

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

## UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Chief and Council,

### **RE: UBCIC 2019-2020 Membership**

We write today to invite your community to become a Member in Good Standing with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) for the 2019–2020 fiscal year. The UBCIC greatly appreciates your ongoing direction and support.

### **About the UBCIC**

The UBCIC is a non-profit Indigenous political organization representing over 100 First Nations in BC. In 2018–2019, under direction from the Chiefs Council, we continued to be a strong, principled voice for the political and territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia and the full and unqualified implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* across all levels of government. We have also continued to support and advance initiatives essential to the well-being of our communities, in areas such as energy and mining, justice, specific claims, children and families, citizenship, heritage and language, fisheries, forestry, water and addressing missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

### **Benefits for member communities**

In order to carry out its mandate, the UBCIC relies in part on membership dues and other contributions by First Nations. The UBCIC offers member communities the following services and opportunities:

- **Political advocacy:** The UBCIC advances the rights and priorities of our member communities at provincial, national, and international levels. The UBCIC works with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council to address areas of common interest at the provincial and national level and works with First Nation Councils to advance sectoral issues. We are a recognized Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and we support Indigenous Nations who seek to participate in UN processes.
- **Legal and policy analysis:** The UBCIC engages legal counsel and employs policy staff to provide advice, research, and technical support in areas relevant to our members. We provide legal and policy documents, briefings and position papers to the Chiefs Council for consideration. Policy staff

coordinate projects and proposals and help draft resolutions, press releases, and public statements.

- **Specific claims research and advocacy:** The Specific Claims Research Program (SCRCP) conducts band-directed research and legal analysis at no cost to individual bands. The program also advocates for specific claims policy reform by participating in regional and national committees and providing policy updates to Chiefs Council and member communities.
- **Use of our renowned Library and Archives:** The UBCIC Library and Archives houses one of the largest collections of research materials in BC related to Indigenous lands, resources, legal issues, and Indian Affairs materials in BC.
- **Community outreach:** The UBCIC offers free research workshops to our membership and continues to develop research publications on topics such as Indigenous use-and-occupancy mapping and historical research on Indigenous lands.
- **Travel support:** Dependent on funding, the UBCIC offers support for travel and accommodation for the chief or designated proxy to the Chiefs Councils and Annual General Assembly.
- **Support for media activities:** The UBCIC helps members organize press conferences and distribute press releases
- **Use of meeting facilities:** The UBCIC provides meeting facilities, free of charge for member communities, at our downtown Vancouver office. The UBCIC meeting rooms have served as off-reserve polling stations and are ideal for pre-meetings or meetings with government or industry.

### **Membership dues and support contributions**

UBCIC operates through a combination of external funding and membership dues. Membership dues are calculated on a sliding scale based on community size.

For existing member communities and First Nations interested in becoming members of the UBCIC Chiefs Council, the following section of the *UBCIC Constitution and Bylaws* outlines membership dues for April 1st, 2019 to March 31st, 2020:

#### A. By-law Section 1(b):

Each Full Member shall pay a membership fee to the U.B.C.I.C. depending on their registered Band Membership as follows:

- I. For members with up to 100 registered Band Members the sum of \$100.00,
- II. For members with between 101–300 registered Band Members the sum of \$200.00,
- III. For members with between 301–500 registered Band Members the sum of \$300.00,
- IV. For members with between 501–800 registered Band Members the sum of \$400.00,
- V. For members with 801 or more registered Band Members the sum of \$500.00.

In addition, each member Band is asked to provide a voluntary contribution toward the following aspects of our work:

1. Operation of the UBCIC Library and Archives, one of the largest Indigenous land rights research facilities in BC;
2. Timely legal analysis and assistance;
3. Community outreach initiatives, through which the UBCIC provides our membership with materials, information, and support.

We encourage amounts of \$500, \$1000 or \$1500 and welcome all contributions.

In closing, we sincerely extend our gratitude to communities who will be renewing their dues and contributions for their ongoing involvement in the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

If you have any questions, please contact Jody Woods, Acting Administrative Director, at the Vancouver Office (1-800-793-9701) or Arnold Peters, Finance Manager, at the Kamloops Office (250-828-9746).

In solidarity,



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip  
President



Chief Don Tom  
Vice-President



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Enclosed:** Union of BC Indian Chiefs Mandate

## **Union of BC Indian Chiefs Mandate**

It is a guiding principle of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (“UBCIC”) that our Aboriginal Title and Rights are inherent – a gift and responsibility given by the Creator to our Peoples, together with the laws to carry out these responsibilities. The UBCIC’s mandate is to work towards the implementation, exercise and recognition of our inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights and to protect of our Lands and Waters, through the exercise, and implementation of our own laws and jurisdiction.

The UBCIC strengthens Indigenous Nations to assert and implement their Aboriginal Title, Rights, Treaty Rights and Right of Self-Determination as Peoples. The UBCIC works collectively amongst Indigenous Nations in B.C. and to act as an advocacy body to provide a cohesive voice (regionally, nationally and internationally) in support of Indigenous Nations and communities, and to promote and protect each Nation’s exercise of Sovereignty within their traditional territories.

The UBCIC upholds the principles and standards articulated in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) for the establishment and maintenance of a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity, well-being and rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UBCIC advocates for Indigenous Peoples’ Right of Self-Determination under international law including to freely determine their political status and pursue economic, social and cultural development. The UBCIC affirms Indigenous rights to own, use, develop and control our lands, waters and resources, according to our own laws, and the requirement of states to give legal recognition and protection to these rights.

The UBCIC seeks to provide open, respectful communications with membership and people of the land and citizens of the Province. The UBCIC is collectively directed by Indigenous Nations and communities, to support and strengthen Indigenous governments in the exercise of our inherent rights and responsibilities, including in the areas of political, social, economic, cultural, and spiritual Sovereignty and development.