

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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Final Resolutions of UBCIC Chiefs Council, February 11th – 12th, 2026

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS CHIEFS COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-01

RE: Opposition to Amending the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* or Related *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) was co-developed with First Nations and unanimously passed by the B.C. Legislature in November 2019 and affirms the application of the UN Declaration to the laws of B.C., 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* 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; and

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, the government of B.C. has proposed to amend the Declaration Act and/or 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 Attorney General of B.C. sent out notification letters to all 204 First Nations and the First Nations Leadership Council organizations, the Alliance of Modern Treaty Nations, and First Nations Organizations, on January 29th, 2026, informing them of the potential amendments and inviting participation in an expedited consultation and co-operation process and, subject to the signing of a confidentiality agreement, advising that they would be sharing a discussion paper and policy questions in advance of upcoming sessions for consultation and co-operation on the amendments;

WHEREAS on February 4th, the UBCIC, B.C. Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Summit, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council, held an Emergency All Chiefs meeting on the proposed amendments, where Chiefs and leaders in attendance expressed deep opposition to the proposed amendments being considered in the discussion paper, which most had only seen for the first time that same morning;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council has consistently and unequivocally supported the unqualified implementation, defence, and strengthening of the Declaration Act, 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”, and 2025-05 “Independent Mechanism to Monitor Declaration Act Implementation”, all of which collectively affirm that the Declaration Act must be protected, fully implemented, and not weakened or rolled back; and

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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council unequivocally opposes the Province making any amendments to the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) and to the *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*), without first consulting and cooperating in good faith with First Nations in B.C. AND obtaining their free, prior, and informed consent;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council affirms that the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (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 calls upon the government of B.C. to publicly commit to not amending the Declaration Act or *Interpretation Act* in response to the B.C. Court of Appeal's decision in *Gitxaala*, and instead dedicate its efforts to meaningful implementation, alignment of laws, independent oversight, and accountability consistent with the UN Declaration and UBCIC resolutions, and directs the UBCIC Executive to continue working with the Province to advocate for a solution that fully upholds First Nations' inherent and Aboriginal rights, title, and jurisdiction and the UN Declaration; 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 relevant parts of the *Interpretation Act*, oppose any actions that would erode the inherent, human, and Aboriginal rights of First Nations in B.C., and engage in planning direct action as needed.

Moved: Chief Cheryl Casimer, ʔaḡam - Ktunaxa Nation
Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Opposition: Xa'xtsa
Date: February 11, 2026

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-02

RE: Require Meaningful Consultation on Aquaculture Regulations, Licence Conditions, and Closed Containment Definitions

WHEREAS First Nations in British Columbia are inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights holders with jurisdiction over their lands, waters, and resources, and continue to exercise Indigenous laws, governance, and stewardship responsibilities to protect wild salmon, marine ecosystems, and the well-being of their communities;

WHEREAS the regulation, licensing, and management of industrial aquaculture directly affects First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights, including food, social, ceremonial, cultural, and economic practices, and therefore engages the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate;

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.

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 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands, territories, and resources.

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

WHEREAS Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is advancing work in 2026 on aquaculture regulations, licence conditions, and the transition to closed containment, and has developed multiple technical definitions of “closed containment” and related containment categories for industry reporting and policy purposes without meaningful consultation with First Nations;

WHEREAS DFO currently utilizes several differing definitions of closed containment, including categories such as semi-enclosed containment that have previously been rejected by First Nations, and these definitions risk predetermining policy outcomes, transition pathways, and licence conditions without First Nations’ free, prior, and informed consent;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council has repeatedly affirmed the requirement for meaningful, well-resourced, and rights-based consultation on aquaculture policy, transition planning, regulations, and licence conditions through UBCIC Resolutions 2020-08 “Transition from Open Net-Pen Fish Farming”, 2022-42 “Fish Farm Transition Plan”, 2023-11 “Distortion of Science in DFO’s Decision-Making”, 2024-40 “Support for Precautionary Principle in Open-Net Pen Transition Planning Process”, 2024-55 “First Nations Oversight in Fish Farm Transition Process”, and 2024-56 “Support for Wild Salmon Alliance Fish Farm Licence Regulations”, which collectively call for First Nations-led engagement, independent oversight, precautionary decision-making, and consultation processes that meaningfully respect Indigenous Title, Rights, and jurisdiction;

WHEREAS DFO has indicated that consultations on new or amended aquaculture regulations, licence conditions, and closed containment approaches will take place in 2026, and past engagement processes have failed to adequately reflect First Nations’ positions, Indigenous knowledge, or the cumulative impacts of fish farms on wild salmon and First Nations rights; and

WHEREAS consultation that is rushed, under-resourced, overly technical, or conducted after key policy decisions are predetermined does not meet the constitutional duty to consult, is inconsistent with the UN Declaration, and undermines trust in federal decision-making.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council affirms that meaningful consultation on aquaculture regulations, licence conditions, and the definition, standards, and application of closed containment must occur prior to final decision-making, must be conducted in good faith, and must be consistent with inherent and constitutionally protected Indigenous title and rights, laws, and governance systems;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to ensure that upcoming consultations on aquaculture regulations and licence conditions:

- a) are early, ongoing, and transparent, with draft materials shared well in advance;
- b) include First Nations-led and regionally appropriate engagement processes;
- c) meaningfully incorporate Indigenous knowledge, independent science, and cumulative effects analysis; and
- d) provide adequate funding and capacity support to enable full First Nations participation;
- e) include direct consultation on how DFO defines, categorizes, and applies the term “closed containment” and other containment models in regulations, policy, and licence conditions;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council asserts that consultation on regulations and licence conditions must not be used to legitimize predetermined outcomes, including the continuation of open net-pen fish farms, the advancement of semi-enclosed or other unproven interim

technologies, or the adoption of closed containment definitions that have not been co-developed with First Nations, and must uphold the precautionary principle and wild salmon recovery objectives; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with First Nations, the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance, the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, and other like-minded organizations to seek funding from DFO and others to design a First Nations consultation and engagement process through a First Nations world view that respects and reflects First Nations rights, that informs and directs the Aquaculture Regulation Licence Conditions and Closed Containment Definitions, review, and for that process to create a First Nations driven Regulatory Impact Assessment Statement and a First Nations Socio Economic Impact Analysis Statement.

Moved: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Shackan Indian Band (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 11, 2026

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏӨK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-03

RE: Reject the Use of “Semi-Open” Fish Farms as Acceptable Transition Technology

WHEREAS First Nations in British Columbia are inherent title and rights holders with jurisdiction over their territories, lands, and waters, and have a sacred responsibility to protect salmon and marine ecosystems through independent and First Nations-led, science-based, precautionary decision-making;

WHEREAS First Nations rely on marine resources in the ocean and rivers for their livelihoods, way of life, health, culture, and well-being, and have a sacred responsibility to protect salmon and marine ecosystems for present and future generations;

WHEREAS open net-pen fish farming has long generated public concern due to its environmental and biological impacts, including the transmission of pathogens and diseases, elevated sea-lice infestations on juvenile salmon, discharge of untreated waste, and increased predation pressures on forage fish;

WHEREAS so-called “semi-open,” “semi-closed,” or flow-through containment systems continue to discharge waste, pathogens, parasites, and effluent into surrounding waters and therefore do not meet the independent, First Nations-led, science-based precautionary standard required for wild salmon protection and recovery, nor meaningfully reduce risks to marine ecosystems or First Nations title and rights;

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

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

Article 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands, territories, and resources.

Article 32: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands, territories, and resources;

WHEREAS the UBCIC has consistently opposed open net-pen aquaculture and unproven transition models through numerous resolutions, including 2018-07, 2020-08, 2021-07, 2022-29, 2022-42, 2023-11, 2023-35, 2024-40, 2024-55, and 2024-56, which collectively affirm First Nations jurisdiction, call for wild salmon protection and recovery, reject semi-closed containment, and demand science-based, precautionary, and First Nations-led transition planning;

WHEREAS the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard's decision to decline renewal of Discovery Islands fish farm licenses, and the Federal Court's 2024 affirmation of that decision, confirmed the appropriateness of applying a precautionary approach grounded in an independent science base and First Nations knowledge where scientific uncertainty and risk of serious harm exist; and

WHEREAS the federal government has committed to banning open net-pen fish farms in British Columbia waters by 2029 yet continues to advance transition pathways and implementation measures that risk prolonging exposure of wild salmon to industrial aquaculture through interim technologies that lack proven effectiveness.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council rejects the use of "semi-open," "semi-closed," or flow-through fish farm systems as acceptable transition technologies, as they fail to meet the independent, First Nations-led, science-based precautionary principle affirmed through the Discovery Islands decision and Federal Court ruling, and continue to pose unacceptable risks to wild salmon, marine ecosystems, and inherent and constitutionally protected First Nations title and rights;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reaffirms support for a rapid, precautionary, and First Nations-led transition away from open net-pen aquaculture to land-based closed-containment systems, where aquaculture is to occur at all, and only with the free, prior, and informed consent of affected First Nations;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia to cease promoting, funding, or approving semi-open containment systems within fish farm transition planning and to ensure that all implementation work between now and 2029 is aligned with wild salmon recovery objectives, Indigenous law, independent science, and the UN Declaration; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to advocate, in collaboration with First Nations, the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance, and like-minded organizations, for transition policies and legislation grounded in precautionary science, Indigenous knowledge, and independent First Nations oversight, subject to available resources.

Moved: Chief Nicholas Peterson, Lower Nicola Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Niakia Hanna, Lytton First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 11, 2026

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-04

RE: Demand Federal Release of the “What We Heard Report” and Restart of the Open Net Pen Transition Planning Process

WHEREAS First Nations in British Columbia are inherent title and rights holders with jurisdiction over their lands, waters, and resources, and continue to exercise Indigenous laws and stewardship responsibilities to protect wild salmon, marine ecosystems, and the well-being of their communities;

WHEREAS the regulation and management of open net-pen fish farms directly affects First Nations’ Aboriginal and treaty rights across the province, including food, social, ceremonial, cultural, and economic practices, and therefore engages the Crown’s constitutional duty to consult and accommodate;

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.

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 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands, territories, and resources.

Article 32: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or resources;

WHEREAS Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) initiated an Open Net-Pen Fish Farm Transition Planning Process and conducted engagement

with First Nations and the public, committing to transparency and trust-building through the release of a “What We Heard Report”;

WHEREAS despite these commitments, ISED and DFO have failed to publicly release the most recent “What We Heard Report,” undermining transparency, accountability, and confidence in the transition planning process;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolutions 2023-11 “Distortion of Science in DFO’s Decision-Making”, 2023-35 “Strengthening the Fish Farm Transition Plan”, 2024-40 “Support for Precautionary Principle in Open-Net Pen Transition Planning Process”, 2024-55 “First Nations Oversight in Fish Farm Transition Process”, and 2024-56 “Support for Wild Salmon Alliance Fish Farm License Regulations” have raised serious concerns regarding DFO’s handling of science, engagement processes, transparency, and the misrepresentation or obscuring of First Nations positions in transition planning and related reporting; and

WHEREAS consultation processes that proceed without full disclosure of engagement outcomes, or that continue despite unresolved concerns about transparency, scientific integrity, and misrepresentation of First Nations views, cannot be considered meaningful or consistent with the UN Declaration or the honour of the Crown.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council demands that the Government of Canada through Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada immediately release the outstanding “What We Heard Report” related to the Open Net-Pen Fish Farm Transition Planning Process, without redaction of First Nations positions or conclusions;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls for the restart of the Open Net-Pen Transition Planning Process following the public release of the “What We Heard Report,” to ensure transparency, accountability, and trust in the process;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council asserts that any restarted transition planning process must be grounded in the precautionary principle, independent and credible science, Indigenous knowledge, and full respect for First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction, and must not advance predetermined outcomes; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to advocate to federal decision-makers, in collaboration with First Nations and like-minded organizations, for a transparent, rights-based, and First Nations-led transition planning process.

Moved: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Seconded: Chief Dan Wilson, Okanagan Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 11, 2026

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SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏӨK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-05

RE: Rebuilding Wild Salmon as a Nation Building Project

WHEREAS First Nations in British Columbia are inherent title and rights holders with jurisdiction over their lands, waters, and resources, and have governed, stewarded, and sustained wild salmon since time immemorial through Indigenous laws, knowledge systems, and responsibilities to future generations;

WHEREAS wild Pacific salmon are foundational to First Nations cultures, food systems, economies, governance, and spiritual practices, and their continued decline represents an unjustified infringement on First Nations' food, social, and ceremonial rights and a failure of Crown stewardship obligations;

WHEREAS the ongoing collapse of wild salmon stocks is a direct result of cumulative impacts including habitat degradation, climate change, ineffective fisheries management, industrial development, aquaculture, and failure to uphold inherent and constitutionally protected Indigenous title and rights, and jurisdiction across watersheds and marine environments;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia have made repeated political commitments to reconciliation, implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, food security, climate resilience, and watershed security, all of which are inextricably linked to the protection and rebuilding of wild salmon populations;

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.

Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise used lands, waters, and resources.

2026-05

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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 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands, territories, and resources.

Article 32: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands, territories, and resources;

WHEREAS the UBCIC has consistently affirmed that the protection, recovery, and rebuilding of wild Pacific salmon is fundamental to First Nations title and rights, food security, water governance, and reconciliation, including through UBCIC Resolutions 2022-28 “Protecting Pacific Wild Salmon Habitat”, 2022-29 “First Nations Advisor to the Province on Wild Salmon”, 2024-54 “Trust Fund for Wild Salmon”, and 2025-57 “Advancing First Nations Jurisdiction and Protection of Water”, which collectively recognize wild salmon recovery as a long-term, Indigenous-led priority essential to Nation rebuilding and the well-being of all British Columbians;

WHEREAS for First Nations, wild salmon are living relatives central to culture, law, and identity, and because salmon depend entirely on the health of lands and waters to which First Nations hold inherent title and rights, there can be no meaningful reconciliation without reconciliation to the land and the restoration of the ecosystems that sustain First Nations cultures and ways of life;

WHEREAS reconciliation cannot be meaningfully advanced while wild salmon continue to decline, watersheds remain degraded, and First Nations are excluded from decision-making over the ecosystems that sustain their Nations, cultures, and economies;

WHEREAS rebuilding wild salmon populations presents a unique opportunity to advance Nation-to-Nation governance, Indigenous-led watershed and marine stewardship, climate adaptation, food security, and long-term economic resilience in ways that benefit both First Nations and all British Columbians; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council has consistently affirmed through numerous resolutions the urgent need for Indigenous-led wild salmon recovery, protection of salmon habitat, watershed security, co-governance of water, and sustained long-term investment in salmon restoration, including through calls for trust funds, oversight mechanisms, and First Nations leadership in salmon governance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council affirms that rebuilding wild Pacific salmon must be advanced as a Nation Building project, led by First Nations, grounded in First Nations laws and knowledge, and recognized as essential to reconciliation, food security, climate resilience and adaptation, and long-term sustainability;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia to formally recognize wild salmon recovery as a core Nation-to-Nation priority, requiring coordinated, long-term, and First Nations-led action across fisheries management, habitat protection, watershed governance, and climate adaptation including rebuilding stocks where conditions have removed them from waterways;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council asserts that meaningful rebuilding of wild salmon populations must include First Nations jurisdiction and decision-making authority, co-governance structures, and alignment with First Nations laws, key case law, the UN Declaration, and commitments to food sovereignty and water security; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to advocate, in collaboration with First Nations, the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance, and like-minded organizations, for a comprehensive, First Nations-led wild salmon rebuilding strategy that reflects the scale, urgency, and Nation Building significance of the crisis.

Moved: Chief Justin Kane, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
Seconded: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 11, 2026

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^wMƏƏK^wƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-06

RE: Failure of the Province of British Columbia to Implement the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) Recommendations

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

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia publicly committed in 2020 to implement all 14 Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) recommendations, yet six years later has failed to enact the structural changes required for a true “paradigm shift” in forest governance or management, and instead continues to operate under a timber-first framework that directly contradicts the OGSR’s intent, expert science, and the Province’s obligations under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act);

WHEREAS the Province has stalled or abandoned the OGSR’s foundational recommendations, including the requirement to legally prioritize ecosystem health, to develop transition plans, to revise old-growth targets, and to reform old-growth mapping, classification and reporting, undermining all stewardship-based efforts led by First Nations;

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

Article 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 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 Province has further weakened OGSR implementation by allowing the Technical Advisory Panel's (TAP) deferral recommendations to be overridden, diluted, or ignored; by permitting B.C. Timber Sales (BCTS) to continue aggressive harvest in high-risk old-growth ecosystems; by failing to protect deferral forests, and by maintaining internal policies that prioritize volume extraction over the protection of at-risk, irreplaceable forests;

WHEREAS these failures are compounded by inconsistent and politically influenced Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) processes; the absence of provincial accountability or progress tracking; the refusal to release updated deferral maps or old-growth inventory data; and the lack of transparency that prevents First Nations and the public from assessing the true condition of remaining old-growth forests;

WHEREAS the Province's Provincial Forestry Advisory Council (PFAC) released its final report *From Conflict to Care: BC's Forest Future* in February 2026, which acknowledges the unsustainability of the current forest management system and calls for a transition toward "Land Care," regionalized governance, and improved transparency;

WHEREAS the PFAC report identifies many of the same structural failures highlighted by the OGSR, including outdated legislation, fragmented governance, and misaligned incentives, yet stops short of delivering the fundamental paradigm shift away from a timber-first system toward enforceable ecosystem health priorities and Indigenous-led stewardship that the Province committed to in 2020; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council has repeatedly and unequivocally called for the full implementation of the 2020 OGSR recommendations, as mandated through Resolutions 2020-03, 2021-24, 2022-18, and 2024-07, which affirm that protecting old-growth forests and upholding Indigenous decision-making are essential to the exercise of First Nations inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights and to the ecological survival of many territories.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council condemns the Province of British Columbia for its ongoing failure to implement the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) and for continuing to misrepresent the status of old-growth management to the public, to First Nations, and to the international community;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council demands that the Province immediately release a public, detailed, time-bound OGSR Implementation Plan that includes:

- a) clear timelines for completing each of the 14 recommendations;
- b) a public progress-tracking and reporting system;
- c) a commitment to fully honour Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) deferrals without political or industry interference;
- d) a commitment to provide effective processes for Nations who are outside Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) and want improved stewardship and old growth protection;

- e) revised old-growth targets grounded in ecological risk and Indigenous knowledge; and
- f) mandatory alignment of B.C. Timber Sales (BCTS) and all FLP processes with the OGSR recommendations;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Premier, the Minister of Forests, and the Minister of Water, Lands and Natural Resource Stewardship, to immediately reinstate the mandate to co-develop ecosystem health legislation with First Nations—an essential OGSR recommendation that the Province has allowed to languish—and to cease all further policy decisions that undermine this legislative work;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Province of British Columbia to ensure that any implementation of the Provincial Forestry Advisory Council (PFAC) recommendations does not replace, delay, or dilute the full and immediate implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review, including the legal prioritization of ecosystem health, the protection of at-risk, irreplaceable old-growth forests, and Indigenous-led decision-making authority;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to publicly communicate these concerns, including through media statements, political advocacy, and engagement with like-minded organizations, to expose the Province’s failure to implement the OGSR and to counter misleading provincial narratives regarding old-growth protection; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council agree old growth forests in British Columbia are ecologically irreplaceable ecosystems that:

- store large amounts of carbon,
- support species dependent on complex, ancient forest structure,
- regulate water and soil stability,
- and hold cultural importance for BC First Nation Peoples; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council is deeply concerned that logging of these forests therefore intersects with multiple United Nations Social Development Goals (SDGs), most directly SDG 15 (Life on Land), but also SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Canada has committed to this global framework, British Columbia has a concrete role, connection, and mandate to contribute its fair toward achieving these goals so British Columbia must report on old growth forest reduction as part of Canada’s updating to the United Nations;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to seek funding and partnerships that support independent Indigenous-led monitoring, mapping, deferral identification, and public reporting on the true state of old growth in B.C., and to bring regular updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council on provincial compliance with OGSR implementation.

Moved: Chief Dean Nelson Lil’wat Nation
Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 11, 2026

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-07

RE: UBCIC Meeting Schedule for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year

WHEREAS the UBCIC Annual General Assembly and Chiefs Council meetings constitute the primary mechanisms through which the member communities are informed of new legislation, policies, and initiatives;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Annual General Assembly and Chiefs Council meetings are the mechanisms by which UBCIC Executive and staff receive ongoing mandates and direction from UBCIC members; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC will host one (1) Annual General Assembly and two (2) Chiefs Council meetings in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council has reviewed and commits to the following tentative dates:

- June 2nd – June 3rd, 2026
- September 23rd – September 25th, 2026 (58th Annual General Assembly)
- February 17th – February 18th, 2027; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC staff to confirm dates, locations, and draft agendas, and provide notice to the UBCIC Chiefs Council.

Moved: Chief Victor Isaac, 'Namgis
Seconded: Chief William Yovanovich, Skidegate Band Council
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 11, 2026

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SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-08

RE: Appointment to the First Nations Emergency Services Society

WHEREAS the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) plays a critical role in supporting First Nations emergency management throughout B.C., including wildfire prevention, emergency preparedness, and capacity-building initiatives;

WHEREAS FNESS assists First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities through the delivery of programs and services that include training, capacity development and emergency preparedness and response services;

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

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

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

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

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

(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval

of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2009-39 the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the UBCIC Executive to work with the First Nations Summit and the B.C. Assembly of First Nations to execute the *Declaration of Protocol and Recognition, Support, Cooperation, Coordination* with FNESS;

WHEREAS FNESS has updated their bylaws, requiring one director from each of the First Nations Leadership Council organizations to be appointed in accordance with each organization's internal procedures and written notice of appointment naming the individual is addressed of the Society;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Elections Procedures, adopted February 28, 2013, set out a policy to standardize the appointment of representatives of the UBCIC to various councils, boards, committees, or similar bodies where individuals are asked to represent the UBCIC;

WHEREAS the UBCIC circulated notice seeking application for one (1) representative to FNESS, for a three-year term beginning February 12, 2026, to be chosen in accordance with the UBCIC Elections Procedures, but did not receive any nominations; and

WHEREAS at the UBCIC Chiefs Council meeting on February 11-12, 2026, the Chair of the UBCIC Chiefs Council called for nominations from the floor for one (1) appointee to the board of FNESS.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council appoints Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk'etemc, as the UBCIC representative to the First Nations Emergency Services Society for a three-year term beginning February 12, 2026, and ending at the February Chiefs Council meeting in 2029; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the UBCIC representative to the First Nations Emergency Services Society to provide regular updates along with board or senior management representatives to the UBCIC Chiefs Council and the UBCIC Executive on all agreements, legislative initiatives, and projects affecting title and rights pertaining to the First Nations Emergency Services Society.

Moved: Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band

Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

Disposition: Carried

Date: February 12, 2026

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SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏӨK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-09

RE: Call for Substantial Increase in Investments for First Nations-Led Climate Action, Ecosystems and Watershed Protection

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired. **(2):** Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources

that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

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;
(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 or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources;

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia (B.C.) enacted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) in 2019. Canada passed the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) in 2021. Both pieces of legislation require the Crown governments, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of B.C. and Canada are consistent with the UN Declaration;

WHEREAS in British Columbia, Bill 14, the *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* and Bill 15, the *Infrastructure Projects Act*, received Royal Assent on May 29, 2025, to expedite the review and approval of renewable energy and other major infrastructure projects by streamlining regulatory processes and allowing for exemptions from the standard environmental assessment process;

WHEREAS in Canada, Bill C-5, the *One Canadian Economy Act*, received Royal Assent on June 6, 2025. This Act enacts the *Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act* and the *Building Canada Act*, aiming to remove federal barriers to internal trade and labour mobility, expedite national interest projects, and improve domestic productivity;

WHEREAS Bills 14, 15 and C-5 (the Acts) were developed hastily and without the consultation and cooperation of First Nations in B.C. and Canada. This approach directly contravenes Articles 18 and 19 of the UN Declaration and Sections 3 and 5 of the Declaration Act and the UNDA, B.C.'s Interim Approach and goals and priorities outlined in the UN Declaration Act Action Plan;

WHEREAS the Acts have the potential to significantly impact First Nations' inherent and constitutionally recognized title, rights and treaty rights, both in their application and intended outcomes. Notably, the Acts do not contain binding requirements for consultation and cooperation with First Nations during the project designation or approval stages, nor do they establish a consent-based decision-making process;

WHEREAS many First Nations in B.C. and Canada have raised concerns with the Acts, including the rushed nature of their development. The UBCIC Chiefs Council and the First Nations Summit (FNS) Chiefs-in-Assembly condemned the Bills and called on B.C. and Canada to withdraw them immediately;

WHEREAS as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally, further global warming is expected, leading to more extreme climatic events such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, wildfires, floods, droughts, and disruptions in the global water cycle. First Nations feel first-hand the devastating effects of the climate and ecological crises;

WHEREAS despite the escalating environmental and climate emergency, B.C. continues to fail to meet climate commitments and targets. The 2024 Climate Change Accountability Report indicates that B.C. is not currently on track to meet its 2030 GHG reduction targets (40% reduction of GHG emissions below 2007 levels by 2030). Projections under the current policy landscape show that only a 20-21% reduction will be achieved by 2030, leaving B.C. far from the net-zero goal;

WHEREAS the cumulative effects of accelerated industrial development, resource extraction, and weak regulatory frameworks in B.C. have significantly harmed wildlife habitats, water sources, and ecosystem functions, negatively impacting the well-being and ways of life of First Nations, as shown in the 2021 *Yahey v. British Columbia* court case. Expediting carbon-intensive and environmentally detrimental projects through the provincial *Streamlined Permitting Act*, the *Infrastructure Act*, and the federal *Building Canada Act* risks exacerbating this situation province-wide;

WHEREAS various episodes of environmental disasters such as the Mount Polley Mine Tailings Dam Breach (August 2014) and the Nathan E. Stewart spill (October 2016) demonstrate that the Crown's environmental and enforcement mechanisms and regulations are weak and lack transparency. These systemic issues have allowed major environmental degradation to persist across multiple industries, with a disproportionate impact on First Nations; and

WHEREAS First Nations and our ways of life are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate impacts, and yet are consistently under-funded by governments. The right to self-determination and the right to the conservation and protection of the environment are clearly articulated in Articles 3 and 29 of the UN Declaration. The realization of the right to self-determination and the need for environmental stewardship requires First Nations to have stable, flexible and long-term financing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council urges the governments of Canada and British Columbia to acknowledge the current ecological and climate emergency First Nations face and to honour the laws and commitments made that safeguards protection of inherent and constitutionally protected First Nations title and rights, and treaty rights, including the right to a clean environment and a just climate future, reflected in Article 25 and 29 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration);

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and the First Nations Summit (FNS) as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to call on provincial and federal Governments to invest significantly in First Nations-led climate action and capacity building, ecosystems and watershed protection and restoration, that is in alignment with the UN Declaration;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff, working with BCAFN and FNS as the FNLC, to ensure that any legislation, policy, regulation, and

project approval process that may impact First Nations' lands, waters and ecosystems, governance and water stewardship responsibilities, and climate priorities, is co-developed with First Nations title and rights holders as mandated in Section 3 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act), Action 5 of the *United Nations Declaration Act* (UNDA), and in alignment with related action plans measures. Such initiatives must recognize and uphold First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and treaty rights, and must be designed and implemented considering the role of First Nations governments, knowledge systems and laws;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff, working with BCAFN and FNS as the FNLC, to advocate for strengthening environmental and enforcement mechanisms and regulations aimed at protecting the ecological integrity of ecosystems, watersheds and microclimatic systems that sustain human and non-human lives and First Nations' ways of life; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the governments of Canada and British Columbia to respect First Nations' processes of law development, and uphold First Nations land, environment and water laws when developing and implementing Crown legislation, policies and regulations related to industrial development, natural resource extraction, clean energy, conservation and climate mitigation and adaptation.

Moved: **Katisha Paul, UBCIC Women's Representative**
Seconded: **Chief Shana Thomas, Lyackson First Nation**
Disposition: **Carried**
Date: **February 12, 2026**

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-10

RE: Call for Increased Monitoring of Glaciers and Ice in B.C.

WHEREAS there are more than 17,000 glaciers in B.C. that sustain life across First Nations territories by providing cool, plentiful water to salmon-bearing rivers and nourishing ecosystems and communities long after seasonal snow has melted;

WHEREAS glaciers hold immense cultural, ecological, and spiritual significance for First Nations across the province;

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

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

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

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

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

(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and

resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired;

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

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

WHEREAS due to the accelerating impacts of climate change, most of B.C.'s glaciers are projected to disappear within the next 75 years, contributing to rising geohazards and altering the hydrology of First Nation territories; and

WHEREAS the United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (IYGP). The IYGP also started the United Nations' 'Decade of Action for Cryospheric Science 2025-2034', to address the urgency of understanding, monitoring and mitigating changes to the cryosphere.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the United Nations' 'Decade of Action for Cryospheric Science' to address the urgency of understanding, monitoring, and mitigating changes to the cryosphere;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with likeminded organizations and research partners to increase First Nations involvement in glacier research and monitoring; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the governments of Canada and B.C. to strengthen monitoring and protection of the cryosphere, including glaciers, snow, permafrost, and river and lake ice in B.C. in partnership with First Nations, ensuring First Nations knowledge and stewardship guide monitoring, research, and adaptation measures.

Moved: Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band

Seconded: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Women's Representative

Disposition: Carried

Date: February 12, 2026

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SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^wMƏƏK^wƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-11

RE: Addressing Ongoing Bullying, Harassment, Discrimination and Racial Violence in SD #27

WHEREAS Esk'etemc Chief and Council have been advocating for four plus years to have the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) address the claims of bullying, harassment, discrimination and racial violence in School District #27 as shared in testimonials and letters from Esk'etemc children, youth, families, and support staff;

WHEREAS the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) reports that suicide attempts and suicidal ideation accounted for 20% of all critical injuries reported to RCY between 2020–2024, and that these harms are deeply connected to systemic failures, including disconnection from school environments. RCY emphasizes that serious harm is not isolated, but the result of systems that fail to respond early, coordinate care, and keep young people safe and connected;

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

Article 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;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2024-42 “Call for Investigation into Bullying, Harassment, Discrimination and Racism at SD #27”, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly joined with Esk'etemc in seeking a comprehensive investigation by MECC into the bullying, harassment, discrimination and racism in School District #27 that Esk'etemc members have experienced;

WHEREAS since the passage of Resolution 2024-42 in September 2024, UBCIC has taken steps alongside Esk'etemc to support and advance the protection of First Nations children and youth with MECC and School District #27, including sending a series of correspondences, meeting regularly with Esk'etemc, and advocating for a meeting with the Minister;

WHEREAS in early 2024 MECC commissioned Safer Schools Together to conduct a 2024-2025 school climate review in Cariboo-Chilcotin School District #27 following reports of bullying, racism, and safety concerns (Safer Schools Review). The [Safer Schools Review](#) was limited in its scope and engagement with affected First Nations, including students and families, and fell short of a fulsome investigation;

WHEREAS in August 2025, School District #27 issued a draft [Response Plan](#) to respond to the Safer Schools Review recommendations. The Response Plan focuses on improving school safety, developing anti-racism strategies, and enhancing communication; however, the draft Plan was developed and released without input from, or notification to, affected First Nations in the region or a clear pathway for implementation or progress updates;

WHEREAS Esk'etemc is a member of the [Indigenous Education Council](#) (IEC) alongside other First Nations in the region in partnership with the School Board of SD #27, as outlined in the [Terms of Reference](#). The IEC provides advice on policy and procedures impacting Indigenous students and families, including concerns of racism, bullying, and other educational barriers;

WHEREAS on November 3, 2025, a government-to-government meeting took place in Vancouver with Tsqéscen First Nation, Xat'süll First Nation and Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation, Esk'etemc and the Minister of MECC and School District #27 representatives;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2021-35 "Supporting Anti-Racism Legislation and Framework" the UBCIC Chiefs Council called upon the provincial government to ensure that First Nations title and rights holders provide their free, prior and informed consent and will be considered as key decision-makers in advancing anti-racism structures, initiatives and legislation; and

WHEREAS despite advocacy efforts by First Nations including Esk'etemc, UBCIC and allies, Esk'etemc has found that the response by MECC and School District #27 has been limited, failing to fulsomely cooperate with First Nations partners and prevent ongoing serious incidents of bullying, harassment, discrimination and racism towards First Nations children and youth who have experienced violence and self-harm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports Esk'etemc' advocacy to address bullying, harassment, discrimination and racism in School District #27 that Esk'etemc members have experienced and continue to experience; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Government of British Columbia and School District #27 Board of Trustees to ensure that impacted First Nations, including Esk'etemc, are fully included in the co-development of the Safer Schools Review, its implementation, and any further policy or legislative efforts to address bullying, harassment, discrimination and racism in School District #27 and that they are provided regular progress updates; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council demand that all actions taken by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and School District #27 are demonstrably consistent with the UN

Convention on the Rights of the Child, the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and related UN human-rights standards, the Truth & Reconciliation's Calls to Action, and include transparent reporting, independent oversight, and remedies that prioritize the safety, dignity, and well-being of First Nations children and youth in School District #27 and beyond.

Moved: Chief Jerry Jack, Mowachaht/Muchalaht
Seconded: Janice Alpine, ʔakisq̓nuk (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 12, 2026

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^wMƏƏK^wƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-12

RE: Allocation of First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Funding

WHEREAS First Nations peoples have always maintained jurisdiction over the care, teachings, and responsibility of their children, including the design, delivery, and administration of early learning and child care programs and services in their communities;

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 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.

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

Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions;

WHEREAS UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly have, through Resolution no. 2020-27, expressed support for the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) as the regional lead agency in the ongoing development and implementation of a regional Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) strategy and have, through Resolution no. 2022-51, called on the provincial and federal governments to (1) work with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), supported by BCACCS, to immediately create an interim framework to flow funding under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (CW-ELCC) to First Nations, and (2) engage in Government-to-Government dialogue with the proper title and rights holders regarding a “permanent funding arrangement” for ELCC dollars available under the CW-ELCC;

WHEREAS in 2022–23, the FNLC worked with BCACCS and the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) to confirm that MECC distribute approximately \$35 million in combined CW-ELCC funding and provincial funding directly to all 204 First Nations as “One-Time Only” grants, and again in 2024–2025, that MECC distribute approximately \$35 million in combined 2023–24 and 2024–25 CW-ELCC funding directly to all 204 First Nations as “One-Time Only” grants;

WHEREAS MECC has identified approximately \$16.5 million in CW-ELCC funding for the 2025–26 fiscal year that must be allocated by March 31, 2026, but may be expended in future fiscal years, which is a significantly smaller amount of funding than was available in fiscal year 2022–23;

WHEREAS BCACCS has recommended that this 2025–26 funding be transitioned from “One-Time Only” grants to being advanced to BCACCS to be held in trust, with no administrative costs, and allocated in support of four or five major capital projects in First Nations communities in the 2026–27 and 2027–28 fiscal years, using BCACCS’ existing First Nations-led capital funding policy;

WHEREAS BCACCS has demonstrated experience and capacity in supporting an equity-based approach to First Nations ELCC capital planning, feasibility, design, and construction, has highlighted a planned reduction in provincial and federal funding for capital starting in 2027-28, and has identified that holding funds in trust would support a strategic approach to prioritizing Nations with limited existing ELCC infrastructure and capacity;

WHEREAS FNLC, acting in collaboration with BCACCS and the First Nations Education Steering Committee and with provincial and federal governments under the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on First Nations ELCC endorsed by UBCIC Resolution no. 2024-32, is exploring options for long-term funding arrangements for ELCC to bring forward to title and rights holders for review and direction; and

WHEREAS given that the recommendation from BCACCS represents a shift in funding allocation, from direct distribution of the CW-ELCC funds to all 204 First Nations, to an allocation of a reduced amount to BCACCS, to advance for four or five major capital projects as a part of a broader investment strategy, and recognizing that formal direction on funding recommendations rests with rights holders, the UBCIC Executive, working with the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Summit as the FNLC, is seeking direction from the UBCIC Chiefs Council through resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive to advise the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) that the UBCIC formally endorses the recommendation that MECC advance the identified approximately \$16.5 million in Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) funding to the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) to be held in trust and allocated in support of a few major capital projects in B.C. First Nations communities commencing in 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 fiscal years, for priority access for those First Nations who have not been able to secure this funding to date, in accordance with BCACCS’ First Nations-led capital funding policy, and then evenly distribute the remaining funding among all First Nations in B.C.; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff, working with the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, to work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and the BCACCS, to advocate for the timely advancement of the funding in a manner that respects First Nations jurisdiction, equity, and long-term infrastructure needs, as directed by title and rights holders.

Moved: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Women’s Representative
Seconded: Kukpi7 Helen Henderson, Tsq̓éscēn First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Opposition: Skidegate Band Council
Date: February 12, 2026

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-13

RE: Call for Federal Legislation to Protect Against and Criminalize Residential School Denialism

WHEREAS Canada's enactment of policies of forced assimilation of Indigenous children at Residential Schools have been widely documented. The ongoing investigations into missing children and probable unmarked burials at former Residential School sites have provided evidence of state-sanctioned genocide, human rights and humanitarian law violations, and further demonstrate an ongoing pattern of violence inflicted upon Indigenous peoples by the government of Canada and the Churches through the Residential School system and colonial laws and policies;

WHEREAS the federal government's discriminatory and racist policies, including withholding of Residential School records, failure to take action to address denialism and anti-Indigenous racism, and lack of financial commitments to First Nations-led investigations into former Residential School sites has contributed to the proliferation of denialist rhetoric;

WHEREAS increasingly since the publicization of these investigative findings, there has been a troubling trend of Residential School denialism. Particularly concerning is the dissemination of misinformation and denialism by individuals elected to public office, as well as mounting violence and hateful action which are impacting public safety, especially for survivors, families, communities and technical teams;

WHEREAS Residential School denialism is not about academic debate or questioning history in good faith, it is a thinly veiled attempt to sow doubt, belittle the experiences of survivors, and distort knowledge from survivors and archival and archaeological research which detail the profound intergenerational harms of these institutions;

WHEREAS other examples of genocide denial such as Holocaust denialism have been widely documented and discredited as the work of individuals or groups who feel threatened or fear loss of power

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and instead choose to perpetuate stereotypes and hateful beliefs used to undermine the realities of history;

WHEREAS federal legislation is needed to protect survivors and combat misinformation, denialism, and anti-Indigenous racism promoted by elected officials and hate groups;

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

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

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

WHEREAS Residential School denialism has been publicly espoused by elected officials and public figures and has been publicized through published materials and unsanctioned events. OneBC used caucus funds to produce the film “Making a Killing: Reconciliation, genocide and the plunder of Canada” which denies genocide of Indigenous people in Canada. Likewise, the book *Grave Error – How the Media Misled Us*, promotes racist misinformation and was denounced in UBCIC Resolution 2024-33;

WHEREAS denialist calls to exhume the physical remains of children are a red herring and blatantly disregard the abundance of well-documented testimonial, archaeological, and archival evidence which demonstrate that First Nations children died under abusive conditions at Residential Schools across Canada. This is not a matter of semantics and is not an appropriate topic for political debate by publicly elected officials;

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) estimates that 150,000 children were forced to attend Residential Schools nationwide, identifying that more than 4,100 children died at these facilities – although survivors and families have maintained that that number is much higher. This number is likely to rise as Indigenous communities continue to document and identify missing children and unmarked graves through archival, archaeological and oral histories;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolutions 2024-33, 2024-61 and 2025-13 reject Residential School denialism in the public and private sector, support the advancement of B.C. First Nations Community-led Residential School and Indian Hospital investigations and call for municipal governments to learn about the history and legacies of Residential Schools and to adopt and implement the UN Declaration, and for the provincial and federal governments to counter Residential School denialism in B.C., including by developing targeted education campaigns;

WHEREAS on September 26, 2024, MP Leah Gazan brought forward Bill C-413, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (promotion of hatred against Indigenous peoples). This Bill seeks to amend the Criminal Code to recognize the willful promotion of hatred against Indigenous peoples by condoning, denying, downplaying or justifying the Indian Residential School System in Canada or by misrepresenting facts relating to it. A First Reading of the Bill was conducted on September 26, 2024, but due to the proroguing of Parliament, progress has been delayed;

WHEREAS the Assembly of First Nations Resolution 85/2024, “Support Bill C-413 to Provide Protection Against Anti-Indigenous Hate Speech and Residential School Denialism” calls on the federal government to criminalize residential school denialism, and recognize it as hate speech under the Criminal Code of Canada;

WHEREAS on March 20, 2025, the UBCIC, working with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council, called on Canada to prioritize legislation to create legal protections against residential school denialism, as has been done with Bill C-19 which criminalized Holocaust denialism in Canada; and

WHEREAS Residential School denialism and any attitudes or actions which seek to undermine the reality of the horrors of Canada’s Residential School policies, particularly for political gain, is deeply painful, harmful to survivors and their families and acts in direct opposition to the Crown’s commitments to reconciliation, the UN Declaration and the Calls to Action set out by the TRC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reaffirms UBCIC Resolution 2024-33 and categorically rejects any and all anti-Indigenous Residential School denialism perpetuated by public or elected officials;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on all Members of Parliament to support Bill C-413 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (promotion of hatred against Indigenous peoples)*, to criminalize Residential School denialism and make it an offence to promote any and all forms of hatred against Indigenous peoples, including by condoning, denying, downplaying, or justifying Residential Schools in Canada or misrepresenting related facts, and to hold individuals and groups accountable for spreading hateful speech and misinformation about the Residential School system and Indigenous people; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council stands with survivors and intergenerational survivors of Residential Schools and their families, as well as the children who never made it home and all those who are harmed by the deeply troubling trend of Residential School denialism and any unwillingness to accept historical fact and the work of experts.

Moved: Chief Darrell Bob, Xaxli’p
Seconded: Chief Roger William, Xeni Gwet’in
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 12, 2026

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^WMƏƏK^WƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-14

RE: Support for the 2026 Every Child Matters K–12 Graduation Event

WHEREAS the Orange Shirt Society is hosting a historic gathering on April 13, 2026, at B.C. Place Stadium, to celebrate the first K–12 graduating class in Canada fully educated on the history of Indian Residential Schools and the legacy of Orange Shirt Day;

WHEREAS thousands of students, families, Elders, Survivors, and leaders from across British Columbia and Canada are expected to gather in recognition of a milestone that Survivors and communities have long fought for—one that reflects the truth that, as the late Honourable Murray Sinclair stated, “Education got us into this mess, and education will get us out”;

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has declined funding this graduation event, despite its significance for Truth and Reconciliation, thereby impacting the ability of the Orange Shirt Society to deliver an inclusive, accessible, and culturally-grounded event for students and their families;

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

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

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

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

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Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them;

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action underscore the importance of public education for advancing truth and reconciliation;

WHEREAS UBCIC Resolution 2024-33 calls for all levels of government and the public to uphold the testimony of those with lived experience who survived and witnessed crimes and human rights violations at Residential Schools, along with the findings of experts, and the documentation of physical and archival evidence captured by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and by subsequent investigations by First Nations and partners at former Residential Schools sites across Canada; implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action; advance policies that acknowledge and take responsibility for the history and harmful legacy of Residential Schools; and support healing for survivors;

WHEREAS further, UBCIC Resolution 2024-33 calls on the governments of Canada and B.C. to commit to sustainable long-term funding to support continued work by *all affected First Nations* to locate and identify missing children and unmarked graves at former Residential School across Canada; and to work in collaboration with First Nations to counter and address Residential School racist denialism in B.C., including by developing targeted education campaigns to counter denialism in the public and public sector;

WHEREAS Survivors, Indigenous communities, and allies across the province continue to face rising racism, hateful rhetoric, and growing Indian Residential School denialism, making renewed investment in education and public truth-sharing not only timely, but essential;

WHEREAS although the Orange Shirt Society is a non-profit and does **not** receive government funding, it continues to seek support from corporate sponsors, philanthropic organizations, and Indigenous governance bodies. The Province and the federal government remain a primary and appropriate funder given their legislated responsibilities under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) and *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) and their existing commitments to Indigenous education and reconciliation;

WHEREAS while contributions from private and community partners are being secured to cover elements of the event, provincial investment is essential to ensuring student travel subsidies, accessibility support, cultural protocol honouraria, Elder and Survivor accommodations, and province-wide participation, none of which can be adequately funded without provincial involvement; and

WHEREAS the failure of the Province to provide funding shifts an unfair burden onto Indigenous communities, charitable organizations, and Survivors themselves, and undermines the principle that education about the Residential School system is a public responsibility that requires public funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the 2026 Every Child Matters K–12 Graduation Event hosted by the Orange Shirt Society at B.C. Place Stadium;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council affirms that public education must remain a protected and fully supported provincial priority to advance Truth and Reconciliation, especially in the face of growing Residential School Denialism;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon the governments of British Columbia and Canada to provide financial support to the Orange Shirt Society for the 2026 Every Child Matters graduation event, ensuring students, families, Elders, and Survivors across the province can participate fully and safely; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council urges the governments of British Columbia and Canada to uphold their commitments under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) and *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, by investing in public education, truth-telling, and Survivor-centered initiatives.

Moved: **Katisha Paul, UBCIC Women's Representative**

Seconded: **Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band**

Disposition: **Carried**

Date: **February 12, 2026**

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^wMƏƏK^wƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-15

RE: Support for the National Reckoning Project and People's Tribunals on the RCMP and Community Safety

WHEREAS the UBCIC has long documented and condemned the systemic, discriminatory, and violent impacts of policing on Indigenous peoples, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and has consistently called for accountability, justice, and transformative 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 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS the UBCIC has formally identified and condemned the systemic, discriminatory, and colonial nature of policing and the criminal justice system, including Resolution 2019-07, which characterized the

RCMP's use of force, aggression, and intimidation during enforcement actions on Wet'suwet'en territory as serious violations of Indigenous human rights and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; Resolution 2022-08, which affirmed that the criminal justice system operates as a colonial institution that has been structurally weaponized against Indigenous peoples, particularly Indigenous women and girls, through entrenched racism, sexism, and the historic and ongoing role of the RCMP in enforcing genocidal colonial policies; and Resolution 2022-48, which recognized the persistent impacts of discriminatory, negligent, and oppressive policing practices, including racial profiling, surveillance, and excessive use of force, and affirmed the necessity of public safety frameworks grounded in human rights, Indigenous law, and community-based accountability;

WHEREAS there remains an urgent need for independent, community-led mechanisms of accountability to address the historical and ongoing harms caused by the RCMP, particularly given the failure of internal oversight and complaint mechanisms to deliver meaningful justice;

WHEREAS the proposed National Reckoning Project seeks to establish a series of People's Tribunals on the RCMP and Community Safety, grounded in Indigenous legal orders, human rights, and practices of witnessing and reckoning, and led by an interdisciplinary team of scholars, legal practitioners, Indigenous leaders, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS the project aligns with Indigenous methodologies and precedents established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, and aims to create a public archive of national importance, build community capacity around non-carceral safety, and pilot new forms of accountability for state violence.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the National Reckoning Project and its proposed People's Tribunals on the RCMP and Community Safety as a vital, community-driven initiative advancing Indigenous-led justice, accountability, and human rights;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to continue collaboration with the National Reckoning Project, including facilitating participation by UBCIC members, leadership, advocates, and community members, where appropriate and as capacity allows; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with relevant funding bodies, partner institutions, correctional centres and leadership, and to engage, as appropriate, with project proponents and likeminded organizations to explore opportunities for future formal collaboration and partnership should the project advance to subsequent funding stages.

Moved: Calvin Swustus, Cowichan Tribes (Proxy)
Seconded: Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 12, 2026

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FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^wMƏƏK^wƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-16

RE: Renewal of Protocol Agreement Between the First Nations Leadership Council and the Native Counselling and Courtworker Association of British Columbia (NCCABC)

WHEREAS First Nations hold inherent rights to self-determination, including the right to maintain and strengthen their political, legal, social, and cultural institutions, as affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (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 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS on May 30, 2013, as mandated by Resolution 2013-21, the UBCIC endorsed and entered into a Declaration and Protocol of Recognition, Support, Cooperation and Coordination (Protocol Agreement) with the Native Counselling and Courtworker Association of British Columbia (NCCABC), as part of the First

Nations Leadership Council, alongside the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and the First Nations Summit (FNS);

WHEREAS the Protocol Agreement has supported collaboration between UBCIC and NCCABC on matters related to justice, advocacy, policy development, and the advancement of culturally appropriate services for First Nations peoples;

WHEREAS the existing Protocol Agreement is expiring, and the continued renewal of this agreement is necessary to ensure continuity, stability, and effectiveness in the working relationship between UBCIC and NCCABC; and

WHEREAS renewing the Protocol Agreement will reaffirm the shared commitment of UBCIC and NCCABC to work collaboratively in support of First Nations justice priorities and the well-being of First Nations individuals, families, and communities across British Columbia.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council formally supports the renewal of the Protocol Agreement between the First Nations Leadership Council and the Native Counselling and Courtworker Association of British Columbia (NCCABC) and directs the UBCIC Executive to sign and endorse the renewed Protocol Agreement on behalf of the UBCIC Chiefs Council; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to continue working collaboratively with NCCABC under the renewed Protocol Agreement and to provide updates to the Chiefs Council as appropriate.

Moved: Calvin Swustus, Cowichan Tribes (Proxy)
Seconded: Janice Alpine, ?akisq'nuk First Nation (Proxy)
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 12, 2026

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CHIEFS COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^wMƏƏK^wƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-17

RE: Adoption of Baseline Expectations and Good Practices for Corporate Reconciliation Action Plans

WHEREAS First Nations hold inherent rights to self-determination, including jurisdiction over their lands, territories, resources, and economic futures, as affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (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 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 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.

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

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

(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the

approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2024-46, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly acknowledged serious concerns regarding the proliferation of Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) and Indigenous Relations Reporting Products in Canada, including their lack of standards, oversight, accountability, and alignment with the UN Declaration and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC);

WHEREAS Resolution 2024-46 directed the UBCIC Executive and staff to identify measures to address deficiencies in RAPs and to support the development of clearer standards and accountability mechanisms to uphold Indigenous rights and prevent performative reconciliation;

WHEREAS in response to this direction, UBCIC in collaboration with the Reconciliation and Responsible Investment Institute (RRII) and West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL), developed the paper “Baseline Expectations and Good Practices for the Development and Assessment of Corporate Reconciliation Action Plans in British Columbia” (the Paper), grounded in the UN Declaration; and

WHEREAS the Paper was informed by rightsholder engagement sessions, facilitated discussions, and feedback from UBCIC membership, likeminded organizations, and knowledge holders, and outlines Indigenous-led baseline expectations and good practices across key areas including truth-telling and education, Indigenous rights and rightsholder engagement, environmental stewardship, and economic reconciliation, to support credible, accountable, and rights-affirming reconciliation efforts by corporations operating in the province of British Columbia.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council formally adopts the jointly developed discussion paper “Baseline Expectations and Good Practices for the Development and Assessment of Corporate Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) in British Columbia” as an Indigenous-led guidance document to assess, engage with, and respond to corporate RAPs and related Indigenous reporting products, subject to comments identified by the UBCIC Chiefs Council;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to use the adopted baseline expectations and good practices when engaging with corporations, financial institutions, investors, and governments on matters related to RAPs, Indigenous reporting, and corporate accountability including developing key performance indicators for the Truth Telling and Education, First Nation Rights and Rightsholder Engagements, Environmental Stewardship and Economic Reconciliation and be structured to report out annually and tracked year over year; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the UBCIC Executive and staff to disseminate the adopted guidance publicly and with relevant partners, and to continue advancing Indigenous-led standards that uphold the UN Declaration, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and the inherent title and rights of First Nations.

Moved: Katisha Paul, UBCIC Women’s Representative
Seconded: Chief Justin Kane, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: February 12, 2026

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 11TH – 12TH, 2026

SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL, X^wMƏƏK^wƏYƏM (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

Resolution no. 2026-18

RE: Protections for Cultural Heritage and Ancestral Remains on Private Property in the *Heritage Conservation Act*

WHEREAS the existing *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) and associated management regime does not recognize aboriginal title and rights, nor does it adequately address the needs and interests of First Nations as it relates to their culture and heritage resources, as recognized by the UBCIC Chiefs Council in Resolution 2007-48. The regulatory framework provided for in the HCA prevents First Nations from protecting our sacred sites, the sanctity of our artifacts and the remains of our ancestors in accordance with our traditional laws and customs;

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

Article 12(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; and the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.

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 31(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts.

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

Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council supported the creation of the Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (JWGFNHC) between the Province and First Nations representatives by Resolution 2007-48, with the purpose of identifying First Nations issues and concerns, developing options and making recommendations to 1) create a meaningful role for First Nations in provincial heritage conservation; 2) improve the protection and conservation of First Nations heritage sites, cultural property and ancient human remains in BC; and 3) protection for sacred and spiritual sites or areas;

WHEREAS one of the areas the JWGFNHC has focused on is the need to update the HCA and associated management regime, and has been supporting engagement since fall 2022;

WHEREAS the Province has committed in the HCA Transformation Project (HCATP), to “Work with First Nations to reform the HCA to align with the UN Declaration, including shared decision-making and the protection of First Nations cultural, spiritual, and heritage sites, and objects”;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2024-04, the UBCIC Chiefs Council formally rejected an incremental approach to HCA reform and directed that the HCATP proceed as a comprehensive overhaul aligned with the UN Declaration, including shared decision-making, meaningful First Nations leadership and full integration of mandates established by First Nations through resolution;

WHEREAS in line with the Province’s legislated and stated commitments to adopt and implement the UN Declaration, Tkemlúps te Secwépemc would like to see the HCA updated to explicitly include protections for cultural heritage and ancestral remains found on private property including financial assistance for the administrative and financial burdens imposed on both First Nations and private land owners in order to do the necessary work of identifying, protecting, and repatriating cultural heritage and ancestral remains found on private land; and

WHEREAS Tkemlúps te Secwépemc has participated in engagement processes related to the HCATP, including discussions with the Province, but such participation does not constitute, and has not resulted in, the free, prior, and informed consent of Tkemlúps te Secwépemc with respect to the changes currently proposed to the HCA.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council reminds the Province of its obligations to reform the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) in a manner fully aligned with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) and that obtains free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative changes that affect Indigenous peoples; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls upon the Province to work with First Nations to develop a solutions-focused framework in the updates to the HCA including, without limitation, explicit provision for advancing the protection and management of Indigenous heritage on privately-owned land including financial assistance for the administrative and financial burdens imposed on both First Nations and private landowners in order to do the necessary work of identifying, protecting, and repatriating cultural heritage and ancestral remains found on private land.

Moved: Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tkemlúps te Secwépemc

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

Disposition: Carried

Date: February 12, 2026