

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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

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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 1st, 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

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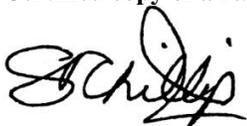
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implement gatherings such as those being planned by the Working Group that uplift and empower Indigenous women of all ages; and

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

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