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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS

ANNUAL CENEDAL ASSEMBLY

### ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OCT 2<sup>ND</sup> TO 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 MOCCASIN SQUARE GARDENS, TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC TERRITORY

### **Final Resolutions**

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly  $Oct\ 2^{\text{nd}}\ to\ 4^{\text{th}}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Resolution no. 2018-36

### RE: Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights - Support for Rolling Draft and Conceptual Drafting Instructions

**WHEREAS** Crown denial of our unextinguished Aboriginal Title, Rights, and treaty rights is rooted in the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*, and, among other things, is manifested in:

- a. Laws, regulations and policies, which are developed unilaterally by the Crown, that adversely affect our Aboriginal Title, Rights, and treaty rights.
- b. Crown negotiation mandates and Crown litigation mandates that deny the existence of Indigenous nations.
- c. Crown failure to reflect the jurisdictional component of Aboriginal Title, evidenced in part by decisions regarding Indigenous lands and resources made unilaterally by the Crown through Crown consultation processes that are not grounded in the standard of free, prior and informed consent, or through shared decision-making mechanisms or processes.
- d. Discrepancies between statements made by Ministers versus actions of Crown bureaucrats and public servants.
- e. Crown failure to implement our Aboriginal Title, Rights, and treaty rights.
- f. Crown failure to reflect the inescapable economic component of Aboriginal Title in Canada's fiscal relationship with Indigenous nations.
- g. Crown minimizing court decisions and failing to fully implement direction provided by the Courts to direct Crown-Indigenous relations;

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 BC, committed to implement, affirms:

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions;

WHEREAS on February 14, 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's intention to embark on a nation-wide engagement strategy to discuss the development of a new Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework (RIRF). Specifically, the Prime Minister stated:

"For too long, Indigenous Peoples in Canada have had to prove their rights exist and fight to have them recognized and fully implemented. To truly renew the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples, the Government of Canada must make the recognition and implementation of rights the basis for all relations between Indigenous Peoples and the federal government...[A]s a starting point, it should include new legislation and policy that will make the recognition and implementation of rights the basis for relations between Indigenous peoples and the federal government going forward";

WHEREAS from March to September 2018, the federal department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) produced three documents: (1) What We Heard, (2) Engagement Document and (3) Overview Document, which the federal government suggests are intended to reflect discussions and input of First Nations across Canada following five months of engagements;

WHEREAS the political executives of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the First Nations Summit, and the BC Assembly of First Nations, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), hosted with Canada and BC three All Chiefs' Forums on April 11-13, June 26 and July 23, 2018 (the Forums) to discuss RIRF;

WHEREAS Chiefs and Leadership in attendance at the Forums:

- a. developed a high-level rolling draft principles and recommendations document (Rolling Draft) setting out principles, the scope and minimum requirements for a new RIRF which was supported in-principle by the UBCIC Chiefs Council by Resolution 2018-30;
- b. instructed representatives of the FNLC, as a priority, to develop a framework for federal recognition legislation as part of the new RIRF for review and discussion;

**WHEREAS** as mandated, the FNLC developed conceptual drafting instructions (Conceptual Draft) for proposed recognition legislation which was presented to and endorsed by Chiefs and Leadership at the July 2018 Forum. This Conceptual Draft has since been revised based on input from BC Chiefs and Leadership at the Forum and an ad hoc group of legal and other experts;

WHEREAS any recommendations, principles, proposals, options or other materials developed at the Forums and any legislative proposals, drafting instructions or draft recognition legislation, if any, developed in collaboration with the Government of Canada are not intended to, nor should they, limit or detract from:

- a. RIRF work or approaches currently under development by the Government of Canada with individual First Nations or at negotiating tables; or
- b. the development and advancement of RIRF options or proposals by individual First Nations or any direct engagements between First Nations and the Crown;

**WHEREAS** on September 7, 2018, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and the Government of Canada released the Overview Document. This document provides Canada's draft plan for the development of legislation and policies to ensure and uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples, treaties, and other agreements;

WHEREAS several concerning factors indicate that the purpose of the document is not to facilitate processes of self-determination, implement the UN Declaration, or afford the recognition of Title to Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS the premise of the Overview Document does not overlap or align with the Rolling Draft compiled by Chiefs and Leadership in attendance at an internal dialogue session held on April 12, 2018. This document has since been circulated, amended, and added to by First Nations and leadership, and has been supported-in-principle by the UBCIC Chiefs Council in Resolution 2018-30; and

WHEREAS the BC Region discussed the Overview Document at the AFN National Forum in Gatineau, Quebec from September 11<sup>th</sup> to September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, producing a document of concerns titled "Summary of BC Region Discussion on Federal Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework." These concerns include:

- 1. The Overview Document is not reflective of true self-determination and proposes that First Nations will apply to the federal government for recognition as a Nation and the government will decide who is a Nation to advance claims of Title. This approach is not consistent with the government "getting out of the way" and clearing a path toward self-determination.
- 2. The inadequate articulation and reflection of section 35, completely avoiding the recognition of Aboriginal Title and recognizing that section 35 is a full box of rights.
- 3. The federal consultation process is flawed and fails to adequately and respectfully consult with Indigenous peoples.
- 4. Recognition of Aboriginal Title must be a legislative element, not a policy piece, due to the fact that policy is discretionary and subjective and Aboriginal Title is an inherent right.

### **THREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly endorse the attached:

- a. rolling draft document titled, "Recognition and Implementation of Rights Dialogue Sessions: BC Chiefs' and Leaderships' Principles and Recommendations" (dated September 5, 2018) for submission to Canada;
- b. "Conceptual Drafting Instructions for Recognition and Implementation of Rights Legislation" (dated September 6, 2018) as a basis for the co-development of Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights legislation with Canada;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly reject Canada's Overview Document and the paternalistic approach it takes to the RIRF, as it is contrary to the inherent human rights Indigenous peoples hold that are affirmed by the UN Declaration, does not recognize Aboriginal Title, and fails to create space for self-determination;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to work with the First Nations Summit and the BC Assembly of First Nations, as the First

Nations Leadership Council, to host further All Chiefs' and Leadership Forums or other assemblies, dependent on funding, if the RIRF process continues, for the purposes of:

- a. facilitating discussion of new RIRF options or the refinement of existing options currently set out in the Rolling Draft;
- b. providing progress reports and seeking input from First Nations on elements of legislative drafting and/or Recognition Legislation that are co-developed with the Government of Canada; and
- c. providing updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council for any legislative proposal, legislative drafting instructions and/or Recognition Legislation, if any, that is developed in collaboration with the Government of Canada.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly acknowledge that the FNLC operates under terms of reference endorsed through resolution at each of the BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC Chiefs assemblies. The Terms of Reference set out:

- 1.9. The FNLC is not a Nation, and therefore does not hold Aboriginal Title, Rights or Treaty Rights; and, the FNLC acknowledges that any government-to-government relationship is between individual Nations and the Crown.
- 1.10. The Crown's duty to consult is with individual Nations and not with the FNLC.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm that any document arising out of these processes led by the FNLC is not to be interpreted as a complete response from First Nations communities in BC, but rather as an initial step which does not replace the requirement of the Crown to engage on a nation-to-nation level with First Nations in BC;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize that as directed by Resolution 2018-30, the UBCIC Executive has re-confirmed with Canada and British Columbia that:

- a. Engagement and dialogue on the federal initiative on a Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework will not serve as a barrier to progress on:
  - i. Any work or approaches currently underway with individual First Nations or negotiating tables; or
  - ii. Any potential work arising from Nation-to-Nation discussions;
- b. The participation of First Nations in the Recognition and Implementation of Rights Forum and follow-up session does not replace or constrict First Nations' opportunities to request their own respective meetings with Canada and BC, or their respective decisions to advance their own First Nation-driven priorities and recommendations through their own stand-alone documents; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that in the event that the Government of Canada's version of the RIRF does not reflect the BC Chiefs' and Leaderships' Rolling Draft and Conceptual Drafting Instructions, then the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to prepare an action plan for the UBCIC members and the BC region's consideration to challenge and oppose any unilateral federal version of the RIRF policies or legislation.

Moved: Chief James Hobart, Spuzzum First Nation Seconded: Chief Clifford White, Gitxaala Nation

**Disposition:** Carried

Opposed: 1

**Date:** October 4, 2018

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Resolution no. 2018-37

### **RE: BC's Proposed Reforms to the BCTC Process**

**WHEREAS** the UBCIC's mandate is to work toward the implementation, exercise and recognition of inherent Aboriginal Title and Rights, and Treaty Rights, and to protect our Lands and Waters, through the exercise and implementation of Indigenous laws and jurisdiction;

WHEREAS the BC Treaty Commission ("BCTC") was established in 1993 with the goal of achieving reconciliation with First Nations through treaties that provide cash and land settlements and implement self-government. The BCTC only completed four treaty agreements between 1993 and 2016, triggering the 2016 Multilateral Report to reform the treaty process. The Multilateral Report was created by the BC Government, the Government of Canada, and the First Nations Summit;

WHEREAS since 1992, UBCIC has engaged in significant work to respond to the need for reform in the BCTC process and for broader rights recognition. UBCIC has identified several issues that must be remedied by the provincial government. These issues include the Crown's approach involving extinguishment and limitation of rights, in a manner inconsistent with reconciliation and with the established law and standards of *Tsilhqot'in Nation* and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), and inconsistencies between the BCTC Process and UBCIC's understanding that treaties should be relationships that reconcile Indigenous sovereignty and Crown sovereignty on a nation-to-nation and ongoing basis;

**WHEREAS** the BCTC process has long been out of step with the established law, and is not designed on the proper basis of the recognition of Title and Rights, including as confirmed in *Tsilhqot'in Nation*, and that this has contributed to the BCTC process being a source of division and conflict, including where the rights of other Nations are violated through the Crown's use of the BCTC process;

**WHEREAS** on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation released a rolling draft discussion paper titled "B.C.'s Proposed Approach to Treaty Transformation" ("Discussion Paper"), which outlines several proposals to reform the treaty process so that it respects case law and the UN Declaration;

**WHEREAS** the UN Declaration, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implement, affirms:

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

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

Article 37: (1) 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. (2) Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements;

WHEREAS UBCIC provided BC a letter on April 25, 2017, stating that the starting point for change should be the "four principles" adopted by consensus of the Indigenous leadership of BC on September 10, 2014:

- 1. Acknowledgement that all our relationships are based on recognition and implementation of the existence of Indigenous peoples' inherent title and rights, and pre-confederation, historic and modern treaties, throughout British Columbia.
- 2. Acknowledgement that Indigenous systems of governance and laws are essential to the regulation of lands and resources throughout British Columbia.
- 3. Acknowledgment of the mutual responsibility that all of our government systems shall shift to relationships, negotiations and agreements based on recognition.
- 4. We immediately must move to consent based decision-making and title based fiscal relations, including revenue sharing, in our relationships, negotiations and agreements;

WHEREAS BC's Treaty Transformation Discussion Paper does not describe how its proposals for the BCTC Process will relate to current work underway as identified within the FNLC-BC Commitment Document of October 2015 and affirmed in July 2018, and BC's commitment to implement the UN Declaration and the principle of free, prior and informed consent, in particular how these principles apply to First Nations that are not in the BCTC Process; and

**WHEREAS** the Discussion Paper's proposals for treaty reform do not propose bold, concrete actions to reform the BCTC process or make engagement between BC and First Nations consistent with the UN Declaration, do not advance reconciliation, and do not respond clearly to concerns held and expressed by

UBCIC, including inconsistencies with the principles of Treaty. It does not provide any expression of how the Province will address issues of rights recognition for First Nations both inside and outside of the BCTC Process, or for First Nations who are signatories to Douglas Treaties.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly conclude that the proposals presented in the Discussion Paper to reform the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC) process, are a missed opportunity for meaningful response to problems with the BCTC process, as they are inconsistent with the principles of reconciliation and the UN Declaration, which the Government of BC has committed to implement; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Governments of BC and Canada to remedy the issues that have been repeatedly raised by BC First Nations about the BCTC process since its inception. UBCIC is prepared to work collaboratively with BC and Canada to discuss solutions that would lead to meaningful implementation of the UN Declaration both outside and inside a reformed BCTC process and would respond clearly to the concerns that have been outlined by UBCIC over many years.

Moved: Chief Clifford White, Gitxaala Nation Seconded: Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen Indian Band

**Disposition:** Carried

**Abstentions: 1** 

**Date:** October 4, 2018

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Resolution no. 2018-38

### RE: Protection of the Tsilhqot'in Sacred site of Teztan Biny, Nabas and the Surrounding Area

**WHEREAS** the Tsilhqot'in Nation, with the support of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), the Assembly of First Nations, and First Nations Summit, successfully defended its Aboriginal rights, culture and the integrity of their lands and waters threatened by the Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine (the "Prosperity Mine"), and the revised "New" Prosperity Mine (the "New Prosperity Mine"), which would have devastated the Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) and Nabas areas;

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

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

**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;

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

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

**WHEREAS** the Tsilhqot'in Nation and its communities endured two separate federal environmental assessment processes for the Prosperity Mine and New Prosperity Mine proposals;

WHEREAS in each review, an independent federal panel emphasized the profound cultural and spiritual importance of Teztan Biny and Nabas to the Tsilhqot'in people as a gathering place, as a cultural school for youth, as a place of spiritual power and healing, as sacred burial and cremation grounds, and as critical hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering areas. The federal panel for New Prosperity Mine warned that the mine would "endanger their ability to sustain their way of life and cultural identity";

**WHEREAS** on November 16, 2010, the Federal Government rejected the Prosperity Mine. On February 26, 2014, the Federal Government rejected the New Prosperity Mine;

WHEREAS in contrast, the Government of British Columbia ("BC") rushed to approve the Prosperity Mine, and has actively advocated on behalf of the mine and its proponent, Taseko Mines Ltd. ("TML"). On January 14, 2010, before the first federal panel had even started its public hearings, BC approved the Prosperity Mine, on the basis of a report from the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office ("EAO") that dismissed the impacts of the mine on the Tsilhqot'in people as insignificant;

**WHEREAS** despite the federal rejection of the New Prosperity Mine, TML continues to try and advance the rejected mine, including a plan to undertake further extensive drilling, road building and exploration (the "Exploration Program") in support of the New Prosperity design throughout the Teztan Biny and Nabas region;

**WHEREAS** the Tsilhqot'in Nation has advised BC and TML that it strongly opposes TML's efforts to proceed with the Exploration Program and to cause further, massive disruption of lands and waters that the Tsilhqot'in people have fought for so long to protect, in support of a project that has been rejected—twice—and cannot be built;

**WHEREAS** on the final day of power of the former provincial BC Liberal Government, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources granted a *Mines Act* permit for the Exploration Program;

**WHEREAS** the Tsilhqot'in Nation challenged the Exploration Program permit in BC Supreme Court and recently lost the case, and has since appealed to the BC Court of Appeal;

**WHEREAS** the Tsilhqot'in community of Xeni Gwet'in, in response to the BC Supreme Court ruling and with the support of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, established a Peaceful Gathering and Spiritual Camp at Teztan Biny;

**WHEREAS** the EAO has also advised the Tsilhqot'in Nation that it is proceeding to consider the application by TML to amend its existing provincial certificate for the Prosperity Mine to conform to the New Prosperity design. In effect, the EAO is considering provincial approval for New Prosperity Mine, notwithstanding the fact that the project is dead and cannot be built in the face of the rejection by the Federal Government;

**WHEREAS** the Tsilhqot'in Nation has profound concerns with the EAO certificate amendment process and procedures which do not reflect the commitments made to Indigenous Peoples by the BC NDP Government, or the principles which are apparently guiding the Environmental Assessment Revitalization process;

**WHEREAS** Teztan Biny and Nabas are within the proven Aboriginal rights area declared in *Tsilhqot'in Nation*, within the Dasiqox Tribal Park established by the Tsilhqot'in communities of Xeni Gwet'in and Yunesit'in, and subject to the 1989 Nemiah Declaration and the Tsilhqot'in Nation Mining Policy, all of which emphasize the need for Tsilhqot'in consent;

**WHEREAS** the Tsilhqot'in Nation advanced the struggle for free, prior and informed consent with the historic decision in *Tsilhqot'in Nation v British Columbia*. BC's *Mineral Tenure Act* and *Mines Act* do not ensure the consent of Indigenous Peoples before the issuance of mineral interests and project approvals, and do not conform to the standards and rights affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;

**WHEREAS** despite the inadequacies with BC's mining laws, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has various tools that could enable the Province of British Columbia to permanently protect the Teztan Biny and Nabas region from further impacts from mineral activity; and

WHEREAS the UBCIC has provided unwavering support to the Tsilhqot'in Nation throughout their struggle, including through Resolutions 2016-49, 2011-35, 2010-32, and leadership and advocacy from the UBCIC Executive and staff, and this support has been critical to the success of the Tsilhqot'in Nation to date.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the efforts of the Tsilhqot'in Nation to protect their lands of profound cultural and spiritual value from the proposed New Prosperity Mine, and will stand behind the Tsilhqot'in Nation in defence of these lands regardless of any decisions by British Columbia, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), or the BC Ministry of Energy and Mines:

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of British Columbia to heed the cautions of two independent Panels which conducted the environmental assessments, demonstrate commitment to environmental protection and the cultural survival of First Nations, prevent further destruction of the Teztan Biny and Nabas areas, and work swiftly with the Tsilhqot'in Nation to resolve the conflict over the use and status of these important lands and waters;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to work with the Tsilhqot'in Nation and other like-minded organizations to advocate on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation and communicate clear support of the Chiefs-in-Assembly, including:

- Advise the Province of British Columbia that First Nations across BC are watching closely and
  fully support the Tsilhqot'in opposition to the Exploration Program, and that it is a violation of
  constitutional rights and the rights affirmed within *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
  Indigenous Peoples* to have authorized extensive drilling, road building and exploration, in such
  culturally important lands, for a project that has been twice rejected;
- Advise the Province of British Columbia and the EAO that First Nations are bearing witness to the New Prosperity amendment process and are alarmed and deeply concerned by the EAO's

apparent lack of integrity, and its disregard for the interests of First Nations in British Columbia; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to support the Tsilhqot'in Nation in securing recognition by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia that the Tsilhqot'in Nation has a special relationship to and authority over its lands and waters through the exercise of its Title and Rights, and that in cases such as the conflict over land use at Teztan Biny and Nabas, and this recognition must include implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent.

Moved: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation

Seconded: Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band

**Disposition:** Carried

Date: October 3, 2018

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Resolution no. 2018-39

### RE: Development and Implementation of a BC First Nations Forest Strategy

**WHEREAS** the BC government continues to engage in forestry-related activities without the full and respectful recognition of First Nations Title and Rights, and Treaty Rights, and fails to engage BC First Nations in meaningful shared decision-making;

**WHEREAS** current provincial policies do not provide a meaningful share of revenue from forestry activities to ensure First Nations can build their governance capacity;

**WHEREAS** the forest sector in BC is undergoing significant transformation regardless of the impacts on First Nations Title and Rights;

**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 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 resource; and[...];

**WHEREAS** provincial policies, operating practices and legislation need to change to fully implement the UN Declaration, allow for shared decision-making, and allow for the development of a renewed process for land use planning and stewardship over lands and resources; and

WHEREAS by UBCIC Resolution 2012-14 "Support for First Nations Leadership Council Renewing its "Declaration & Protocol of Recognition, Support, Cooperation and Coordination with the First Nations Forestry Council," and UBCIC Resolution 2016-15 "Support for First Nations Forestry Council and Improved Forest Range Revenue Sharing and Tenure Solution," UBCIC has consistently supported the work of the FNFC.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the continued work of the BC First Nations Forestry Council to develop and implement a BC First Nations Forest Strategy which states that consent must be sought from First Nations on all forestry issues in their territories, and that reflects the policy and legislative changes needed to increase revenue sharing, shared decision-making, and the meaningful involvement of BC First Nations as full partners in the forest sector.

Moved: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation

Seconded: Robert Scow, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation (Proxy)

**Disposition:** Carried

Date: October 4, 2018

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Resolution no. 2018-40

### **RE: Support for the FNLC Wild Salmon Summit Draft Recommendations**

**WHEREAS** wild Pacific salmon are an integral keystone in the culture, economy and livelihood of First Nations throughout BC;

WHEREAS the steadying decline of healthy and abundant wild salmon stocks has reached a crisis point;

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

**WHEREAS** First Nations in BC have a common interest in increasing decision-making and control with respect to the regulation, policy, planning, management, protection and rehabilitation of wild salmon, salmon habitat and salmon fisheries:

**WHEREAS** UBCIC Resolution 2012-19 reaffirms UBCIC's role to strongly advocate for Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights with respect to fisheries and aquaculture, as mandated through existing resolutions;

**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** the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), a collaborative working partnership between the UBCIC, the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), hosted the "Wild Salmon Summit: In a Time of Reconciliation a Summit to Protect and Restore Wild Salmon Through Indigenous Jurisdiction and Authority" ("Wild Salmon Summit"), with the following goals:

- 1. Conduct an environmental scan of the mandates and operations of First Nations Fisheries Organizations in BC in relation to wild salmon;
- 2. Discuss the current state of wild salmon health and identify barriers to ensuring healthy wild salmon populations; and
- 3. Develop a shared strategic vision for wild salmon in BC; and

**WHEREAS** delegates at the Wild Salmon Summit proposed the following recommendations as they relate to the protection, rehabilitation and management of wild salmon, wild salmon habitat and wild salmon fisheries:

- 1. Develop a shared political vision, and strategic pro-active provincial plan, amongst BC First Nations, for the rehabilitation, protection and management of wild salmon/salmon habitat and fisheries through the implementation and recognition of our inherent jurisdictions, authorities, titles, rights and responsibilities:
  - a. FNLC strike a Political Steering Committee to develop/identify recommended immediate province-wide priorities (FNLC, BC First Nations representatives, Pacific Salmon Commission, FNFC);
  - b. Governance Models: Tier 1 (First Nations-Intertribal relations), Tier 2 (Nation-to-Nation, government-to-government: Tripartite Processes/DFO-FNLC MOU/BC Wild Salmon Advisory Council);
  - c. Access equitable, sustaining funding sources;
- 2. Complete an environmental scan and develop a plan to recognize, coordinate and activate the technical knowledge, Indigenous knowledge and experiences of our own Indigenous Fisheries Organizations and Nations in relation to the political table/governance model;
- 3. Suggest purposes and priorities that the shared table can bring forward;
- 4. Short Term Goals: Implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully endorse the recommendations of the Wild Salmon Summit;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to work collectively with the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and the First Nations

Summit (FNS), as the First Nations Leadership Council, to identify interim political and technical representation to populate a Political Steering Committee on Wild Salmon; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to work with BC First Nations Fisheries Council and other like-minded organizations to seek adequate resources to support the Wild Salmon Summit's recommendations.

Moved: Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

Seconded: Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin

**Disposition: Carried** 

**Date:** October 4, 2018

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly  $O\text{CT}\ 2^{\text{ND}}\ \text{To}\ 4^{\text{Th}}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Resolution no. 2018-41

### **RE: Support for Community-Based Elder Outreach Programs**

WHEREAS Elders and vulnerable adults are valued members of our Nations deserving of utmost care and respect. Elder Abuse can be defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person." A relationship where there is an expectation of trust can exist between a caregiver, nurse or doctor, family member, friend, or a person who takes on a Power of Attorney role and the elder. When this trust is broken to harm or take advantage of the elder, the relationship becomes abusive;

**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(2):** States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities;

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

**WHEREAS** Elder Abuse can take various forms such as physical, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse, including telephone fraud and sales scams. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect. Financial abuse is the most commonly reported type of Elder Abuse;

WHEREAS Elder Abuse often occurs because of the abuser's power and control over an older or vulnerable person. Older and vulnerable adults affected by abuse often know and trust the person mistreating them. Elder Abuse can be caused by a family member, friend, someone who provides assistance with basic needs or services, salespeople, or health care providers. In many situations of Elder Abuse, the abuser is dependent on the older adult for money, food, or shelter. The risk of Elder Abuse increases when any of the following factors are present: social isolation, disability, reduced cognitive ability, dependency or residing with someone who has an addiction;

**WHEREAS** the majority of Elder Abuse cases go unreported and undetected due to the isolation of the older person by their abuser or their institution. In addition to instances of Elder Abuse, the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of First Nations elders are often overlooked due to the isolation of the older person at home or in an institution. Institutions often perpetuate abusive practices, which is why a community-based approach to care is needed;

WHEREAS it is necessary that culturally-appropriate and community-based outreach is provided to First Nations elders in order to detect the warning signs of Elder Abuse and to benefit the elder's physical, mental and spiritual well-being. This outreach should consist of community members who provide home visits to elders, providing services such as medication delivery, bringing the elder traditional foods that the elder may not have the physical ability to harvest, and having conversational check-ins with the elder;

**WHEREAS** by Resolution 2017-20 "Working Group on Preventing Elder Abuse" the UBCIC Chiefs Council directed the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with like-minded organizations and seek funding to support the UBCIC Working Group on Preventing Elder Abuse; and

**WHEREAS** the UBCIC Elder's Representative has been requested to provide information and resources to Elders across BC regarding Elder Abuse. First Nations Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Association of Community Response Networks, and Seniors First BC have a variety of resources, to be shared with a First Nations specific perspective.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to assert to both the Federal and Provincial governments the urgent need to fully fund and implement community-based Elder outreach programs in order to identify and prevent instances of Elder Abuse; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to support the UBCIC Elders Representative in reaching out to like-minded organizations to find a host for the creation of workshop materials, outreach strategies, and other implementation efforts for community-based Elder outreach programs.

**Moved:** Chief Fred Robbins, Esk'etemc

Seconded: Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

**Disposition:** Carried

Date: October 4, 2018

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UBCIC\_AGA10-04\_RESOLUTION2018-41\_SUPPORTELDEROUTREACHUNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  $OCT~2^{ND}~TO~4^{TH}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Resolution no. 2018-42

### **RE:** Appointment to New Relationship Trust Board of Directors

**WHEREAS** the \$100 million New Relationship Trust (NRT) was established in March 2006 by the *New Relationship Trust Act*;

**WHEREAS** the *New Relationship Trust Act* was amended through the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act 2012*, to extend the terms of the directors of the New Relationship Trust from two years to three years, and to implement rolling terms;

**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 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** the UBCIC may appoint one (1) representative to the NRT Board of Directors;

**WHEREAS** by Resolution 2015-34, the UBCIC Chiefs Council appointed Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, to serve as the UBCIC representative to the New Relationship Trust Board of Directors for the three-year term beginning December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2018;

**WHEREAS** the UBCIC Elections Procedures, adopted February 28, 2013, set out 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 the NRT Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2021, to be chosen in accordance with the UBCIC Elections Procedures; and

WHEREAS UBCIC received one (1) application from Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, for the position of UBCIC representative to the New Relationship Trust Board of Directors, and the UBCIC Electoral Officer provided notice that Chief Byron Louis was acclaimed to the position.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly appoint Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, to serve as the UBCIC representative to the New Relationship Trust Board of Directors for the three-year term beginning December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2021; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC representative to the New Relationship Trust Board of Directors to provide updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council as necessary.

**Moved:** Tom Konek, Westbank First Nation (Proxy)

Seconded: Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin

**Disposition:** Carried

Date: October 4, 2018

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly  $Oct\ 2^{\text{ND}}\ to\ 4^{\text{TH}}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Resolution no. 2018-43

### **RE: BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Approvals**

**WHEREAS** First Nations were not consulted, nor were party to the 1985 Federal-Provincial agreement that unconstitutionally transferred the authority to operate gaming facilities to the provinces, who then retained the associated revenues;

**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 British Columbia, committed to implement, affirms:

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

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

Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. ...;

**WHEREAS** First Nations require consistent, predictable and sustainable funding in order to support the rebuilding of our nations, our governments, and our economies, to improve the capacity and infrastructure of First Nations communities, to develop effective long-range planning, and to pursue development

opportunities to address the economic, social and cultural needs of our communities in an effort to combat systemic poverty;

**WHEREAS** First Nation communities in all other provinces enjoy the annual benefits of multi-million-dollar gaming revenues. First Nations in BC have never received a share of annual gaming revenues (\$1.4 billion in net revenue in 2017);

WHEREAS First Nations have been discussing the issue of shared revenues and jurisdiction over gaming in British Columbia since 1993. In 2006, a Steering Committee of the BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Initiative (the "Steering Committee") was established for the purpose of supporting research and developing a gaming revenue sharing proposal, supported by UBCIC Resolution 2007-02. Further, the UBCIC Chiefs Council endorsed and adopted the draft Terms of Reference Framework (November 2010) for the BC First Nations Gaming Commission by Resolution 2010-55, and has continued to provide appointments to the BC First Nations Gaming Commission for the purpose of pursuing and realizing First Nation benefits from BC Gaming;

**WHEREAS** negotiations between the BC First Nations Gaming Commission and British Columbia have reached an advanced stage;

WHEREAS the BC First Nations Gaming Commission and British Columbia are nearing substantive agreement on the terms of the sharing of annual gaming revenues with First Nations in BC, as the first phase of a renewed relationship between BC First Nations and British Columbia with respect to gaming;

**WHEREAS** the formula utilized in Ontario for the distribution of annual gaming revenues to First Nations has resulted in meaningful and measurable benefits to First Nation communities across the province;

**WHEREAS** the BC First Nations Gaming Commission is proposing the use of an Initial Distribution Formula for distributing gaming revenues to First Nations across BC based upon the Ontario experience, and broadly set out as follows:

50% of revenues distributed to each Band,

40% of revenues distributed by population, and

10% of revenues distributed for isolated and remote First Nations communities, in addition to the above amounts:

**WHEREAS** the Initial Distribution Formula will be reviewed after the initial five-year gaming revenue sharing period and at subsequent five-year reviews. Any proposed amendments will be returned to UBCIC, BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit for approval;

**WHEREAS** the implementation of gaming revenue sharing requires a legal entity to receive and distribute gaming revenues pursuant to the Initial Distribution Formula and to oversee the implementation of the revenue sharing agreement; and

**WHEREAS** an agreement on the terms of sharing of gaming revenues with British Columbia requires approval by the Executives of the UBCIC, the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit, in accordance with their respective approval processes.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly affirm the mandate for the BC First Nations Gaming Commission to negotiate gaming revenue sharing with the Government of BC;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly authorize the use of the Initial Distribution Formula for distributing gaming revenues to First Nations in BC, and that the Initial Distribution Formula will be used unless amended as a result of any five-year gaming revenue sharing review;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly authorize the BC First Nations Gaming Commission to develop and establish a BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Distribution Agency, modeled after the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership, to receive and distribute gaming revenues pursuant to the Interim Distribution Formula and to oversee the implementation of the revenue sharing agreement, with transparency and accountability to the recipient First Nations; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly authorize the UBCIC Executive, on behalf of the UBCIC Chiefs Council, to enter into an agreement with British Columbia on the sharing of annual gaming revenues with First Nations in BC, in conjunction with the First Nations Summit and the BC Assembly of First Nations.

Moved: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation

Seconded: Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin

**Disposition:** Carried

Date: October 4, 2018

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly  $Oct\ 2^{\text{nd}}\ to\ 4^{\text{th}}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Draft Resolution no. 2018-44

RE: Adoption of the 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby adopt the 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements as presented at the UBCIC 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Moved: Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band Seconded: Tom Konek, Westbank First Nation (Proxy)

**Disposition: Carried** 

Date: October 4, 2018

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly  $Oct\ 2^{\text{ND}}\ to\ 4^{\text{TH}}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Draft Resolution no. 2018-45

### **RE:** Auditor Appointment

**WHEREAS** Tombe Herrington, Chartered Professional Accountants LLP was appointed as the UBCIC Auditors at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (September 2017); 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 draft audit for review by the UBCIC Executive by July 15, 2019 to be finalized by July 31, 2019.

Moved: Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band Seconded: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation

**Disposition:** Carried

Date: October 4, 2018

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly  $Oct\ 2^{\text{nd}}\ to\ 4^{\text{th}}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Resolution no. 2018-46

**RE:** Adoption of 49<sup>th</sup> AGA Minutes

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly adopt the minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (September 2017) as presented in the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly kit.

**Moved:** Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band

Seconded: Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin

**Disposition:** Carried

Date: October 4, 2018

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly  $Oct\ 2^{\text{ND}}\ to\ 4^{\text{TH}}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Resolution no. 2018-47

### **RE:** Support for the Moose Hide Campaign

**WHEREAS** Indigenous women are three times more likely to experience domestic violence than non-Indigenous women, and three times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be killed by someone they know. This cycle of violence is rooted in the intersecting issues of colonization, residential schools, and racism against our Peoples. This is a rampant issue that has led to high numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and has caused women and girls to feel unsafe in their homes and 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 British Columbia, committed to implement, affirms:

### **Article 7**

- (1) Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- (2) Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

### **Article 21**

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

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

WHEREAS the Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who stand up to violence towards women and children. Wearing a square of moose hide signifies their commitment to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in their lives and to work together to end violence against them. The Moose Hide Campaign's vision is to spread its message to organizations, communities, and governments throughout Canada through the distribution of 10 million moose hide squares; and

**WHEREAS** the Moose Hide Campaign enables men and boys to take proactive action toward the elimination of violence against women and girls.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the Moose Hide Campaign and are committed to ending violence against women and children;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to provide a letter of support to the Moose Hide Campaign;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly call upon the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada and all Canadians to support the Moose Hide Campaign and to wear the Moose Hide pin to symbolize their commitment to end violence against women and children;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly urge the federal and provincial governments to ensure adequate resources are provided to Indigenous organizations who are proactively working to end violence against Indigenous women and children; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with the Moose Hide Campaign and other like-minded organizations to ensure the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada make progress toward ending violence against Indigenous women and children.

Moved: Kukpi7 Ryan Day, Bonaparte Indian Band

Seconded: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation

**Disposition:** Carried

**Date:** October 4, 2018

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Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly  $Oct\ 2^{\text{ND}}\ to\ 4^{\text{TH}}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Resolution no. 2018-48

### **RE: Appointment to UBCIC Resolutions Committee**

### WHEREAS the UBCIC By-Laws state that:

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

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

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

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs Council hereby recognizes the following persons as the Resolutions Committee of the UBCIC:

- 1) Councilor Debbie Abbott, Lytton First Nation (continuing)
- 2) Chief Greg Louie, Ahousaht First Nation (continuing)
- 3) Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band.

**Moved:** Chief Tom Konek, Westbank First Nation (Proxy)

Seconded: Chief Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

**Disposition:** Carried

**Date:** October 4, 2018

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  $OCT~2^{ND}~TO~4^{TH}, 2018$  Moccasin Square Gardens, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Resolution no. 2018-49

### RE: UBCIC Working Group on Uplifting and Empowering Indigenous Women

WHEREAS in May 1969, the BC Indian Homemaker's Association united and opposed the federal government's assimilation policies proposed in the White Paper. President Dr. Rose Charlie set out to unite First Nations from across BC to discuss and strategize on the potential implications of these policies. This was the largest gathering of Chiefs in BC history and in November 1969, 140 bands were represented at a conference in Kamloops; at this meeting, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) was established. UBCIC based its model on the BC Indian Homemakers Association and granted Dr. Charlie a seat on the Executive Council. At that time, she was the only woman who held a seat;

**WHEREAS** the BC Indian Homemaker's Association was a groundbreaking organization that many believe successfully balanced Province- and Nation-wide organized political action with on-the-ground community involvement. The BCIHA provided advocacy and outreach work in response to issues experienced by many First Nations communities, particularly in respect to women's rights, and gave much-needed representation to Indigenous women who continue to be underrepresented in Indigenous political organizations;

**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 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special

measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities;

### **Article 22**

- (1) Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration;
- (2) States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination;

**WHEREAS** over the past two years, Indigenous Women in Leadership forums have been hosted by various organizations. They have identified the urgent need for Indigenous women to come together to discuss challenges and support each other;

**WHEREAS** on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the UBCIC Women's Representative, Elaine Alec, hosted an Indigenous Women in Leadership session following *enowkinwixw* (traditional decision-making process); and

**WHEREAS** through *enowkinwixw*, the women present called for the creation of a UBCIC working group of women from communities who are members of UBCIC to plan regional intergenerational Indigenous women's sessions to uplift and empower Indigenous women, that are open and inclusive to all Indigenous women across BC.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize and honour the women who worked under the BC Indian Homemakers Association for their incredible leadership and wisdom in advancing Indigenous Title and Rights, including uplifting and empowering Indigenous women throughout BC and establishing the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC);

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly, honouring the BC Indian Homemakers Association, fully support the creation of a UBCIC Working Group on Uplifting and Empowering Indigenous Women ("Working Group") to:

- a. plan regional intergenerational sessions for Indigenous women across BC; and
- b. consider the creation of a UBCIC Women's Council;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Women's Representative to develop the Working Group's Terms of Reference, to populate the Working Group by providing an open invitation to women from UBCIC's member communities, and to chair the Working Group;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive and the UBCIC Women's Representative to work with like-minded organizations and seek funding to support the Working Group and the regional sessions;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Executive to communicate to both the Federal and Provincial governments the urgent need to fully fund and

implement gatherings such as those being planned by the Working Group that uplift and empower Indigenous women of all ages; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the UBCIC Women's Representative to provide regular updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council, including reporting back to the February 27-28, 2019 UBCIC Chiefs Council with a proposed structure for a UBCIC Women's Council.

Moved: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation

Seconded: Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band

**Disposition:** Carried

**Date:** October 4, 2018