

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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**UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS  
49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> TO 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2017  
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X<sup>W</sup>MƏƏK<sup>W</sup>ƏY<sup>Ə</sup>M (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)**

**Final Resolutions**

- 2017-38 Adoption of the 48<sup>th</sup> AGA Minutes
- 2017-39 Mandate the BCACCS as Regional Lead Agency in National Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework Development and Implementation
- 2017-40 Adoption of the 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statements
- 2017-41 Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Rating
- 2017-42 FNFC Coalition Submission to DFO on the *Fisheries Act* Review
- 2017-43 FNFC Submission to the Minister of Transport on the *Navigation Protection Act* Review
- 2017-44 Creation of an Independent Process for Resolution of Specific Claims
- 2017-45 Responding to ANTCO Inaction on First Nations Digital Connectivity in BC
- 2017-46 Eliminating the Digital Divide through Labour Market Research and Skills Development Opportunities
- 2017-47 Appointment to the UBCIC Recall Committee
- 2017-48 Auditor Appointment
- 2017-49 Request for the Audit of Responses to BC Wildfire Crises

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**Resolution no. 2017-38**

**RE: Adoption of 48<sup>th</sup> AGA Minutes**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly adopt the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (September 2016) as presented in the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly kit.

**Moved:** Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation  
**Seconded:** Chief Greg Louie, Ahousaht First Nation  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**Date:** September 28, 2017

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

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Resolution no. 2017-39

**RE: Mandate the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) as Regional Lead Agency in National Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework Development and Implementation**

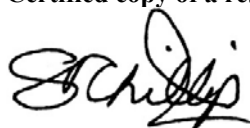
**WHEREAS** on July 14, 2016, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 39/2016 endorsing the establishment of a First Nations national working group on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) from across disciplines of health, education, child and family services and early childhood with a mandate to oversee a 4-6 month community engagement process that would confirm and identify the key principles, priorities and an action plan for ELCC;

**WHEREAS** the federal government (per budget 2017 and AFN National ELCC working group terms of reference) has committed to, and been engaged with, First Nations with respect to a national Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework for First Nations decision making and control in the delivery of affordable, high quality, flexible and fully inclusive care and educational supports for First Nations children and their families;

**WHEREAS** a continuing regional process toward an engagement-based, effective and legitimate IELCC framework is required for framework implementation (expected in April 2018) in ways that will best serve, support, and involve in decision-making First Nations' communities and leadership, and thereby to direct future federal IELCC investments that will best support Indigenous children and families and to ensure the consistent support, including capacity support, of this area of Indigenous-led development;

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** regional IELCC meetings of First Nations early childhood experts, including BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS), organized by the AFN, have been continuing through 2017 toward the co-development of an IELCC framework for AFN Chiefs' and federal cabinet consideration in December 2017;

**WHEREAS** BCACCS has 20 years of experience and expertise in building, supporting and operating Indigenous early learning and child care programs, policies, and supports in BC, has led or collaborated on numerous community engagement activities and action research projects pertaining to ELCC policy and practice, has led recent FNLC mandated regional ELCC First Nations engagement, and is participating in the development of IELCC framework drafting, including developing options for an implementation strategy;

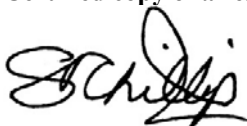
**WHEREAS** by Resolution 2015-07, the UBCIC Chiefs Council recognized that with limited resources, the BCACCS has played a critical and essential role in First Nations Early Childhood Development and Care policy development, research, training and education and service delivery since 1996, and supported BCACCS becoming a Centre of Excellence for Aboriginal Early Childhood Development; and

**WHEREAS** by UBCIC Resolution 2016-48, in concert with the other members of the FNLC, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supported the BCACCS as the lead agency to coordinate a province-wide First Nation engagement process on a national Indigenous ELCC Framework that will, among other things, seek input and direction from community leaders and key stakeholders regarding the values, principles and priorities to be included in the proposed national Indigenous ELCC framework from a BC perspective, and this initial engagement process has been completed.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the BCACCS to develop a province-wide First Nation engagement process on a national IELCC Framework, and carry it through approval and implementation processes such that it will be a basis for First Nations and their communities to exercise their authority to determine the systems and structures, as well as the programs and services, that provide ELCC supports to them - in ways they develop and control, by way of capacities provided and developed for the purpose;

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**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on BCACCS Board of Directors and staff to inform IELCC framework development and implementation subject to ongoing engagement and partnership development for regional First Nations leadership via advice and direction from Chiefs, community leaders and key stakeholders;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to support the participation of BCACCS in the AFN National Working Group on ELCC, and related and subsequent groups, to national IELCC framework implementation and operation; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with the BCACCS and the AFN to ensure adequate resourcing of the IELCC development, ongoing engagement and implementation processes in BC as well as help provide the political leadership for the regional partnerships that will be required to ensure the IELCC framework best responds to, and supports, First Nations children, families and communities in ways they determine.

**Moved:** Chief Harvey McLeod, Upper Nicola Indian Band

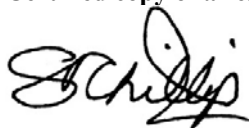
**Seconded:** Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

**Disposition:** Carried

**Date:** September 28, 2017

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

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**Resolution no. 2017-40**

### **RE: Adoption of the 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statements**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby adopt the 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statements as presented at the UBCIC 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly meeting of September 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Moved:** Kukpi7 Ron Ignace, Skeetchestn Indian Band  
**Seconded:** Art Anthony, Councilor (Proxy), Neskonlith Indian Band  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**Date:** September 28, 2017

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

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President

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Resolution no. 2017-41

**RE: Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Rating**

**WHEREAS** we have a sacred responsibility to protect wild salmon for our people today and for our future generations, and an inherent stewardship responsibility for the protection and conservation of wild salmon within our respective territories;

**WHEREAS** amidst recent health concerns regarding the impacts of open net-pen Atlantic salmon aquaculture on wild salmon populations, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program upgraded BC farmed salmon from 'avoid' to 'good alternative' standing;

**WHEREAS** the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch programs admits to not having enough evidence to determine the impact of open net-pen Atlantic salmon farms on wild salmon stocks, be they pathogen or parasite related;

**WHEREAS** this level of uncertainty has caused other seafood monitoring programs, such as Vancouver Aquarium's OceanWise and SeaChoice to rank and place BC farmed Atlantic salmon on their respective 'not recommended' and 'avoid' lists;

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

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**Article 26:** 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...

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

**WHEREAS** UBCIC Resolution 2012-19 calls for the UBCIC Chiefs Council to work with First Nations to conserve wild salmon stocks and advocate for and support the recovery and restoration of wild salmon stocks;

**WHEREAS** UBCIC Resolution 2012-36 calls for the UBCIC to advocate for the protection, conservation and safeguarding of wild salmon stocks, in particular reproduction areas;

**WHEREAS** on October 31, 2012, Commissioner Cohen released his report and recommendations into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River (Cohen Commission), which the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supported via Resolution 2012-65;

**WHEREAS** UBCIC Resolution 2016-40 calls for the UBCIC to fully support closed containment aquaculture; and

**WHEREAS** open net-pen aquaculture has been linked to the decline of salmon stocks worldwide and is correlated with increased levels of sea-lice, Piscine Reo-Virus (PRV) and Heart and Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI) disease specifically impacting juvenile wild salmon smolts.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly condemn the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program's decision to upgrade BC farmed salmon from 'avoid' to 'good alternative' until a time that the entirety of the impacts open-net pen Atlantic salmon farms pose to wild salmon stocks are fully understood;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with like-minded organizations to communicate their condemnation directly to Monterey Bay Aquarium's Senior Management Team and Board of Trustees; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to advocate to the governments of BC and Canada for the removal of ocean net-pen Atlantic salmon farms to closed-containment land based facilities.

**Moved:** Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

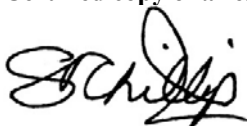
**Seconded:** Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation

**Disposition:** Carried

**Date:** September 28, 2017

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**Resolution no. 2017-42**

**RE: FNFC Coalition Submission to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the  
*Fisheries Act* Review**

**WHEREAS** without consultation with BC First Nations, in 2012 the Conservative Federal Government introduced changes to the *Fisheries Act* as part of Omnibus Bill C-38, which weakened habitat protections, attempted to limit the scope of Aboriginal fisheries, and reduced oversight of projects that could negatively affect aquatic resources and habitats;

**WHEREAS** in June 2016, Prime Minister Trudeau directed the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to review the 2012/2013 changes to the *Fisheries Act*, to restore lost protections and to incorporate modern safeguards;

**WHEREAS** the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans was tasked with conducting this review with a deadline for public submissions to the Standing Committee having been set for November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, while a separate deadline allowing submissions to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans being January 31, 2017;

**WHEREAS** the Parliamentary Standing Committee's report was tabled to the House of Commons on February 24, 2017;

**WHEREAS** the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) tabled the Government Response to the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans "Review of Changes made in 2012 to

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the *Fisheries Act: Enhancing the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat and the Management of Canadian Fisheries*” on June 22, 2017;

**WHEREAS** on July 25, 2017 Minister LeBlanc, announced phase two of consultations on the review of the *Fisheries Act*. In the first phase of this consultation, Indigenous people and the Canadian public provided DFO with clear views and recommendations on the restoration of lost protections and on modernization of the Act to better protect fish and fish habitat. This second phase of consultations was for the DFO to seek views on potential program and policy changes for a revised *Fisheries Act*. The deadline to submit views and recommendations to DFO was August 28, 2017;

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

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

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

**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 [...];

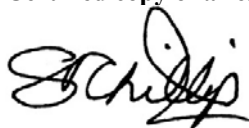
**WHEREAS** by UBCIC Resolution 2017-02 “Support for FNFC Submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans regarding the *Fisheries Act* Review” the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supported the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC’s (FNFC) submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans regarding the review of the 2012/2013 changes to the *Fisheries Act*;

**WHEREAS** the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC worked in partnership with regional First Nations organizations throughout the province and Mandell Pinder LLP to develop a submission to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. This Coalition’s submission focuses on recommended policy reforms that would remove barriers and provide necessary policy guidance to enable recognition and respect of First Nations’ inherent and constitutional rights and responsibilities to fish, fish habitat and fisheries;

**WHEREAS** the Coalition submission reflects the need for the Government of Canada to properly consult with all First Nations Rights holders on matters related to fisheries policy, management and legislation, and to engage in joint management with First Nations. The Coalition recommends the collaborative development of a “Recognition and Respect Policy” which is intended to enable, facilitate and support the proper recognition and respect for First Nations’ inherent and constitutional rights and responsibilities within all aspects of the governance and management of fish, fish habitat and fisheries, thereby promoting the underlying purpose of reconciliation; and

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**WHEREAS** implementation of the recommendations put forward in the submission would recognize and respect First Nations' inherent and constitutional rights and responsibilities, improve fisheries management practices and increase protection for the fish and aquatic resources on which First Nations across the province have always relied for nutritional, cultural, spiritual and economic wellbeing.

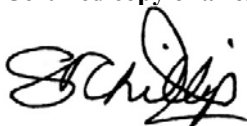
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the FNFC's Coalition submission to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard regarding the review of changes to the *Fisheries Act* including recommendations on restoring lost protections, modernizing the Act, and the necessary systemic and comprehensive changes to truly achieve transformation and evolve First Nation-Crown relations from the colonial denial that has resulted in over a century of conflict and distrust to effective and efficient nation-to-nation, government-to-government relations in how fish, fish habitat and fisheries are governed and managed; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to communicate their support to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard of the FNFC's Coalition submission to the Minister regarding changes to the *Fisheries Act*.

**Moved:** Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation  
**Seconded:** Cynthia Brewer (Proxy), Okanagan Indian Band  
**Disposition:** Carried  
1 abstention  
**Date:** September 28, 2017

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**Resolution no. 2017-43**

**RE: FNFC Submission to the Minister of Transport Canada on the *Navigation Protection Act* Review**

**WHEREAS** without consultation with BC First Nations, in 2012 the Conservative Federal Government introduced changes to the *Navigation Protection Act* (NPA) as part of Omnibus Bill C-45, which drastically reduced the number of waterways protected by the NPA, leaving 99% of lakes, rivers and oceans in Canada unprotected under this legislation, and exempting several major industrial projects from federal purview;

**WHEREAS** Prime Minister Trudeau has directed the Minister of Transport to review the 2012/2013 changes to the *Navigation Protection Act*;

**WHEREAS** the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities was tasked with conducting this review with a deadline for submissions to the Standing Committee having been set for December 7, 2016, with the Minister of Transport accepting submissions until the extended deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017;

**WHEREAS** the Parliamentary Standing Committee's report was made public with a deadline for submissions in response to the Report of the Standing Committee being August 28, 2017;

**WHEREAS** the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC committed 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

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consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

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

**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 [...];

**WHEREAS** by UBCIC Resolution 2017-03 “Support for FNFC Submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities’ regarding *Navigation Protection Act Review*” the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supported the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC’s (FNFC) submission to the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities regarding the review of changes to the *Navigation Protection Act*;

**WHEREAS** the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC (FNFC) retained Ratcliff & Company to conduct a legal analysis on the Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities entitled “A Study of the *Navigation Protection Act*.” The FNFC made a submission on August 28, 2017 in response to the Government’s request for detailed comments on the Government Response as part of the ongoing review of the *Navigation Protection Act*. This submission focuses on constructive proposals to improve the Act, to restore protections for water and navigation, and to confirm the central role for Indigenous peoples in governing this essential resource; and

**WHEREAS** the FNFC’s submission reflects the need for the Government of Canada to properly consult with all First Nations Rights holders on matters related to water protection, policy, management and legislation, and to engage in co-management with First Nations. Implementation of the recommendations put forward in the submission would improve the environmental protection of navigable waterways on which First Nations across the province have always relied for health and for cultural, spiritual and economic wellbeing. The submission also seeks to uphold the Section 35(1) Rights of all First Nations in BC.

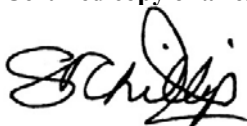
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully supports the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC’s (FNFC) submission to the Minister of Transport regarding the Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities entitled “A Study of the *Navigation Protection Act*”; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the UBCIC Executive to communicate support for the FNFC’s August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 submission to the Minister of Transport.

**Moved:** Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band  
**Seconded:** Cynthia Brewer (Proxy), Okanagan Indian Band  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**Date:** September 28, 2017

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49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> TO 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2017  
MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, X<sup>W</sup>MƏŦK<sup>W</sup>ƏY<sup>Ə</sup>M (MUSQUEAM TERRITORY)

**Resolution no. 2017-44**

**RE: Creation of an Independent Process for Resolution of Specific Claims**

**WHEREAS** the historical actions illegally undertaken by the colonial government of British Columbia and successive governments of Canada since BC entered confederation in 1871 have resulted in the dispossession of our Indigenous Nations, including the illegal alienation of our lands; the failure to protect Indian reserves, villages and fishing areas; the systematic denial of rights to fish and access to water; and the illegal disruption and removal of sacred sites and grave sites;

**WHEREAS** compensation and redress for these illegal actions has either been improperly administered or systematically denied and these illegal actions continue to impact Indigenous Peoples economically, socially, and spiritually;

**WHEREAS** for almost 50 years, Indigenous peoples have sought an independent, impartial, and just process for the resolution of specific claims and for a dispute resolution mechanism designed to provide redress by resolving these grievances without conflict of interest or systemic unfairness and inequality;

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

**Article 8: (2):** States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:

(b): Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** the Truth and Reconciliation Commission “Calls to Action” call for the adoption and implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation;

**WHEREAS** article 5(a) of the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* stipulates that States must guarantee the right of everyone to equal treatment before all institutions and bodies administering justice;

**WHEREAS** article XXIV(1) of the *Organization of American States Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* articulates Indigenous Peoples' right to the “recognition, observance, and enforcement of all treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements concluded with states and their successors” and article XXIV (2) states that “When disputes cannot be resolved between the parties in relation to such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, these shall be submitted to competent bodies”;

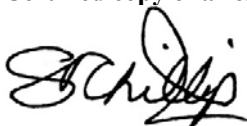
**WHEREAS** Canada's specific claims process has, since its inception, been plagued by institutionalized conflict of interest, delays, barriers, and systemic bias against Indigenous peoples, a fact recognized by the authors of the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996), the 2006 Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples (*Negotiation or Confrontation: It's Canada's Choice*), and in 2016 by the Office of the Auditor General (*Report 6—First Nations Specific Claims—Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada*), which concluded that Canada's Department of Indigenous Affairs grossly mismanaged the specific claims process and that its implementation introduced new barriers for Indigenous peoples seeking just resolution of their specific claims;

**WHEREAS** BC is uniquely affected by these pervasive failures of the specific claims process to resolve claims and has a disproportionately high number of total claims (40–50 percent of all claims in Canada) and rejected claims, while unresolved claims continue to have significant, tangible impacts on communities;

**WHEREAS** the UBCIC and, more recently, the BC Specific Claims Working Group (BCSCWG) have played a pivotal leadership role in advocating for a fair specific claims resolution process in which all

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parts of the processes are independent of Canada's Department of Indigenous Affairs, and which is based on a Nation-to-Nation approach, with Indigenous peoples as equal partners;

**WHEREAS** on September 6, 2017, in response to the Auditor General's Report and strong advocacy by Indigenous peoples, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs publicly acknowledged that "the existing specific claims policy and processes [...] are not in keeping with a recognition of rights, or a reconciliation-based approach to addressing issues between the Crown and Indigenous peoples," and announced that Canada is working to completely overhaul the policy in cooperation and collaboration with Indigenous peoples;

**WHEREAS** the AFN-INAC Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) is currently the body tasked with reforming the process, "engendering constructive dialogue" on seven topics of specific claims reform (enhanced information sharing and communication; specific claims processing and funding; negotiations; access to mediation; claims valued at over \$150 million; the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* and other relevant policies, processes, and legislative considerations);

**WHEREAS** the UBCIC is integral to the JTWG process through the participation of Research Director Jody Woods and the guidance of the BCSCWG;

**WHEREAS** the BCSCWG is engaging directly with Canada to eliminate the barriers, systemic inequalities, and conflict of interest in all parts of the specific claims process; and

**WHEREAS** any process for specific claims reform must be accountable, first and foremost, to Indigenous claimants and Indigenous Nations.

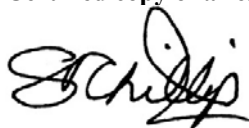
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with the BCSCWG and like-minded organizations to call on the Government of Canada to establish a truly independent process for the administration, assessment, and adjudication of specific claims that eliminates Canada's conflict of interest and that includes ongoing joint reviews and oversight; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with the BCSCWG and like-minded organizations to call on the Government of Canada to create a clear and definitive timeline of tangible outcomes leading to the formation of this independent specific claims process; this timeline should be jointly agreed upon *prior* to the acceptance of any interim measures or new review processes.

**Moved:** Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band  
**Seconded:** Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**Date:** September 29, 2017

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**Resolution no. 2017-45**

**RE: Responding to ANTCO Inaction on First Nations Digital Connectivity in B.C.**

**WHEREAS** First Nations communities in B.C. continue to face disparities in access and opportunity due to the digital divide;

**WHEREAS** the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has designated connectivity as a basic essential service for all Canadians;

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

**Article 23:** Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development [...] and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

**WHEREAS** the First Nations Technology Council (FNTC) operates with a mandate provided by First Nations Leadership Council (collectively the First Nations Summit, BC Assembly of First Nations and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs) to ensure that all 203 First Nations communities in BC have access to the internet and the capacity to utilize digital technologies to the fullest potential;

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**WHEREAS** the All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO) has received \$59.6 million in government funding without meaningful input from First Nations' leadership to address the digital divide faced by First Nations communities in BC, with \$32.9 million of these funds remaining unspent;

**WHEREAS** by UBCIC Resolution 2017-19, the UBCIC called upon the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to work with the FNLC to engage the All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO) in creating strategies for the release of funds to the First Nations Technology Council for the exclusive use and benefit of First Nations in BC that are working to address capacity building for the use and benefit of digital and connected technology; and

**WHEREAS** by UBCIC Resolution 2017-19, the UBCIC further called for any new funding for First Nations connectivity and capacity to be put in place for use and distribution by the First Nations Technology Council working with the FNLC.

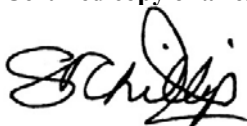
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support strategies with which to eliminate the digital divide faced by First Nations communities in B.C.; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff, to work with the First Nations Summit and the BC Assembly of First Nations, to assist in convening a meeting of relevant stakeholders (provincial and federal government authorities, First Nations leadership and the First Nations Technology Council) to develop strategies for the release of ANTCO funds and the establishment of the supplementary funds required to meaningfully address First Nations connectivity across BC.

**Moved:** Kukpi7 Fred Seymour, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc  
**Seconded:** Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**2 opposed:** Chief Lee Spahan; Chief Marcel Shackelly  
**Date:** September 28, 2017

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Resolution no. 2017-46

## RE: Eliminating the Digital Divide through Labour Market Research and Skills Development Opportunities

**WHEREAS** First Nations communities in BC continue to face disparities in access and opportunity due to the digital divide;

**WHEREAS** the province's technology sector continues to outpace the province's overall economic growth, and is expected to add an additional 47,000 new jobs to the BC economy by 2021;

**WHEREAS** there does not yet exist a comprehensive overview of barriers to and opportunities for First Nations peoples in BC to fully and equally participate within the technology sector;

**WHEREAS** skill development opportunities in technology and innovation for First Nations communities continue to lag behind offerings available outside of First Nations 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 BC committed to implement, affirms:

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

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**WHEREAS** the First Nations Technology Council (FNTC) operates with a mandate provided by the First Nations Leadership Council (collectively the First Nations Summit, BC Assembly of First Nations and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs) to ensure that all 203 First Nations communities in BC have access to the internet and the capacity to utilize digital technologies to the fullest potential; and

**WHEREAS** the FNTC is developing a set of initiatives (a First Nations innovation and technology labour market study and a Bridging to Technology initiative) that aim to better understand the barriers to and create opportunities for increased participation of First Nations peoples in the technology and innovation sectors.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the development and delivery of the First Nations Technology Council's innovation and technology labour market study and Bridging to Technology initiatives;

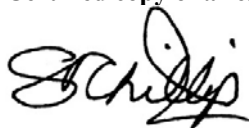
**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to provide guidance and support where possible to inform the development of Indigenous-led research and community engagement methodologies for these initiatives; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to assist with outreach and engagement efforts to raise awareness amongst its membership around these forthcoming initiatives.

**Moved:** Kukpi7 Ryan Day, Bonaparte Indian Band  
**Seconded:** Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**Date:** September 28, 2017

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Resolution no. 2017-47

**RE: Appointment to the UBCIC Recall Committee**

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

VI (b): At each AGA at which an election is taking place the Chiefs-in-Assembly shall appoint five Full or Active Members in good standing who are members of five separate Indian Nations (and not merely Indian Bands) to sit on the Recall Committee for a term of three years;

**WHEREAS** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the Chair of the Assembly to call for nominations from the floor to participate in the UBCIC Recall Committee;

**WHEREAS** by UBCIC Resolution #2016-29, the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly appointed: Chief Harvey Paul, Sts'ailes; Coola Louis, UBCIC Women's Representative; Chief John Wesley, Snuneymuxw First Nation; Chief Russell Myers Ross, Yunesit'in Government; and Chief Leslie Dickie, Kwakiutl, to the UBCIC Recall Committee on September 21, 2016;

**WHEREAS** Chief Harvey Paul and Coola Louis have resigned from the UBCIC Recall Committee, and as such there were two (2) spaces to be filled on the UBCIC Recall Committee;

**WHEREAS** by UBCIC Resolution #2017-31, the UBCIC Chiefs Council appointed to the UBCIC Recall Committee include:

- 1) Chief Stuart Alec, Nazko Indian Band (continuing appointment)
- 2) Chief Marcel Shackelly, Nooaitch Indian Band (new appointment)

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- 3) Chief Janet Webster, Lytton First Nation (new appointment)
- 4) Chief John Wesley, Snuneymuxw First Nation (continuing appointment)
- 5) Chief Russell Myers Ross, Yunesit'in Government (continuing appointment);

**WHEREAS** the UBCIC By-Laws state that members of the Recall Committee must be members of separate Indian Nations, and both Lytton First Nation and Nooaitch Indian Band are affiliated with the Nlaka'pamux Nation; and

**WHEREAS** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the Chair of the Assembly to ask one of the above members to voluntarily step down from the Recall committee and to call for nominations from the floor to participate in the UBCIC Recall Committee.

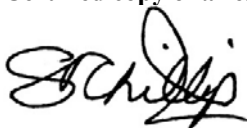
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize the resignation of Chief Janet Webster, Lytton First Nation, from the UBCIC Recall Committee, to align with the UBCIC By-Laws; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby appoint the following person to the Recall Committee of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs for the upcoming three year term ending at the Annual General Assembly in September, 2019: Kukpi7 Ryan Day, Bonaparte Indian Band.

**Moved:** Kukpi7 Ron Ignace, (Proxy) Simpcw First Nation  
**Seconded:** Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**Date:** September 28, 2017

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**Resolution no. 2017-48**

**RE: Auditor Appointment**

**WHEREAS** TOMBE HERRINGTON, Chartered Professional Accountants LLP was appointed as the UBCIC Auditors at the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (September 2014); and

**WHEREAS** TOMBE HERRINGTON, Chartered Professional Accountants LLP has fulfilled the necessary Audit requirements to complete the Annual Audit.

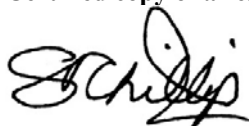
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly reappoint TOMBE HERRINGTON, Chartered Professional Accountants LLP as Auditors of the UBCIC to complete the 2017-2018 Annual Audit for the organization; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct Tombe Herrington Chartered Professional Accountants LLP to provide the 2017-2018 draft audit for review of the UBCIC Executive by June 29, 2018 to be finalized by July 15, 2018.

**Moved:** Cynthia Brewer, Councilor (Proxy for Okanagan Indian Band)  
**Seconded:** Chief Darrell Bob, Xaxli'p First Nation  
**Disposition:** Carried  
**Date:** September 28, 2017

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Resolution no. 2017-49

**RE: Request for the Audit of Responses to BC Wildfire Crises**

**WHEREAS** the impacts of climate change will continue to exacerbate emergency events in BC, including wildfires and floods;

**WHEREAS** wildfires in BC numbered over 1,280 in the 2017 fire-season alone, with 1.2 million hectares burned, costs nearing \$500 million, and with many First Nations impacted directly including over 15 First Nations evacuated. The wildfires in 2003 were similarly unprecedented in size, scope and impact, with nearly 2,500 fires through the fire-season;

**WHEREAS** significant resources, financial, natural, and human, were expended during both the 2003 and 2017 BC wildfire crises however these resources were insufficient and/or poorly allocated to meet the needs of 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 BC committed to implement, affirms:

**Article 10:** Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

**Article 29 (1):** Indigenous people 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;

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Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September of 2017 in x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy<sup>ə</sup>m

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**WHEREAS** the First Nations Emergency Services Society of BC (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 response services. These programs and services do not impede communities or Nations from their own initiatives with federal, provincial or municipal governments;

**WHEREAS** Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has received funding and holds the responsibility from the federal government through a 10-year bilateral agreement, entitled the *Emergency Management Services Funding Agreement*, to provide response and recovery for emergency events that affect BC First Nations;

**WHEREAS** numerous post-emergency event reviews are taking place yet these reviews are insufficient as they do not adequately address First Nations priorities and do not include the participation of First Nations experts such as the FNESS;

**WHEREAS** the lessons-learned from both the 2003 and the 2017 wildfire response reviews need to be implemented with full cooperation and inclusion from First Nations and in respect of the Nation-to-Nation relationship; and

**WHEREAS** the Office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) and the Auditor General of BC (AG) are mandated to audit the federal and provincial governments respectively and regularly carry out financial and performance audits on themes of concerns to the public and as such act as a measure of accountability for these governments.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support emergency response processes that are efficient and responsive to First Nations' Rights, knowledge, priorities, interests, and values;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to work with the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and like-minded organizations to call on the Office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) and the Auditor General of BC (AG) to conduct federal and provincial audits comparing both the 2003 and 2017 federal and provincial wildfire response, paying particular attention to the Rights, knowledge, priorities, interests, and values of First Nations, and with any findings and recommendations requiring action being addressed in a timely manner; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to call on the OAG and the AG to include First Nations in the audits called for above.

**Moved:** Chief Marcel Shackelly, Nooaitch Indian Band

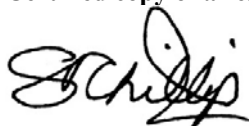
**Seconded:** Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

**Disposition:** Carried

**Date:** September 29, 2017

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