

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OCT 2ND TO 4TH, 2018

MOCCASIN SQUARE GARDENS, Tk'emlúps te SecwépeM 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;

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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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