policies, and Programs; 37/2023: Returning First Nations Lands through Additions to Reserve Reform; 38/2023: Recognize First Nations Laws and Legal Orders in the Specific Claims Process; 10/2024: Advancing Additions to Reserve Reform; 11/2024: Ensuring Access to Justice for Specific Claims through Policy Reform; 12/2024: Urgent Support for the Repatriation of First Nations Lands; 70/2024: Full Involvement of First Nations in Additions to Reserve Re-Design; 31/2025: Response to Canada's 2025–26 Distribution of Specific Claims Research Funding and Erosion of First Nations' Right to Justice; 57/2025: Condemning Canada's Specific Claims Research Funding Cuts);

WHEREAS the shared priorities reflected in these resolutions are fundamentally grounded in access to justice, First Nations' human rights, and the knowledge that land is foundational to First Nations' inherent rights, title, and jurisdiction. These priorities must be supported by organizational structures aligned with their nature and importance, including a CCOLTR clearly situated within an AFN Lands Sector, which functions to provide necessary technical support to carry out AFN mandates; and

WHEREAS the AFN's organizational changes have materially reduced the specialized technical support that was previously available to the CCOLTR and disrupted longstanding collaborative relationships with partner organizations that will weaken the foundation required for effective national advocacy, ultimately undermining the interests of First Nations in pursuing justice.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls for the reinstatement of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories and Resources (CCOLTR) as a distinct Chiefs Committee under a Lands Portfolio to ensure a rights-based approach to resolving historical grievances, and ensure it remains grounded in First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls for the reinstatement of the AFN Lands Sector to ensure a rights-based approach to resolving First Nations' historical grievances and enabling it to provide dedicated technical support to the CCOLTR; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group to write a letter in support of the AFN CCOLTR remaining a distinct Chiefs Committee under a reinstated Lands Portfolio.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Shuswap Band (Proxy)
Seconded: Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-25

RE: Call for Canada to Fill Vacancies on the Specific Claims Tribunal

WHEREAS the historical actions illegally undertaken by the colonial governments of British Columbia and 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. 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 UBCIC Resolution 2013-25 created a UBCIC Specific Claims Working Group (referred to as the B.C. Specific Claims Working Group) to advocate for the just and fair resolution of specific claims for First Nations in British Columbia and advance this issue as a national political priority;

WHEREAS the Specific Claims Tribunal (Tribunal) is an integral component of Canada's specific claims policy (Justice At Last), and was established on October 16, 2008, as an independent adjudicative body able to make final, binding decisions on specific claims. First Nations are eligible to take their specific claims to the Tribunal if Canada has rejected their claim for negotiation, has exceeded the three-year legislative timeframe for assessing the validity of their claim, or if a claim has been in negotiations for three years without reaching a settlement. The Tribunal consists of a roster of superior court judges appointed by the Governor in Council (Governor General);

WHEREAS the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* (SCTA) stipulates that the Tribunal Chair and other members shall be appointed from this roster of judges, and that the Tribunal shall consist of a maximum of six full-time members, or any number of part-time members, or combination of full-time and part-time members, so long as their combined time does not exceed that of six full-time members (section 6). Section 7 of the SCTA establishes that each member, including the Chair, shall be appointed for a term not exceeding five years and each member is eligible to be reappointed for one further term. Pursuant to section 8 of the SCTA, the Chairperson supervises and directs the work of the Tribunal, including allocation of work and assigning hearings to members, and the performance of all Tribunal functions and duties;

WHEREAS the recent Tribunal Chairperson, Justice Victoria Chiappetta, was appointed as a full-time member of the Tribunal in June 2019 for a five-year term and appointed Tribunal Chair on December 11, 2020 (five-year term). Justice Chiappetta's appointment as Chair is not being renewed for a second term due to a technical interpretation of the SCTA around term limits, contrary to her expectation. This decision was communicated to her at the end of April 2026;

WHEREAS Justice Chiappetta was the sole full-time member of the Tribunal and has indicated that she carried approximately 50 percent of Tribunal cases. Her cases will likely be stayed or adjourned until a new Chair is appointed, a process which could take over a year due to backlogs in provincial superior courts. Part-time members account for only about 10 percent of cases at the Tribunal;

WHEREAS with the conclusion of Justice Chiappetta's term, the Tribunal has no formally appointed Chair and no full-time member. Its current membership consists of three part-time members: Justice Ducharme (ON), whose term expired on April 13, and has yet to be renewed for a second term; Justice Roy (NB) whose term expires next year; and Justice MacDonald (BC), who the Tribunal website identifies as acting Chairperson;

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

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

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 the Tribunal has never operated with its legislated full complement of members, despite its heavy volume of cases and contrary to the consistent recommendations made by former Chair, Justice Harry Slade and First Nations;

WHEREAS the Tribunal is the only independent adjudicative body available to First Nations not subject to statutes of limitations. First Nations regard the independence of the Tribunal and its ability to make final and binding decisions as a fundamental aspect of its legitimacy as an adjudicator of First Nations' historical claims against the Crown (Resolution 2021-51);

WHEREAS the specific claims process is already rife with unreasonable delay, particularly in relation to negotiations. The Tribunal is supposed to serve as a stopgap if negotiations stall or if a First Nation experiences undue delay. Without a full-time Chair and no full-time members, the Tribunal becomes another instrument of delay in the resolution of First Nations claims, creating a further barrier to their right of redress under the UN Declaration; and

WHEREAS the federal government under Prime Minister Mark Carney has been retreating from its obligations and public commitments to undertake substantial reform of the specific claims process and the failure to prevent disruption to cases before the Tribunal or ensure it has enough judges to fulfill its legislative mandate is another example of this government's shifting priorities, away from redress and reconciliation to economic development, at the expense of justice, and resulting in precarity for First Nations seeking resolution of their claims.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Government of Canada to take immediate steps to appoint a Specific Claims Tribunal Chairperson and fill Tribunal member vacancies so that cases currently before the Tribunal and future cases may proceed without undue delay and disruption to ensure First Nations have fair and timely access to justice;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs representatives of the UBCIC B.C. Specific Claims Working Group (BCSCWG) to develop an open letter addressed to the Ministers of Justice and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs calling on Canada to appoint a Tribunal Chairperson and fill Tribunal member vacancies; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs representatives of the UBCIC B.C. Specific Claims Working Group (BCSCWG) to work with likeminded organizations, including the Indigenous Bar Association and Canadian Bar Association, to seek endorsement of the open letter and/or develop their own resolutions to highlight the urgency of this issue.

Moved: Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk'eteme
Seconded: Judy Wilson, Shuswap Band (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-26

RE: Upholding First Nations Fisheries Rights in Salmon Allocation Policy, and Opposition to Racist Misinformation Campaigns

WHEREAS First Nations hold inherent title and rights, laws, jurisdiction, and responsibilities with respect to fisheries and aquatic resources within their territories, which are protected and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and arise from the original laws and governance systems of First Nations;

WHEREAS salmon are of profound cultural, spiritual, economic, and sustenance importance to First Nations throughout the lands now known as British Columbia, and First Nations have exercised stewardship and governance responsibilities over salmon since time immemorial;

WHEREAS the federal Pacific Salmon Allocation Policy (“SAP”), first released in 1999 and currently under review by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (“DFO”), establishes the framework and principles used to guide the allocation and management of Pacific salmon harvests among First Nations, recreational, and commercial fisheries;

WHEREAS the SAP review process has been ongoing for several years to ensure that First Nations fishing rights and allocations are properly recognized and upheld by DFO, including in light of the *Ahousaht et al.* decision and other Section 35 jurisprudence;

WHEREAS the SAP review process has been accompanied by organized misinformation campaigns and public opposition to the recognition and implementation of First Nations fishing rights, including rhetoric that undermines First Nations title and rights, and jurisdiction and contributes to anti-Indigenous racism in British Columbia;

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 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 the Supreme Court of Canada has repeatedly affirmed that First Nations fishing rights are constitutionally protected under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and that conservation is the first priority in fisheries management, followed by First Nations food, social, ceremonial, and rights-based fisheries; and

WHEREAS by Resolution 2022-28 “Protecting Pacific Wild Salmon Habitat”, Resolution 2022-29 “First Nations Advisor to the Province on Wild Salmon”, Resolution 2024-26 “Reducing the Impacts of Alaskan Interception Fisheries”, and Resolution 2024-54 “Trust Fund for Wild Salmon”, the UBCIC Chiefs Council has consistently called for the protection and restoration of wild salmon, the upholding of First Nations fishing rights and stewardship responsibilities, and increased First Nations participation and leadership in salmon governance, management, and conservation initiatives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the recognition and implementation of First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected fishing rights within the federal Salmon Allocation Policy review process and any future fisheries management and allocation decisions;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to work with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, and the First Nations Fisheries Council and First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance, and condemn all racist rhetoric, misinformation campaigns, and fearmongering directed at First Nations peoples, communities, and organizations in relation to fisheries allocation and the exercise of First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon the Minister of Fisheries to ensure that all decisions arising from the Salmon Allocation Policy review process are consistent with Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Court’s directions as described in the *Ahousaht et al.* decision and other Section 35 jurisprudence, and the Crown’s obligations to uphold and implement First Nations title and rights;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon DFO, in conjunction with the FNLC, to jointly develop a public statement and information campaign outlining the legal obligations and constitutional protections relating to First Nations fishing rights and allocations, and further calls upon DFO to publicly denounce racist and discriminatory misinformation campaigns targeting First Nations fishing rights and to ensure that future fisheries engagement processes are conducted in a manner that is transparent, respectful, and free from racism and intimidation;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon Canada to prioritize First Nations access, allocation, stewardship, and economic participation in salmon fisheries in a manner that supports the continuation of First Nations cultures, intergenerational knowledge transfer, food security, livelihoods, and long-term salmon sustainability for future generations.

Moved: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Nicholas Peterson, Lower Nicola Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-27

RE: Support for “A Shared Path to Watershed Security: A Proposed Watershed Security Strategy”

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. continue to exercise and uphold their inherent and constitutionally protected title, rights, laws, responsibilities, and jurisdiction in relation to their lands, waters, territories, and resources for present and future generations;

WHEREAS healthy watersheds are essential to sustaining biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, climate adaptation, fish and wildlife populations, food security, cultural continuity, and the health and well-being of First Nations communities throughout B.C.;

WHEREAS watershed security is foundational to the exercise of First Nations’ title and rights and requires recognition of First Nations governance, laws, knowledge systems, and decision-making authority in all matters relating to water stewardship, watershed planning, restoration, and protection;

WHEREAS climate change is intensifying drought conditions, altering seasonal precipitation patterns, reducing snowpack accumulation, increasing temperatures, and accelerating watershed instability across the province, and these threats facing water and watersheds have exposed the need for a collaborative and coordinated approach to govern and steward water and watersheds in B.C.;

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(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, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.

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

Article 26: 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 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;

WHEREAS The First Nations Water Caucus brings together up to 17 delegates from across B.C. to work together to advance First Nations priorities and interests around fresh water and watershed security. Water Caucus delegates work collaboratively with delegates from the Province of B.C. at the Water Table to make consensus-based, co-developed recommendations about matters of mutual interest related to fresh water and watershed security of province-wide interest. The Water Caucus is not an authority nor a rights holder, and cannot encumber any First Nation, nor be considered a consultation mechanism. The Water Caucus may only work to support the design of effective process' and efficiencies. The Water Caucus may also make recommendations or draft resolutions for respective leadership organizations to consider;

WHEREAS between 2022 and 2024 the First Nations Water Caucus and the Province of B.C. co-developed a Watershed Security Strategy in line with Action 2.7 of B.C.'s Declaration Act Action Plan which commits the Province to collaborate with First Nations to develop and implement strategies, plans, and initiatives for sustainable water management, and to identify policy or legislative reforms supporting Indigenous water stewardship, including shared decision-making, including the co-development of the Watershed Security Strategy with First Nations and initiation of implementation of the Strategy at a local watershed scale;

WHEREAS in Fall 2025, the Province informed the First Nations Water Caucus that they would not be releasing the co-developed Watershed Security Strategy, which provides a critical framework for advancing watershed health, reconciliation, and collaborative governance that is desperately needed;

WHEREAS failure to release the strategy contradicts the Province's commitments under the Declaration Act Action Plan and jeopardizes both the health of watersheds in B.C. and the ability of First Nations to meaningfully exercise their rights;

WHEREAS the First Nations Water Caucus, with secretariat support from the First Nations Fisheries Council, has revised the Watershed Security Strategy, titled "A Shared Path to Watershed Security: A Proposed Watershed Security Strategy" as a proposed framework and tool to support watershed health, collaborative governance, reconciliation, and First Nations-led watershed stewardship in B.C.;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2025-17, “First Nations Watershed Security,” the UBCIC Chiefs Council affirmed support for First Nations watershed governance, watershed health, First Nations jurisdictional water rights, and Indigenous-led approaches to watershed protection and restoration; and

WHEREAS “A Shared Path to Watershed Security: A Proposed Watershed Security Strategy” aligns with existing UBCIC mandates respecting First Nations governance, watershed security, ecosystem health, climate resilience, and the implementation of the UN Declaration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council supports the revised Watershed Security Strategy as a framework titled “A Shared Path to Watershed Security: A Proposed Watershed Security Strategy” (“Strategy”) brought forward by the First Nations Water Caucus, and endorses the Strategy’s goals, actions, and shared vision for watershed security in British Columbia;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon the Province of B.C. and Canada to work in partnership with First Nations and the First Nations Water Caucus to support the implementation of First Nations-led watershed security initiatives, governance structures, restoration efforts, and long-term watershed protection measures consistent with “A Shared Path to Watershed Security: A Proposed Watershed Security Strategy,” and must include sustained and adequate provincial funding to support First Nations’ leadership, participation, and watershed stewardship efforts throughout implementation;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to advise the Province of B.C. that it has not fulfilled Action 2.7 of B.C.’s Declaration Act Action Plan which commits the Province to collaborate with First Nations to develop and implement strategies, plans, and initiatives for sustainable water management, and to identify policy or legislative reforms supporting Indigenous water stewardship, including shared decision-making, including the co-development of the Watershed Security Strategy with First Nations and initiation of implementation of the Strategy at a local watershed scale;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to continue working with the First Nations Water Caucus, the First Nations Fisheries Council, and other like-minded organizations to support watershed security initiatives and advocacy; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to seek adequate and sustained resourcing to support First Nations-led watershed governance, environmental stewardship, restoration, and implementation initiatives.

Moved: Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Dan Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-28

RE: Supporting Effective Implementation of Indigenous Education Councils in B.C. Public Schools

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

WHEREAS the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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

(2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.

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

WHEREAS item 4.3 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) Action Plan commits the Ministry of Education and Child Care to “Co-develop and implement a framework for the involvement of Indigenous Education Councils in school district financial planning and reporting”;

WHEREAS the *School Amendment Act*, which received Royal Assent on November 8, 2023, was co-developed with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) with the intention of supporting a more relevant and responsive public education system that appropriately recognizes First Nations as the inherent title and rights holders in their respective territories in what is now referred to as British Columbia;

WHEREAS the *School Act* requires Indigenous Education Councils in all 60 school districts in British Columbia;

WHEREAS FNESC and the Ministry of Education and Child Care co-developed an Indigenous Education Council Ministerial Order and Indigenous Education Council Policy to support implementation of Indigenous Education Councils;

WHEREAS Indigenous Education Councils formalize a structure and process to specifically support Boards of Education on matters affecting Indigenous students attending B.C. public schools and have a mandate to support Indigenous student outcomes and attendance while also respecting the distinct languages, cultures, customs, traditions, practices, and histories of the First Nation(s) in whose territory(ies) Boards of Education operate;

WHEREAS First Nations learners continue to face the racism of low expectations in B.C. public schools, as evidenced by student outcomes data, including declining numeracy and literacy rates, low five-year completion rates for First Nations learners, extremely high rates of chronic absenteeism, the over-representation of First Nations students in Alternate Programs, and the disproportionate number of First Nations students receiving Evergreen (School Completion) and Adult Dogwood Certificates;

WHEREAS the Auditor General's 2015 *Audit of the Education of Aboriginal Students in the B.C. Public School System* states: "To close the gaps means to achieve education outcomes for Aboriginal students that are the same as outcomes for non-Aboriginal students. This language does not imply any failure by Aboriginal students, but rather, a failure of the education system to meet their needs";

WHEREAS the *School Act* states that Indigenous Education Councils are stand-alone bodies and not committees of Boards of Education whose purposes include advising Boards of Education on the provision of comprehensive and equitable educational programs and services to Indigenous students, improving Indigenous student achievement, and integrating Indigenous world views and perspectives into learning environments, in particular those of the First Nations in whose traditional territory Boards of Education operate;

WHEREAS a Board of Education must invite each local First Nation in whose territory the Board of Education operates to designate two persons as members of the Indigenous Education Council and must appoint those persons;

WHEREAS a Board of Education must invite each non-local First Nation, if an eligible First Nation person of the non-local First Nation is funded by Canada and enrolled in an educational program provided by the Board of Education, to designate one person as a member, and must appoint that person;

WHEREAS after seeking advice from each local First Nation, a Board of Education may appoint additional persons who bring perspectives relevant to the Indigenous student population served by the Board of Education;

WHEREAS Boards of Education must make reasonable effort to ensure that the number of members who are not representatives of local First Nations is not greater than the number of members who are representatives of local First Nations;

WHEREAS an Indigenous Education Council must acknowledge its work is undertaken in the local First Nations' territory and have deference to the views and perspectives of members representing local First Nations;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education and Child Care has a responsibility to appropriately fund Indigenous Education Councils so that they may fulfill their mandate as described in the *School Act*;

WHEREAS ongoing capacity funding is necessary to support the operations and preserve the independence of Indigenous Education Councils;

WHEREAS ongoing capacity funding will ensure that Indigenous Education Councils are not dependent on Boards of Education to fund their operations and that the financial burden will not fall on First Nations to fund their members participating on Indigenous Education Councils, particularly those First Nations that sit on multiple Indigenous Education Councils;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education and Child Care provided \$5,670,203 in the 2024/25 school year, \$6,392,183 in the 2025/26 school year, and will provide \$2,400,000 for the 2026/27 school year to public school districts as Indigenous Education Council Funding, under section 106.4 of the *School Act*, to cover costs associated with establishing and maintaining Indigenous Education Councils, including secretariat support, activities, and costs related to Indigenous Education Councils carrying out their purposes;

WHEREAS each Indigenous Education Council must have a secretariat to assist in Indigenous Education Council membership tracking, meeting, and agenda setting, providing information to the Indigenous Education Council, and liaising between the Board of Education and Indigenous Education Council;

WHEREAS currently the Ministry of Education and Child Care has not committed to providing Indigenous Education Council capacity funding beyond the 2026/27 school year;

WHEREAS without consistent and adequate funding, Indigenous Education Councils cannot fulfill their mandate as set out in the *School Act*;

WHEREAS Indigenous Education Councils should be funded in a manner that ensures their success, while not taking from resources for other core educational activities that support student learning;

WHEREAS ongoing, sustainable capacity funding is crucial to ensuring that Indigenous Education Councils can be effective in their role as shared decision-makers in the K-12 public education system in B.C. and in supporting improved education outcomes and attendance of First Nations learners attending B.C. public schools; and

WHEREAS a commitment to ongoing, sustainable capacity funding will indicate that B.C. has identified Indigenous Education Councils as a priority matter in public education for Boards of Education and First Nations and that B.C. is committed to supporting Indigenous Education Councils in fulfilling their responsibilities as set out under Action 4.3 of the Declaration Act Action Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide appropriate and sustainable ongoing capacity funding to Indigenous Education Councils beyond the 2026/27 school year;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Ministry of Education and Child Care to appropriately monitor and oversee the implementation of Indigenous Education Councils, and formally intervene as necessary in cases where school districts are not acting in alignment with the *School Act*, Indigenous Education Council Ministerial Order, and Indigenous Education Council Policy;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Ministry of Education and Child Care to support the capacity of Indigenous Education Councils through ongoing and open communication and by committing to an annual in-person gathering of Indigenous Education Council representatives to be co-hosted with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC); and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Ministry of Education and Child Care to work with FNESC to co-develop an Indigenous Education Council Capacity Funding Policy that provides clear direction on the appropriate use of Indigenous Education Council capacity funding, and guidance on the role of the Indigenous Education Council secretariat.

Moved: Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Women's Representative
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-29

RE: B.C. Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) Renewal

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

WHEREAS the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

- Article 14(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning;
- (2):** Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination;
- (3):** States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language;

WHEREAS access to education is further recognized as a fundamental human right under the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which highlights the importance of education for the well-being of First Nations learners;

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. have been working together formally for more than three decades to advance quality educational opportunities and improve educational outcomes for all First Nations students and, through their collective efforts, have established a solid foundation for a comprehensive, integrated, well-supported B.C. First Nations education system, which is founded on First Nations' languages and cultures, and reflects the values and traditions of First Nations communities;

WHEREAS Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) (the Parties) entered into the *B.C. Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success* (BCTEA) on July 1, 2018, to replace the 2012 Tripartite Education Framework Agreement, and to set out how the Parties will work together, including making systemic shifts (i.e. legislative, policy, and practice reforms), to support successful educational outcomes and attendance of all First Nations students, regardless of where they live or are enrolled in school in British Columbia, through the provision of high quality and culturally relevant elementary and secondary education programs and services, and supported by sufficient, sustained, and predictable funding, that is responsive to the unique needs of First Nations students, schools, and communities;

WHEREAS the BCTEA established a funding model for First Nations education in B.C. premised on the provincial funding model for students attending B.C. public schools, with adaptations;

WHEREAS the BCTEA was originally set to expire on June 30, 2023, but was extended two times, with a new expiry date of June 30, 2026;

WHEREAS the UBCIC passed Resolution no. 2017-12 “RE: Tripartite Education Framework Agreement Renewal” calling on Canada to work in partnership with FNESC to achieve funding for the continued development and evolution of the B.C. First Nations education system aimed at improving attendance and student outcomes;

WHEREAS the Parties engaged throughout 2025 to develop a renewed BCTEA for a ten-year term, beginning July 1, 2026;

WHEREAS the 2026 federal Spring Economic Update did not result in a federal approval of the renewed BCTEA for a ten-year term and, instead, only resulted in the approval of a one-year extension of the *status quo* BCTEA to June 30, 2027, resulting in uncertainty for First Nations education in B.C. beyond the 2026-27 school year;

WHEREAS the BCTEA is unique in Canada, with the purpose of supporting First Nations education improvements through systemic shifts and sustainable, sufficient funding. The BCTEA has helped contribute to significant advancements in First Nations education;

WHEREAS one of the key principles included in the BCTEA states: “The Parties have a shared interest and priority in supporting excellence in First Nations education, including supporting First Nation Students to fulfil their educational potential by having access to and receiving quality education that is respectful and reflective of their unique culture and history”;

WHEREAS another key principle in the BCTEA states: “Sufficient, sustained, and predictable funding is required to meet the unique needs of First Nation Students and is integral to providing education services and programs that result in improved outcomes for First Nation Students”; and

WHEREAS the education of our children is a top priority for First Nations in B.C., and Canada must support First Nations students and their rights to education, effectively and respectfully.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the government of Canada, particularly Indigenous Services Canada and the Ministry of Finance, to meet its fundamental obligations to First Nations and our children by agreeing to the collaboratively renewed B.C. Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) for a ten-year term; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reaffirms the First Nations

Education Steering Committee's (FNESC) mandate as the lead technical body for B.C. First Nations education and directs FNESC to work with Indigenous Services Canada to co-develop the budget request for the federal Fall 2026 Budget to support the renewed BCTEA for a ten-year term.

Moved: Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
Seconded: Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-30

RE: B.C.-Specific First Nations School Capital Funding Model – Phased Approach

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

WHEREAS the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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

(2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.

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

WHEREAS the UBCIC passed Resolution 2021-28 “Re: Support for FNEsc to Develop a B.C.-Specific Model for Capital Funding for First Nation Schools and Teacherages”;

WHEREAS the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEsc) has been taking steps to develop a B.C.-specific model for First Nations school capital and conducting research to develop options for a new capital funding model, and is pursuing the advancement of the capital model on a bilateral basis with Canada as directed by First Nations;

WHEREAS B.C. public schools have a Seismic Mitigation Program and B.C. has spent approximately over \$2 billion to seismically upgrade or replace public schools;

WHEREAS FNEC has undertaken structural Seismic Risk Assessments (SRAs) of First Nations education facilities located in the high-risk seismic zones of B.C. to determine the structural seismic risk to these education facilities, as the Province has done for B.C. public schools;

WHEREAS \$50 million from the federal Budget 2024 was specifically designated for seismic projects in First Nations schools, with that funding set to expire in March 2027, and the majority of the projects will not be completed within that timeframe; and

WHEREAS FNEC has developed a phased approach for this work, including protecting the Budget 2024 \$50 million commitment for seismic mitigation in First Nations schools, establishing a seismic program with distinct funding, developing a new operations and maintenance funding formula, developing a minor capital program with specific categories and distinct funding, and investigating options for using provincial standards for facility condition assessments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to:

- a) Secure the necessary authority to extend the timeline for expenditure of the Budget 2024 \$50 million for seismic mitigation in First Nations schools, beyond March 2027.
- b) Work with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEC) to co-develop a Seismic Mitigation Program for B.C. First Nations schools, similar to the program that B.C. has for public schools, with distinct funding, so that the program does not impact other essential capital priorities for First Nations education facilities in B.C.; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council supports FNEC to continue working with ISC on a phased approach to develop a seismic mitigation program with distinct funding, options for facility condition assessments, a new operations and maintenance funding model, and the development of a minor capital program for First Nations schools.

Moved: Chief Donald Edgars, Old Massett Village Council
Seconded: Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 2, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-31

**RE: Support for the Loving Justice Plan to End Canada's Discrimination in
First Nations Child & 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 B.C., 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.

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;

WHEREAS on September 25, 2024, through UBCIC Resolution no. 2024-49, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly rejected the draft Final Agreement (FA) on the long-term reform of Canada's First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) program dated July 11, 2024, which was negotiated between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Canada, and two First Nations interested parties to the Tribunal (the Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation);

WHEREAS on October 18, 2024, through AFN resolutions nos. 60/2024 and 61/2024, First Nations-in-Assembly rejected the draft FA along with the proposed amendments released on or about October 7, 2024, and called for the establishment of a National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC) with representation appointed by every region, and a mandate to provide strategic direction and oversight of the long-term reform agreement negotiations;

WHEREAS the NCCC has been established with representation from 11 regions across Canada, including regions not represented by the AFN and has been holding regular meetings since December 2024;

WHEREAS on February 13, 2025, the UBCIC Chiefs Council passed Resolution 2025-21 in support of the NCCC's mandate to negotiate national agreements for the long-term reform of the FNCFS program;

WHEREAS on February 13, 2025, the UBCIC Chiefs Council passed Resolution 2025-22 advocating for a B.C.-specific pathway for the long-term reform of the FNCFS program and recognizing the unique needs and inherent rights of First Nations in B.C.;

WHEREAS on August 20, 2025, the Tribunal issued 2025 CHRT 80, which affirmed that the order against Canada to cease its discriminatory practices was designed to safeguard multiple generations of First Nations children and families, that Canada cannot contract out of or amend this order through agreements, and that long-term reform remedies must respect the spirit of Tribunal findings and orders, children's rights, First Nations rights, and be based on the best available evidence;

WHEREAS in 2025 CHRT 80, the Tribunal ruled that within four months of the date of its ruling (December 20, 2025), the 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 (National Plan) for the Tribunal's consideration;

WHEREAS in 2025 CHRT 80, the Tribunal ruled that if a National Plan cannot be reached on consent, or if Canada declines to participate in the consultations, Canada must file with the Tribunal its own evidence-based National Plan within the same timeframe;

WHEREAS on September 4, 2025, the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly, through AFN Resolution 52/2025, approved the terms of reference of the NCCC and the NCCC negotiation team and supported the NCCC to continue its work in developing a National Plan with regional variations;

WHEREAS on October 9, 2025, through Resolution 2025-60, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly supported the NCCC's development of a National Plan informed by meaningful consultation with First Nations in B.C.;

WHEREAS to inform the National Plan and ensure regional perspectives and interests are included, the NCCC, through its dedicated secretariat the Our Children Our Way Society, hosted regional engagements in B.C. in collaboration with the First Nations Leadership Council and the Caring Society, including the following:

- Three in-person meetings attended by approximately 120 Chiefs, proxies, and frontline staff.
- Ten virtual and in-person meetings for Indigenous Child & Family Service Agencies attended by a total of 15 agencies.
- One virtual session for youth.
- One virtual session for Elders and Knowledge Keepers;

WHEREAS throughout the fall of 2025, the NCCC collaborated with the Caring Society to draft a National Plan informed by input from First Nations and their experts and by the research and legal orders accumulated over decades;

WHEREAS on December 22, 2025, the Caring Society filed its National Plan titled “Loving Justice” with the Tribunal, with support from the NCCC and the AFN;

WHEREAS the Loving Justice plan:

- Is grounded in principles to ensure: effective and durable remedies to end Canada’s discrimination; positive outcomes for First Nations children and families; the advancement of reconciliation and human rights; and accountability and transparency in long-term reform.
- Establishes governance, accountability, and enforcement measures to replace Canada’s unilateral decision-making authority with First Nations-led governance structures; make Canada accountable for ending its discriminatory conduct; and provide infrastructure to monitor outcomes and identify issues as they arise.
- Sets out an evidence-based funding approach that: incorporates the Institute of Fiscal Studies for Democracy’s block funding approach; includes funding at actuals as a backstop to safeguard substantive equality; includes funding at actuals for items (e.g., post-majority services and capital) where a reliable baseline is not yet available; and includes capacity-building resources.
- Calls for Canada to negotiate regional variations that meet or exceed the minimum standards established by the Loving Justice plan and to address the distinct needs and circumstances of First Nations within each region;

WHEREAS Canada filed a separate National Plan with the Tribunal on December 22, 2025, which:

- Maintains Canada’s unilateral decision-making authority over FNCFS and leaves First Nations in an advisory role.
- Imposes the formula-based funding approach described in the FA that First Nations rejected in 2024.
- Eliminates any infrastructure for First Nations-led national oversight of FNCFS.
- Replaces Canada’s accountability for ending discrimination with FNCFS agency accountability;

WHEREAS both the Loving Justice plan and Canada’s plan are before the Tribunal for consideration in determining which approach best responds to the orders to end discrimination in FNCFS; and

WHEREAS voting in favour of either the Loving Justice plan or Canada’s plan does not mean that the selected plan will automatically be implemented; however, it is expected that the Tribunal will take the positions expressed by Chiefs into account when rendering its final decision.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the Loving Justice plan as the preferred pathway to long-term reform of the First Nations Child & Family Services program;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on Canada to clarify how much funding is remaining from the original \$47.8 billion that was offered in the 2024 draft final settlement agreement; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on Canada to provide resources to the UBCIC, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, and the Our Children Our Way Society, as the designated secretariat for the National Children's Chiefs Commission, to consult with B.C. First Nations on B.C.-specific regional variations under the Loving Justice plan.

Moved: Kukpi7 Brent Dixon, Tsqéscen' First Nation
Seconded: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 3, 2026

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS CHIEFS COUNCIL

JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-32

RE: Bill C-16 *Protecting Victims Act*

WHEREAS Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people experience some of the highest and most deadly rates of gender-based violence in Canada: 56% of Indigenous women have experienced physical assault in their lifetime, while 46% have experienced sexual assault, compared to 33% of non-Indigenous women.¹ Similarly, 61% of Indigenous women have experienced intimate partner violence, compared to 44% of all women, and the rates of violence and murder are much higher in Northern Canada;²

WHEREAS gender-based and racialized violence towards Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, including the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ people (MMIWG2S+) is a human rights issue. The ongoing threat against the bodies of Indigenous women and girls violates the most core basic human right of all peoples to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty, and security of person;

WHEREAS Bill C-16 *Protecting Victims Act* (Bill C-16) is currently under review by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights before going to the House of Commons for vote by Members of Parliament, and many of the proposed amendments in Bill C-16 serve to denounce gender-based violence and strengthen protections for victims and survivors, including protections regarding distribution of sexually explicit images including deepfakes, provisions to support victims' rights including during the legal process, respect of victims' rights under the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*, and timely access to justice;

WHEREAS as currently drafted, Bill C-16 fails to take into account the distinct nature of gender-based violence towards Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, as well as Elders and people with disabilities, despite being an opportunity for Canada to recognize racialized violence against Indigenous

¹ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00004-eng.htm>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/gender-based-violence/intimate-partner-violence.html>

women, girls, and gender-diverse people as distinct and to enable enhanced protections within the *Criminal Code* that may begin to address the epidemic of MMIWG2S+ in Canada;

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.

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

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 Government of Canada has related obligations under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and the *Canadian Human Rights Act* as well as international obligations;

WHEREAS the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (“CEDAW”) issued Concluding Observations in 2024 which upheld Indigenous women’s rights and safety and directed Canada to speed up the implementation of the National Inquiry’s Calls for Justice and protect Indigenous women from gender-based violence in the context of extractive industries;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2023-10 “Call for Federal MMIWG2S+ Legislation” calls on Canada to work with Indigenous Peoples, including families and loved ones of MMIWG2S+ people, to co-develop federal legislation creating accountability and legal standards for preventing and responding to cases of MMIWG2S+;

WHEREAS labelling femicide is an important shift towards ensuring that gendered motivations are not overlooked and to bring systemic gender-based violence out of the private sphere and into the public eye. However, without explicitly acknowledging the distinct and disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, as well as Elders and peoples with disabilities, Bill C-16 risks further perpetuating the invisibility of Indigenous victims and fails to effectively respond to the crisis of MMIWG2S+;

WHEREAS on April 17, 2026, UBCIC provided a submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights titled “Strengthening Federal Legal Protections and Upholding the Rights of Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples” which included the aforementioned considerations; and

WHEREAS Bill C-16 represents an important step in strengthening Canada’s response to gender-based violence; however, in its current form it wholly disregards the realities of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people and risks further entrenching existing inequities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Government of Canada to make amendments to Bill C-16 *Protecting Victims Act* in the areas of coercive control, femicide, mandatory

minimum sentencing, criminal harassment, and access to alternative measures to specifically recognize and address gender-based violence against Indigenous women, girls, Elders, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and persons with disabilities in alignment with domestic and international human rights obligations, as articulated in UBCIC's submission "Strengthening Federal Legal Protections and Upholding the Rights of Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples";

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Government of Canada to amend the *Criminal Code* to create a designation of femicide in Canadian law and to explicitly recognize femicide committed against Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people as a standalone factor, embedding accountability for the ongoing impacts of colonial violence and the crisis of MMIWG2S+ in Canada; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and the UBCIC Women's Representative to continue to seek reforms to criminal law that protect victims of gender-based violence while also recognizing and addressing the broad systemic factors that shape both the victimization and criminalization of Indigenous Peoples.

Moved: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Leslie Walkus, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 3, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-33

RE: First Nations Participation in Firearms Classification and Public Safety Reviews

WHEREAS First Nations in what is now known as British Columbia maintain inherent title and rights, laws, jurisdiction, cultures, harvesting practices, and relationships to lands and resources that include the lawful use of firearms for hunting, sustenance, cultural, ceremonial, safety, and livelihood purposes;

WHEREAS firearms classification systems, public safety legislation, and related enforcement policies may directly impact First Nations harvesting practices, transportation of firearms, access to traditional territories, and therefore the exercise of inherent, human, and Aboriginal and Treaty rights protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

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

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

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

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;

WHEREAS in April 2026, Public Safety Canada initiated a Firearms Classification Regime Review, including the establishment of a Firearms Classification Technical Advisory Group to provide advice regarding lawful civilian use, public safety, firearms classification approaches, and related policy and legal

frameworks, and has specifically identified Indigenous practices and traditions as an area requiring representation and engagement;

WHEREAS Public Safety Canada has sought First Nations participation in the Firearms Classification Technical Advisory Group and to engage in broader discussions regarding First Nations participation in the review process;

WHEREAS the government of B.C. is also implementing the *Firearm Violence Prevention Act* and related regulations, which may affect First Nations inherent, human, and Aboriginal and Treaty rights; and

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2021-05, “UBCIC Mandate on Hunting,” the UBCIC Chiefs Council’s mandate on hunting includes ensuring First Nations guide the opening of jurisdictional and legal space in B.C. for the operation of Indigenous laws and legal orders, title and rights, and traditions in the management of hunting as well as advancing topics related to First Nations hunting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the federal and provincial governments to consult and cooperate in good faith with First Nations in B.C. in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures related to firearms classification, firearms regulation, public safety processes, and/or any proposed enforcement measures that may affect them;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to engage with Public Safety Canada, the government of B.C., First Nations, and other relevant parties regarding firearms classification and public safety initiatives, including participation in related advisory and technical review processes;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to share information with Public Safety Canada to enable the selection of a qualified First Nations representative to participate in the Firearms Classification Technical Advisory Group or related processes to ensure First Nations perspectives and rights are meaningfully represented; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council urges federal and provincial governments to ensure that firearms legislation, regulations, and enforcement measures are developed and implemented in a manner consistent with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Moved: Chief Dan Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Justin Kane, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 3, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-34

RE: Opposition to Oil Pipeline Proposals to the Pacific Coast

WHEREAS First Nations in what is now known as British Columbia (B.C.) have inherent, human, and constitutionally protected title and rights, laws, jurisdiction, and responsibilities over their lands, waters, territories, and resources, including the authority to determine priorities for the protection and use of their territories and to uphold responsibilities to future generations;

WHEREAS on November 27, 2025, the governments of Canada and Alberta entered into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding energy development and export infrastructure, and on May 15, 2026, entered into an “Implementation Agreement for the Canada-Alberta Memorandum of Understanding” (Implementation Agreement), which includes Part IV: “Oil Pipeline to Asian Markets” outlining commitments to advance a new oil pipeline to the Pacific Coast of B.C.;

WHEREAS the Implementation Agreement commits Alberta to submit a pipeline application to the federal Major Projects Office by July 1, 2026, and Canada to pursue designation of the pipeline as a “project of national interest” under the *Building Canada Act* by October 1, 2026, and states Canada’s intention to make best efforts to provide by September 1, 2027, the conditions document required to enable commencement of pipeline construction;

WHEREAS additional oil pipeline and tanker projects threaten the lands, waters, marine ecosystems, cultures, economies, and ways of life of First Nations throughout B.C. and expose First Nations communities to unacceptable risks associated with oil spills, environmental degradation, and accelerating climate change;

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 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.

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 the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 2025-58 “Unwavering Support for *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* Respecting B.C.’s North Pacific Coast,” which reaffirmed support for the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*, Coastal First Nations opposition to oil tanker traffic through their territories, and opposition to new pipeline and tanker projects transporting oil to and through the Pacific North Coast of B.C.; and

WHEREAS First Nations throughout B.C. continue to oppose oil tanker traffic and new oil pipeline projects through their territories and waters, and no agreement between the governments of Canada and Alberta can authorize or legitimize pipeline development through First Nations lands and waters without first consulting and cooperating in good faith with those First Nations in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reaffirms their opposition to new oil pipeline and tanker projects transporting oil to and through the Pacific Coast of what is now known as British Columbia;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council expresses alarm about the potential climate impacts of new oil pipelines and opposes any efforts by the governments of Canada or Alberta to advance oil pipeline projects to the Pacific Coast of B.C. without first consulting and cooperating in good faith with the First Nations concerned in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council rejects attempts to characterize oil pipeline expansion projects as being in the “national interest” where such projects would undermine First Nations inherent, human, and constitutionally protected title and rights and jurisdiction, environmental protection, and the authority of affected First Nations to determine priorities for their territories and waters;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council supports Coastal First Nations and all affected First Nations who continue to uphold and exercise their inherent laws and responsibilities and inherent, human, and constitutionally protected title, rights, and jurisdiction in opposition to oil tanker traffic and pipeline development through their territories; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with affected First Nations, Coastal First Nations, and like-minded organizations to advocate for the continued protection of the Pacific Coast of B.C.

Moved: Chief Marilyn Slett, Heiltsuk Nation
Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Women's Representative
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 3, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-35

RE: Provincial Retreat from *Police Act* Reform and Public Safety Modernization Commitments

WHEREAS First Nations in what is now known as British Columbia continue to experience systemic racism, discrimination, violence, over-policing, and harm within colonial policing and justice systems, including disproportionate rates of police intervention, incarceration, use of force, and deaths involving First Nations people;

WHEREAS in 2021, the B.C. Legislative Assembly established the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCORPA) to examine and make recommendations respecting policing reform, systemic racism in policing, civilian oversight, public safety, and alignment of the *Police Act* with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) as required by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act), which resulted in the release of the SCORPA report, “Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia”, in 2022;

WHEREAS the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, B.C. Assembly of First Nations, and First Nations Summit, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), appeared before and provided a comprehensive written submission to SCORPA calling for transformative policing and justice reform grounded in decolonization, anti-racism, First Nations jurisdiction, self-determination, and implementation of the UN Declaration;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2022-26, “Implementing the Recommendations of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act,” the UBCIC Chiefs Council supported the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the SCORPA report, including commitments to transformational policing reform rooted in decolonization, anti-racism, accountability, and First Nations self-determination;

WHEREAS the government of B.C. committed to implementing the SCORPA report’s recommendations and through the Declaration Act Action Plan further committed to undertake comprehensive policing reform,

including modernization of the *Police Act*, addressing systemic racism in policing, strengthening civilian oversight and accountability mechanisms, clarifying responses to complex social issues, and prioritizing implementation of the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy;

WHEREAS between 2023 and 2025, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) engaged in extensive technical discussions and engagement sessions with FNLC and the B.C. First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) regarding *Police Act* reform and policing modernization, including the co-development and validation of detailed policy proposals and recommendations;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2023-53, “Provincial Public Safety and Policing Modernization,” the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly supported ongoing work between the Province, FNLC, and BCFNJC to advance policing and public safety modernization in alignment with the UN Declaration as required by the Declaration Act;

WHEREAS in 2024, the *Police Amendment Act* was passed which resulted in minor changes to police governance and oversight including requirements for police boards to create a code of conduct and updated procedures for handling complaints;

WHEREAS the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development and to actively participate in developing and determining programs affecting them;

WHEREAS in March 2026, despite years of engagement, technical work, and the co-development and validation of detailed policy proposals and recommendations, PSSG staff informed FNLC and BCFNJC that at this time the government of B.C. would only be proceeding with the development of a First Nation and Local Government Safety Officers Program, and advised that no funding would be provided to support FNLC or BCFNJC participation in a related technical working group;

WHEREAS BCFNJC has indicated their intention to continue working on this file and has advised FNLC that they will keep FNLC informed of related technical work;

WHEREAS FNLC has advised PSSG that, due to the government of B.C.'s shift of focus from implementing the SCORPA report's recommendations and updating and aligning the *Police Act* with the UN Declaration to developing a First Nation and Local Government Safety Officers Program, as well as capacity limitations, FNLC technical staff can no longer meaningfully participate in the Provincial Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative Working Group and have therefore directed withdrawal from the process; and

WHEREAS this retreat from meaningful policing legislative reform raises serious concerns regarding the government of B.C.'s commitment to addressing systemic anti-Indigenous racism in policing and implementing its commitments and obligations under the Declaration Act and the UN Declaration, the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy, the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the SCORPA report.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council expresses deep concern regarding the government of B.C.'s apparent retreat from comprehensive policing and public safety legislative reform and the failure to adequately resource and advance commitments made through the Declaration Act Action Plan, the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy, and the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act process;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon the government of B.C. to immediately recommit to meaningful *Police Act* reform and policing modernization aligned with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as required by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, including providing sustained and adequate funding to support First Nations participation, technical capacity, engagement, and co-development processes with the UBCIC, B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), and First Nations Summit (FNS), working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and the B.C. First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC); and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff, working with the BCAFN and the FNS as the FNLC, and with BCFNJC, to continue advocating for transformative policing and public safety systems and legislation grounded in decolonization, anti-racism, accountability, and the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction, laws, and self-determination.

Moved: Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Dan Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 3, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-36

RE: *Environmental Assessment Act* Reform and Protection of First Nations Title and Rights, and Jurisdiction

WHEREAS First Nations hold inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and treaty rights, to their lands, waters, and resources, and these rights cannot be overridden or diminished through provincial legislative or regulatory processes;

WHEREAS the *Environmental Assessment Act* came into force in 2019 and includes a requirement for a five-year review. The Environmental Assessment Office has initiated that review process, including engagement with First Nations and the UBCIC, B.C. Assembly of First Nations, and First Nations Summit, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC);

WHEREAS the Environmental Assessment Office has indicated that the review will consider whether the *Environmental Assessment Act* is meeting its stated purposes of promoting sustainability and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and whether reforms are required to improve environmental assessment processes in British Columbia;

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 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 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, prior 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 by UBCIC Resolution 2025-24, *Opposition to Bill C-5, An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act, and Call for Coordinated First Nations Response*, the UBCIC Chiefs Council opposed legislation intended to fast-track major projects by weakening environmental assessment and consultation processes and reaffirmed the requirement for meaningful consultation and cooperation with First Nations in order to obtain free, prior, and informed consent;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2022-34, *Holding Mining Companies Accountable for Destruction of the Land*, the UBCIC Chiefs Council identified longstanding deficiencies in British Columbia's environmental assessment and resource regulatory regimes and called for reforms consistent with the UN Declaration, Indigenous laws, and the protection of First Nations lands and waters;

WHEREAS the provincial government recently enacted the *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* and the *Infrastructure Projects Act*, including provisions intended to expedite approvals and environmental assessment processes for projects deemed to be "provincially significant", raising serious concerns regarding the erosion of environmental oversight and meaningful First Nations participation in decision-making processes affecting their territories;

WHEREAS the FNLC has been engaged with the Environmental Assessment Office since March of 2026 regarding dispute resolution mechanisms, environmental assessment reform, and related regulatory development, and continues to advocate for processes that uphold First Nations title and rights, jurisdiction, and free, prior, and informed consent; and

WHEREAS any reform to environmental assessment processes in British Columbia must strengthen, rather than weaken, environmental protections, First Nations jurisdiction, and mechanisms for meaningful consultation and cooperation with First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reaffirms that any reform of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and related regulatory frameworks must uphold and respect First Nations inherent title and rights, and treaty rights, jurisdiction, and responsibilities to their lands, waters, and resources;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the government of British Columbia to ensure that any expedited environmental assessment or permitting processes developed under the *Infrastructure Projects Act*, *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act*, or related legislation are developed in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and do not undermine environmental oversight or the ability of First Nations to meaningfully participate in decisions affecting their territories;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff, working with the First Nations Summit and the B.C. Assembly of First Nations as the First Nations Leadership Council, to continue engaging with the Environmental Assessment Office and the government of British Columbia regarding *Environmental Assessment Act* reform, dispute resolution mechanisms, and related regulatory development to ensure that First Nations title, rights, jurisdiction, and free, prior, and informed consent are respected and upheld; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the government of British Columbia to provide adequate and sustained funding to support the meaningful participation of First Nations in *Environmental Assessment Act* review processes, regulatory reform initiatives, and all related legislative and policy development processes.

Moved: Chief Justin Kane, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
Seconded: Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 3, 2026

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JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-37

RE: Continued Support for BC First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council to Administer Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy (URN) and Reaching Home Programs

WHEREAS First Nations have the inherent and constitutionally protected right to self-determination, including the authority to determine and advance their own housing, infrastructure, governance, and service delivery priorities in accordance with their laws, jurisdiction, and responsibilities to their citizens and future generations;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2024-53 reaffirmed that the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) housing initiatives and infrastructure services must not interfere with First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2024-53 also mandated the creation of a BC First Nations Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee (CHIAC) to provide guidance and oversight respecting housing and infrastructure priorities, governance accountability, and alignment with First Nations needs and priorities in B.C.;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Executive, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNL), through its August 14, 2024, correspondence to federal ministers, affirmed support for FNHIC's role in administering First Nations-led housing and homelessness initiatives, including the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy (URN) and Reaching Home Indigenous Homelessness (Reaching Home) programs;

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 implementing, affirms:

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

Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

Article 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;

WHEREAS FNHIC has continued to advance housing and homelessness initiatives on behalf of First Nations in British Columbia, including administration and delivery of URN and Reaching Home funding supporting Nation-led housing projects, planning, engagement, and service delivery activities throughout British Columbia;

WHEREAS Indigenous Services Canada has advised that continued administration of URN funding by FNHIC is contingent upon renewed FNLC support and updated governance and reporting requirements, while the federal Housing and Infrastructure sunset on March 31, 2026, pending renewal, creating uncertainty that risks disrupting ongoing First Nations-led housing governance, institution-building, transfer readiness, and service delivery; and

WHEREAS the continuity of First Nations housing and homelessness funding remains critical to ensuring that First Nations communities are not disadvantaged or delayed in accessing urgently needed housing supports and long-term service delivery transformation opportunities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reaffirms support for the continued advancement of First Nations-led housing and infrastructure initiatives in British Columbia through the BC First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC), subject to continued accountability reform, guidance from the Chiefs Housing and Infrastructure Advisory Committee, ongoing engagement with First Nations, including and funding implementation plans;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council supports the continuation of the housing and homelessness initiatives currently administered through FNHIC, which are the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy (URN) and Reaching Home programs, and directs the UBCIC Executive, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to communicate this support to Canada; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon federal partners, including Indigenous Services Canada and Infrastructure Canada, to continue supporting First Nations-led housing, homelessness, and infrastructure initiatives in B.C. through sustained funding continuity, collaboration, and support for accountable First Nations-led governance and service delivery approaches on behalf of participating Nations.

Moved: Judy Wilson, Shuswap Band (Proxy)
Seconded: Chief Dan Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 3, 2026

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS CHIEFS COUNCIL

JUNE 2ND – 3RD, 2026

SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE (STÓ:LŌ TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-38

RE: UBCIC Appointment to BC First Nations Gaming Commission

WHEREAS First Nations in British Columbia were neither consulted nor were party to the 1985 federal-provincial agreement that transferred the authority to operate gaming facilities to the provinces and retain the associated revenues;

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. require more consistent and predictable funding in order to support ongoing programs, improve band capacity and infrastructure, develop effective long-range planning, and pursue development opportunities for the economic, social, and cultural needs of their communities in a crucial effort to combat systemic poverty;

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

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

WHEREAS First Nations in B.C. have been discussing the issue of shared revenues and jurisdiction over gaming in B.C. since 1993, and successfully negotiated the Interim BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing and Financial Agreement dated August 2, 2019, between the BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership (a special purpose entity established by the BC First Nations Gaming Commission (BCFNGC)), the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and the Province of B.C.;

WHEREAS in September 2020, the same parties signed a 23-year agreement, which will result in the sharing of approximately \$3 billion in gaming revenue, which supports Indigenous self-government and self-determination;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2010-42, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly confirmed UBCIC's position that B.C. gaming legislation does not apply to gaming activities on First Nations lands in B.C. and supported the establishment of the BCFNGC;

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2010-55, the UBCIC Chiefs Council endorsed and adopted the draft Terms of Reference Framework (November 2010) for the BCFNGC;

WHEREAS the Terms of Reference Framework requires the appointment of seven (7) senior and knowledgeable provincial leaders with expertise in the gaming initiative as the First Nations Gaming Commissioners;

WHEREAS the Terms of Reference Framework sets out that three (3) Commissioners will be appointed, one from each of the respective provincial First Nations organizations:

- One (1) from the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
- One (1) from the First Nations Summit
- One (1) from the BC Assembly of First Nations;

WHEREAS the Terms of Reference Framework also sets out that the remaining four (4) Commissioners will be selected from the list of former Chairs of the BCFNGC based on their long-standing efforts and commitment to this initiative;

WHEREAS the UBCIC appointed Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band, as Commissioner through Resolution 2023-16 and her term ran from June 2023 to June 2026;

WHEREAS in March 2026, UBCIC circulated notice seeking applications for one (1) representative to the BCFNGC, for a three-year term beginning June 8, 2026, and ending June 8, 2029, to be chosen in accordance with the UBCIC Elections Procedures; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC received (1) one applicant, from Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band, who was acclaimed to the Commissioner position for a second term.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council hereby appoints Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band, as the UBCIC Representative to the BC First Nations Gaming Commission (BCFNGC); and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Representative to the BCFNGC to provide regular updates to the UBCIC Executive and the UBCIC Chiefs Council on the activities of the BCFNGC.

Moved: Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Justin Kane, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: June 3, 2026