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(MEETING COMMENCED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to day two of your 51st annual general assembly. As we start our day, I'll turn it over to elder Jewel Thomas to start us off in a good way. It microphone one

(OPENING PRAYER)

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, inviting forward elder George Saddlemen for his elders report. Could you come forward please?

George, I have just a few housekeeping things while George makes his way up here. Just a reminder that this is webcast. If at any point during the day you'd like to reconsider that, make it known to me a reminder of the David Dennis fundraisers, the jacket and hat that's outside the 50/50 that's taking place. And also, don't forget about the vendors open the hallway. There's a lot of good items out there and encourage you to take a look and open up your wallets to support those vendors when you're able to. Microphone 4.

# ELDERS REPRESENTATIVE

GEORGE SADDLEMAN: [Native language], otherwise know, as George Saddleman. I'm here as a proxy for Upper Nicola Indian band as well as elder rep on the CC, I would like to thank the Musqueam for allowing us to be here to do our business again. Also, certainly I’d like to thank the lady that said the opening prayer. I always think about that because one of the things that the elders always telling me when I was growing up, pray for the people, don't forget us. So, I appreciate those moments. So, it keeps me in mind of the kind of things that I'd like to promote.

I do have a one-page document I'll just review. I do have a resolution that's coming forth. I don't know when the resolution is going to be presented today or tomorrow, so keep an eye open for that.

One of the things that as an elder rep, I see a lot of institutional work going on through the province with Indigenous groups, not only with my own band but with other bands, but we don't seem to communicate the good deals that are coming through for the elders.

But one thing that really strikes me is the post traumatic issue. I read a lady that had did a doctor paper on just on that issue alone it is a 230 page issue talking about the post-traumatic stress and I think we all carry that and I think if we can find a way to deal with it, some of us deal with it in an individual way. Some of us deal with it as a group in the community or in the region, but there is a lot of things that we need to think about because of the fact that we are shackled with the kind of things that goes on with our people and certainly the government is certainly promoting those kind of things.

When I look at the principles about how they deal with us in my research and looking at things happening to the country, I came across a book in a bookstore and the issue that was discussed in that whole book is called law and development doctrine.

Very interesting read because of the fact that the Constitution of Canada as an economic document and it all revolves around economic development and we know that, but they use this law in development doctrine to do a number of things with us. They certainly divide and conquer our people, our leadership got us pitting against one another over whatever capacity, resources that are coming. And if you're not part of the team, as we seen the federal government use that issue, one of our esteemed leadership wasn’t part of the team got knocked out of the system. They're very astute about what they want done.

I've seen on Facebook the applaud that some of the MPS and senators when they knocked down the whole issue of cultural appropriateness. We've been battling that for a long time and that adds to the post traumatic syndrome. When I think about the elders that I've come along and the elders that I've talked to, said we sit at the back and listen to you kids. If you notice that when you go to a meeting, the elders sit at the back listening to what we were saying, seeing if we're promoting our cultural values and principles, the teachings that our people have taught us. And if we don't, then we don't get to Parkdale. They say, Oh George Saddleman is just trying to better himself. But there'll come a time that he will come and ask us for help. And that's what happens to us. We forget to ask the elders for help because they'd been around a lot longer. And that to me has been what we respect is a lot longer than us.

Part of the healing process of our own self has been told to me. When you go to the [Native language], you go to the mountains, you go there and look for that big Fir tree two, three feet wide or whatever the oldest tree you think and you talk to that Fir tree, tell him your problems. That tree has been around a lot longer than a lot of us. You talk and you make an offering, ask for forgiveness and ask for guidance. So, that's one part of our healing process that I've learned over the years.

As I listened to the elders, at least from my home area, when the elders told me, don't forget kids, you got the power. I thought about it for a long time. Where are we get our power from is from the language, from the oral stories, from our songs and our ceremonies.

So, those are the kinds of things I think about when I go to a meetings and how does that work? Especially when we're dealing with institutional arrangements that we have with the province or Canada. It makes it pretty difficult for us to sit around and have traditional instructions and listen to what has happened.

The divide and conquer processes has got us big time. There's a few times that I seen the leadership at this table come together. There might have been a little bit of rumblings in the back, but I was there when we rejected the funds in Chilliwack. I was there.

Lot of commotion, a lot of emotion, lot of strong words, and we're still living with those consequences today. We can see that kind of blockage or barrier to the kind of work that we want to do. If you look at the Treasury Board directives, we've got to have good governance.

Our style of governance has no room within the process. A lot of us are doing, at least myself doing research on, on our own traditional style of governance. It's way different from what the treasury board commits. So,, if we don't follow the rules, then we're not part of the team. Then they find some way to take away the capacity resources.

You look at our contribution agreements that we make or that we sign with different entities, governmental entities, they always talk about we have to have good governance and if you're a membership, get out of line. It's up to us, chief and council to put them back in a place. So, it's a, it's a pretty mean game that we're playing. I heard yesterday somehow we need to do some collective work and I think I've been looking for that collective work for a while.

I remember, I think it was 1993 we all started moving away from the table. I think officially the Nisga’as moved away, but it has been told that one day that we'll come back to the table and do that collective role. I seen us come back to the table, but it didn't last too long. This lasted for that one meeting.

So,, this is what the elders are looking at. When are our leaders going to get together and deal with our, with our rightful role? And when they do that, they think about the abuses they have had, things that our people do in the community. To most of us, that's not normal. That's not the normal way to doing things.

But our people have been carrying on the abusive process so long. They think it's a normal thing what they do. And they just laugh. When I talked to them, I said, you shouldn't be doing it. Ah, who are you to tell me? So,, you can see it very alive.

You know, as leaders, we sacrifice a lot of our time. We have a [Native language] story how food was given, and it describes how we suffer.

So, those are the kinds of things I look to as I move forward and a lot are part of my, my life. I first started working with the Union of Chiefs, I think it was a 1973 or somewhere around there, I was the accounts payable and certainly it's a lot different from what goes on today. I remember going… accounts payable cause at the time we're doing what they call a consultation rounds. And my job was to receive a travel expense farms and, and pay out the delegates.

It was quite the time. And I had to pay out cash, so I'd go to the local bank in Williams Lake or Vernon or Prince George or wherever and get a lot of cash out about $3,000 or so. So,, it was a pretty exciting time. And I think about it now.

I used to travel at the time with the chief Adam Arrhenius I was his, he calls me saddlebags and he's still calls me saddlebags today. So,, there's a lot of stories that we teach each of our communities, each of our areas want to share. We haven't gotten enough time here. I noticed our agenda calls for just a half an hour presentation or something. There's not enough time, so we have to make time.

I'm a student of our culture. One of the things I've certainly learned was that we do have what they call, I call at least I call it [Native language] protocol and that comes from in our language comes from happy times, it comes from a long time ago as a tribal group.

As a tribal group we'd meet once a year, but as the interior Salish people, we met every four years and those places were in the Nicola Valley just a few kilometers where I live. So,, I think about those things.

We need to get back to that spirit because our elders, ancestors from yesterday, I can feel them when I go to those places. I don't know about you people, but certainly I could feel them here. That's when I take a moment and say a prayer or introduce myself, let the ancestors know who I am and what I'm doing there.

So, those are the kinds of things that we need to do. Get back to our way of doing things. Sure. It's nice to have an institution because the institution has to interact with the government somehow, the government can’t interact with our institution, because there's no mechanism. There is section 35. They're trying to figure out how to do that, but they're having a hard time.

So, we must come together with all our accumulated wisdom and knowledge from 19… or whenever the Union first started, I was going to a Cariboo College as it was called at a time, I was taking my accounting one. I was sitting in a classroom. And then I could know that there's something happening over at the Kamloops school. Two of us were sitting there. We should take the day off and go listen to those chiefs. But we're so in tune to being in a class that we were sitting there.

So,, I do have a concept document. I did present it once upon day, but it was told to me at the time, the capacity and resources we have to account for the past capacity resources. So, maybe George bring it back to the next meeting show. A couple of meetings have gone by are now and I've had the opportunity and I'm certainly first on the agenda. Thank you. So,, my request is seeking the Union chiefs resolutions part. An issue to make application to NRT and other like organizations for funding. And the steps are develop a budget, make application, seek potential funding sources, engage qualified First Nations. That was the other thing, the consultant I was going to use didn't have a good name with some of the leadership at a table. So,, I let that person go on his way and the whole idea is to create a focus group, very principled. Let's not get into the details. Let's talk about principles about what we need to do forward. Not only to support the elders, but certainly support the leadership because there's a great lot… lots of knowledge still out there. Certainly, develop a summary document for the table here and test an implementations of the policies. So, those are the kinds of things that I'm thinking about very principally. So,, with that I'd like to thank you very much for your time and watch for my resolution.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, George.

Sorry. Thank you, George. If there's no questions or comments with George, would you like to go directly to the resolution? I see some nodding. It was distributed as George started. So,, George, if you could stay there to answer any questions that might arise.

So,, you've got the concept paper in front of you that explains the nature of that request. So,, I'll draw your attention to draft resolution 2019-60 REGARDING DEVELOPING POLICY TO ADDRESS ELDERS ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly support UBCIC elders representative George Saddleman’s initiative to develop an elders abuse policy; and

**Therefore be it finally resolved** the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct UBCIC executive and staff to work with UBCIC elders representatives to develop an elders abuse and neglect policy, subject available resources and upon completion to share, distribute the policy at UBCIC Chiefs’ council assemblies and other gatherings to educate elders of their rights and caregivers of their responsibilities.

Is there a mover?

GEORGE SADDLEMAN: Yes. I will move

that resolution. A proxy for Upper Nicola.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, George. Seconder mike 7.

TRAVIS HALL: [Native language]. Travis Hall, Heiltsuk Tribal Council.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Travis Hall Heiltsuk Tribal Council proxy.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mike 7, please.

TRAVIS HALL: Travis Hall, Heiltsuk Tribal Council, proxy for Marilynn Slett.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any discussion? Mike 18.

JANET WEBSTER: Chief Janet Webster. Just a friendly amendment on the top where it says redeveloping policy to address elder abuse, comma, neglect and exploitation; and therefore be it resolved on the first one at the end to add oh no, the second one. Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC chiefs and BCAFN elder rep in assembly direct the UBCIC… I'm sorry. Getting mixed up here.

And the first therefore after the policy to add exploitation and then under the second therefore be it resolved after chiefs and BCAFN elders rep to work with the committee with the elders. Sorry. You hope you got that?

GEORGE SADDLEMAN: Yes. I, I agree with what you're saying because I like to thank the policy analysis staff here for trying to put together a first draft and I appreciate any changes or recommendations and what you're mentioning. I accept. Thank you.

JANET WEBSTER: Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So,, a bit of a point of order. I don't think a Union resolution can direct another organization's elders rep to work with us. The background document that George provided does have likeminded organizations working together. So,, for your second suggested amendment, I would say leave that to the backup document because there's room in there, but definitely adding exploitation. The end of the first, therefore

Mike 17.

CHAF ENEAS: [Native language]. Chad Eneas Chief of the Penticton Indian band. I would just make a suggestion on the final whereas in point 2 where suggests making an application to the New Relationship Trust. I would suggest making an application and striking the limiting factor of only to the New Relationship Trust, I would say, something in the effect making an application for funding to multiple organizations for policy development.

I make this suggestion because I think there's a correlation between the new Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions in terms of how you might access funding to support the initiative.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Chief. I'll draw your attention to the concept document with the numbered section down below where it says number two speaks to the NRT, like you just referenced. But number three speaks to seek other potential funding sources for the project.

I think that's covered fairly. Any other discussion? Are we prepared for question, questions and call any not in favour? Opposed any abstentions? Seeing neither. The resolution is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Any concluding remarks? George?

GEORGE SADDLEMAN: I'd just like to thank the floor for taking a moment to look for some work that we need to do with elders. Certainly. Wyet limt lim.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim. So, now bear with us for a moment while we get ready for the next agenda item, which is a honouring your president, inviting forward our host, Musqueam drummers, inviting the family to come forward and get ready, we're going to do it just to my front left right here so everybody can see appropriately. So, just bear with us for a moment, please.

(Track 20)

# UBCIC PRESIDENT HONOURING

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, I am going to turn the floor over to [Native language] from the, the Musqueam family here is going to provide a, an honour song and share some words with our, our Grand Chief here in recognition of beginning his eighth term as president of the evening of these Indian chiefs. And in addition, I would like to add flavour that he is in by acclimation. Again, we just want to kind of pause there working, recognize and honour our beloved Grand Chief in that regard.

(HONOUR SONG FROM MUSQUEAM)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Thanking your Musqueam family for stepping forward and honouring our loved one here with an honour song.

Inviting forward elder George Saddleman. Would you come forward and share some words please? Any representatives from the Okanagan that would help Chief Eneas with an honour song, as well, you're encouraged to come forward.

CHAD ENEAS: Wyet limt lim [Native language].

I guess I wanted to say a few things on behalf of the Penticton Indian band and the drive by Stewart’s house when he's outside chopping wood. He still does that you know.

I just want to express the little bit from a grassroots kind of perspective. When I got elected, Stewart told me, you know, who put me in as chief. It was the people from up to the Hill. And our elders and our ancestors, in that same light, I think Stewart has really expressed the traditional values of our people, especially from Penticton in terms of defending and protecting title and rights and speaking on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves, like the [Native language], the salmon, the environment, and even the people who are not in our forums, in our meetings, but the people that are at home in our communities.

So,, I thought about it a little bit, not a lot, but a little bit, cause I, I'm not as green as Stewart, but there's a word I'm a student of the language and we hear it often.

I've done a little bit of analysis on the word breakdowns of [Native language]and [Native language]. And I just want to express one part of that word. And it's Tum [ph], because a lot of speakers that are fluent aren't educated in linguistics or phonetics, but I've had the fortune to be exposed to that a little bit. And that word, Tum, if you think about being in a blizzard and there's a group of you, there's… you know, somebody is ahead of you, but there's nobody that you're following. And there's nobody that's leading. If you think about being in a blizzard and you can't see what's in front of you and you have this feeling that your life and everything that you know depends on you, tum. And I think what you represent is what this organization representing what our people represent as if our life depends on it.

So,, I just wanted to share that with you in our language to tum hula [ph], tum meelh [ph], you hear it all the time as if our lives depend on it. And that's not just humans. That is our world that we live in. So,, I wanted to share that a little bit with this honouring of you because I think that's what you represent. And I want you to hear me say that. Sometimes we need to vocalize things and I'm trying to annunciate properly.

But this song I'm going to sing, it's called a one day, one month and one year. And it represents the courage that it takes, that you've expressed, it expresses the determination. You've been here more than one year. So,, I can't sing it that many times, but it represents that ever-lasting spiral that needs to continue in, in terms of preserving who we are. So,, I'm going try not to butcher it and I want to express my gratitude for everybody to be here for this as well.

So,, I was just saying that we have one of our relatives from here that's living here, and I think this is a real expression of the honouring is that the relationships that we have with each other are so important.

(HONOUR SONG FROM OKANAGAN)

GEORGE SADDLEMAN: Words for Stewart is hard to find, especially in English language. They differ fluent in our own language. A lot of our old people have lots of things to say. I've sat the same meeting table to Stewart, probably even some of the roadblocks because we were radicals once upon a day. But it's been told to me that there will come a time when the younger generation come up. I'm thinking, let it be the seventh generation and certainly Stewart is leading the way, however hard it is to do, but it has been told to me that our younger people are going to be very creative and innovative in the thinking, especially through the cultural process, you're going to be a new day for us. Our job is to stand up the principles of our culture so that they won't forget. Certainly, in the language as we know, that's where our laws come from.

Our songs as we're here pays tribute to things that we do and certainly our ceremonies have a lot to do with things. So, those are the kinds of principles I think about. And certainly, Stewart stands up for those kinds of things through thick and thin through the carts and through the whatever. It's a tough job. Like you say the how food was given story, it talks about how the Fort food chief stood there.

One of the comments from the leaders, not so long ago said, our chiefs make a sacrifice so that our people can be. So, certainly, Stewart has sacrificed a lot over the years and there's many of us in the crowd that done the same thing.

I did a quick calculation yesterday in the leadership role that I'm in 44 years I've been around. So,, I've been there and back, and I certainly enjoy the work that I do. Even sometimes you have to sacrifice more than you what you could because of the fact that you have to travel away from your family. And like Stewart and our old people always say they pray for me every day when I'm gone. And I appreciate that. So, those are the kinds of things I think about when I work alongside Stewart. I've never seen him get cranky. I'm the one that gets cranky I guess. But I see Stewart very peacefully sitting and probably inside his stomach is growling, because he is hungry or something. But those are the kind of things that I think about.

So,, when we sit at the table, I think about that [Native language] protocol, like I say, interior Salish People used to come together every four years.

I think that the common thing was that we were related. My relatives on my mom's side, we come from Fountain and my relatives and the other side, my grandma's side, [Native language], but they make their home in Italy. So,, I got relatives all through the country, friends as well.

So,, when we get into a moment, we always like to think about our relatives, the common things that we all agree to and certainly the support that needs to happen. We need to do that more often.

I've been to a few ceremonies and long houses down here in the coastal area. Very awesome. Very awesome. I like that. I like the song that the people are sang, it reminds me of when we had a masked dance just down over here somewhere. Awesome. I never witnessed like that. And that's not open to the public, but it was open to the chiefs.

So, those kinds of things bring back memory of the work that we do. I imagine I have all kinds of other stories, but I'll just leave it at that, and I’d like to thank Stewart and his good wife Joan for sacrificing all the things that they do. Wyet limt lim.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim. Regional Chief, would you come forward please?

TERRY TEEGEE: [Native language]. Musqueam people, thank you for allowing us in the territory. My name is Terry Teegee, I'm from Taku Lake, First Nation [Native language], wolf with the white spot on their head. I'm from about 900 kilometers North of here. And I was thinking about what I should say today and in the many travels of this man, eight terms, 21 years. And I can only think of the experiences that I had with him.

When I was first elected as the vice chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Stewart came up to my community, which is five and a half hours North of Prince George, three hours on dirt road. And he faced the music at that time because it was the issue throughout the province was the rights recognition legislation. And many of my chiefs and hereditary chiefs were pissed off, mad and Stewart was the only one that showed up and sat there and took it all in a very graceful way and said, yeah, perhaps the way we did this was wrong. And then we showered them with a bunch of gifts. So,, we're, here I am, give him another gift.

But every time a I came calling Stewart was the one that showed up. And in our fight against Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline every time we had a function, whether it was here or North in Prince George or on the land, Stewart was there.

Up north I also recall, and when I became the tribal chief, the Lake Babine accident with the mill workers and the injustice there for the mill workers to receive some sort of justice. We had a protest and Stewart showed up in his wheelchair just after his motor vehicle accident.

And more recently, you know, those are the many times. And more recently with the rest of the Leadership Council, he showed up at the Big Bar slide. We went there and visited and see what the hell was going on and talked to the people, but also Stewart was there to speak up for ,you know, those things, the environment and those things that don't have a voice.

So,, as a recognition on behalf of the myself and British Columbia Assembly of First Nations board, my elders and youth I have a gift here for your many years of service.

We commissioned this and a young man, Clayton Gauthier from Nakazleh Whuten, it's a piece of artwork. A drum and it is called prayers for the salmon. So,, this is a on behalf all of us, I'm sure that many of us here really the work you do. Mussi cho.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mussi cho, Regional Chief. Kukpis.

JUDY WILSON: [Native language]. On behalf of our UBCIC executive, we really appreciate everyone for being here today to witness and honour Stewart, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. He spends a lot of hours on the road and he makes it to wherever he's going.

When he did have his accident, I was asked to step in a bit, and I tell you it was a hard job. I barely made it to all the places I was supposed to go. And there was high expectations in each of the communities. It's not just the leadership that you see, it's the people, the elders, the grandmothers, the kids.

So,, he has quite a network out there and that he has built over the years, but it's also built on respect cause he's never ever steered from those principles and those high values. And I just want to say I really appreciate Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and all he's doing and how he's still continued to walk in the ancestral way of our people and he hasn't steered from that because it is about protection of the water, protection of the land, protection of our rights and what the Union of BC Indian Chief's was founded on in 1969.

So,, we haven't wavered from that position. And it's very clear, he was very clear with me when I started. We can only do what we have resolutions and directed by the chiefs. And that's the bedrock, the bottom principle. So,, whatever the chief's tables are here is deciding that's how we we’re directed, and he hasn't ever steered out that.

Sometimes I would get all excited about a lot of different things he'd say, hold on here what does the resolution say . So,, thank you for that guidance and wisdom and the most of all appreciation to our Union BC Indian Chief staff and many of them have been here for years and years. I think Arnold holds the high one for being here, the longest a and Mildred's here today too. And I really appreciate all the work that we do for our chiefs and for our proper title holders. Our people at home. Kukstemc. Thank you.

DON TOM: [Native language]. My dear elders, relatives who are here today I just want to express my appreciation for the beautiful work that took place. My name is Kwululhstun [PH]. I also carry a Nuu-chah-nulth name, Kiinhuth [ph]. I am chief of Tsartlip and vice president here at UBCIC.

I just want to express my gratitude for Grand Chief and all of the work that he's done. And for an a up and comer, a younger leader I really looked up to Grand Chief for all that he's done. He's come to our community many times in Tsartlip and he's come to community meetings where our band members are screaming and they're fighting. And he had that opportunity to witness that. And I was a little bit embarrassed of that, but he came up to me and said, you know, it kind of reminds me of a bit of my community and to the see the way… there was a mother who stood up and said who didn't appreciate people firing their guns so close to her home. And he just really made me feel comforted. And he has that great humility and that great ability to just make you feel at peace and to make you feel content in his presence.

And so, I just want to say that I've always looked up to Grand Chief and for… and I could sit and listen to his old war stories of whether it's occupations, occupying fisheries offices, roadblocks. I could sit and listen to him all day. And I have, and I will continue to do but I just wanted to share today what an honour it is to serve with you on the executive and what did a dream job this is for me and I look forward to every time that I meet with you and to sit with you and you make being a chief very pleasant with your support, not only politically, but personally you've always been there for me. When I received my [Native language] mask Grand Chief Stewart was there as well, who accepted the invitation and came to the Island. So,, I always just feel very special in your presence and just want to raise my hands to you. Huy tseep q’u siem siya.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, everyone. So,, we'll leave the final comments to the Grand Chief,

JOAN PHILLIP: [Native language]. I just want to thank my Coast Salish relatives and Musqueam, Squamish and particularly Tsleil Waututh for the opportunity to be here and witness the honouring of my husband. We've been married a long time, but more importantly we've been sober for 30 and 32 years now.

That's really when our life began. And when I first met Stewart actually, he met me through a book that my sister wrote called Bobby Lee Indian Rebel. And there was a little bank of pictures in there and one of the photographs was just my face and I was wearing a choker and he bought the book and he kept looking at that picture over and over and over. He, he never did read the book. So,, I had an opportunity at one time to thank my sister for writing the book and then I was on the board of directors of the Vancouver Indian Center and he got invited to sit on the board. And the rest is history. A little I talk. Being with them now is so much different than when we started. And I remember when that first there was an election, for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and I was telling him, I said, you know, I said, we're in a time of our history where we really deserve good leadership. And so, he ran and back home they were a little upset at that because he was still the chief, but it's been a blessing. I know he, he's got a tear back and forth every, every weekend down to Vancouver and back home on the weekends. And that's fine because I - we met - it was politics that brought us together and it's our politics that have kind of solidified the relationship and it's what keeps us going. And, and I think of sometimes, you know, small talk is just small talk, but most of our discussions are always political. And we even served on council together and fought together on council together.

But really, it's all about, we were taught four things by our elders to love the people, to love the land, to love the culture, which includes language and love our spirituality. And those are the things that we have to hold up and stand up. And that's what he does. And so, I just honour, and I'm so blessed that he bought my sister's book. And now he has to read it. And we have five children and, and 15 grandchildren.

I always say, whatever we don't do, they're going to inherit. So,, we do as much as we can for as long as we can. And I for that, I hold them up. Wyet limt lim.

STEWART PHILLIP: [Native language]. Well, most people don't realize I'm kind of shy by nature and I always feel a little embarrassed when these things happen. So,, any other circumstance, I have the sense of what needs to be said and what needs to be heard. But you know, this is different, but at any rate, I want to thank the Musqueam people for their generosity for the honour song. I have the deepest, greatest respect for the Musqueam people and we did stand together with the csnam [ph] issue and against great odds we were able to salvage that burial site.

There was an effort made to build a five-story condominium on top of that burials site and we prevailed. And the Musqueam people have very strong hearts and are dedicated to protecting the sacredness of our ancestors. So,, it was a real honour to be down here. And I'd like to thank the Okanagan delegation for the honoursong. I just wanted to say, as I've always said I wouldn't be standing here if it wasn't for Joan. You know, that's our strength is our relationship and our common sense of purpose and our love for the land and unconditional love for the people.

You know, we went through an evolution, a bitterness and anger and resentment and as time moved forward, you know it evolved into genuine love and respect and kindness? And I guess that's the natural progression of leadership. Myself, I was apprehended, and I carried so much baggage around that issue about the deep-rooted anger. But it took me a long time to get on top of that. Treatment was a help. Choices was a great help. And how our grandchildren have been afforded the opportunity to enjoy our wellness. They love coming to our house cause it's safe and you know, we don't yell at them or anything like that. It's a no free zone. So, I've loved this organization since I first became aware of it back in the early seventies. And that meeting that George was at where the funding was rejected and that debate that raged throughout the day, I was there too, listening.

I've been engaged with the UBCIC for all that time up until this point. And I'm just so proud of what this organization represents. I'm proud of the you know this organization has a soul and you can feel that every time we come together. And we do stand and protect our rights, our inherent rights. And, you know, we defend the land at every opportunity and our people's interests. And it's such an honour to be part of that. It's very humbling and we have enormous influence because of what this organization represents. So,, again, I just want to acknowledge Joan, because you know, Joan is, you know, the sun rises and sets on her in my life. So, wyet limt lim.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Chiefs and deelgates, delegates, I'm afraid that's all the time we've had for this. Encouraging you to maybe… we'll leave the mics open over lunch and other opportunities over the next couple of days for you to share your words with the Grand Chief as well.

But just to point out that at home at a point in time like this, somebody always say that this is a celebration for this moment in time, Grand Chief, that there's high expectations that you continue doing the good work that you've been doing for so long, at a minimum for the next three years, but well into the future as well. So,, appreciating that.

So,, we're going transition immediately into our next agenda item resuming jurisdiction over children and families inviting forward Mary-Ellen Turpel-Lafond Kukpis Judy, Regional Chief, Cheryl Casimer, and Jennifer Charlesworth, RCY. Could you come forward to my right please?

(Track 21)

# JURISDICTION OVER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

TYRONE MCNEIL: Here's what the rest of the day, we're half hour behind, so we've got a little bit of time to make up. We'll cut each presentation by five minutes or so, seven minutes or so, and we'll be on time towards the end of the day. So,, we'll have just under an hour on this topic. Who would like to start? And just a reminder to everybody that this is being webcast

TERRY TEEGEE: [Native language]. Chiefs, hereditary chiefs, delegates, once again, I just want to acknowledge the Musqueam people and also thanks to the elder for the prayer this morning.

I am just here to introduce where we're at and in terms of the child welfare legislation in particular the federal legislation, but also the ongoing work that we're doing with the Province of British Columbia. I think we have to acknowledge that we're really in an incredible time right now in regards to child welfare. And as British Columbia, I think it should be noted that we are the only region where this legislation can be really enacted. Out of the 10 regions that the Assembly of First Nations represent. And for that matter, the Inuit and Metis. British Columbia can really go forward in terms of our jurisdiction, your respective organizations and community and nations jurisdiction and taken over child welfare.

And I think that's a really important that… and also recognize for far too long, for many decades that our children were taken away, forcibly taken away. And also recognize in a lot of the media where there was a complete disregard for our First Nations caretakers or parents who just saw their children taken away. And I think it's also I want to acknowledge that many nations in British Columbia are moving ahead in terms of taking over jurisdiction. And that's really important work that you're doing, and you have to continue on to assert your governance and assert the way you believe that your children should be taken care of, whether it's within your community or if there was children or are outside of your community.

And as a part of the three organizations of BCAFN, First Nations Summit and UBCIC the three of my three, the three Amigos myself, Cheryl Casimer and Judy Wilson have been really engaging with our technical staff, Mary Ellen Turpel-LaFond and our technical staff to work on this file. Quite importantly, because it's an opportunity where this Bill will be enacted on January 1st, and taken over jurisdiction with the Province of British Columbia where there is a tripartite working group with the federal government and then also the provincial government.

And I'll just pass it on to my colleagues to continue on with this presentation. But lastly, I just want to just to say how important is to acknowledge that what we stated to Minister Seamus O’Reagan who is Indigenous and Services Canada who has been really putting forward this Bill to the federal government and the parliament. And previous to Seamus was Jane Philpott, is that we clearly stated to not only the federal government but also to the national chief and also to the other regions that we don't want to be waiting behind, that this will be specifically to British Columbia, that we want to move ahead and move forward. We know that out of all the children that have been taken away and nearly a third came out of – nearly a third are British Colombian children. So,, it's really important that we continue this work and with your direction, with your guidance, we continue to move forward and that this will be a BC specific process to represent your organizations and the way you see moving forward. So,, I pass it on to my fellow colleagues Cheryl Casimer and Judy Wilson,

CHERYL CASIMER: [Native language]. Good morning everyone. I want to start off by acknowledging the Musqueam, their territory for allowing us to do this important work. I also wanted to take… I know that we owe that we're running behind, so my report is going to be very brief given that it's quite similar to the report that was presented to the BCAFN assembly last week and we also have a two-day all chiefs meeting coming up next week of which there'll be an opportunity to have more detailed and further discussion on the issues that we're going to touch on here today.

Before I start into my report though, I just wanted to share my congratulations to Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, as well, for his success in on continuing as the president for the UBCIC.

And I just wanted to share a quick quote because to me this captures Stewart's leadership and what it means to me.

Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

That was a quote from Harry S Truman. So,, congratulations Stewart.

I'm going to quickly touch on issues that are happening federally as well as what's happening at our tripartite table. As has been mentioned by my colleague, regional chief, he or yes, regional chief. He quickly touched on Bill C-92 that received royal assent on June 21st of this year. And then earlier last month Canada announced that the Bill was going to be fully brought into force January 1st, 2020. And so that's why we're having the two-day session next week to talk a bit more about what that Bill means and what it is that we can be doing here on the ground, preparing ourselves to assume that jurisdiction and authority.

At the national level through the AFN they've indicated that they're going to be creating a distinctions-based governance tables to do this work. Although I mean we can… we support that to a certain extent as long as it doesn't affect our impact, the work that we're doing here in British Columbia because we want to… we know that we are ahead of some regions because of the fact that we have a partnership with British Columbia and they're full partners with us and full supporters of the work that we want to do. Other regions are not that lucky.

And so that's what makes us different than the rest and we want to make sure that nothing impedes our ability to continue on with that partnership and to do the work that needs to happen here on the ground. We actually brought a resolution to the AFN a G a to, to that point. And we received support from the chiefs there that BC will continue to do its work in the way that we see fit that's going to best meet our needs and our interests here in British Columbia.

Also, at the AFN level though a resolution came to the floor supporting Bill C-92 and also the creation of an AFN chiefs political and technical committee to help them do some work. At the BCAFN meeting there were appointments that were made for the chief's political committee. Chief Wayne Christian was appointed and for the chiefs technical committee Bill Yoachim was appointed. So, those are the two reps for British Columbia, just as an FYI.

One of the other recent victories that we have been dealing with is the ruling from the CHRT, that came down on September 6th. And that ruling found that Canada had willfully and recklessly discriminated against First Nations children and families. And so those that have been discriminated against are entitled up to compensation of up to $40,000 for the discrimination and subsequent harm caused. You can find more information on the Chairing Society's website and I'm not sure if we have any information. We do. Okay.

We can they get it on our website. The UBCIC also has that information on their website, as well. I'm quickly going to go over to the technical tripartite working group that we have.

Just a couple of quick things. We're continuing to work on our work plan and our budget to help us carry through on the work that we've identified. We've got some priority areas that we'll be focusing on fiscal relations and funding, resumption of jurisdiction and practical implications for First Nations in British Columbia. This is to ensure that there's alignment between the federal and provincial legislation and that child and family services are adequately funded and resourced based on the principles of substantive equality that there is the funding necessary for First Nations to come to the table and to draw down on this legislation and that jurisdiction discussions are First Nations directed and led. And to support this work we've struck some technical working groups under the umbrella of the TWG. A call out has been sent out to all First Nations in British Columbia. And I hope that you've had an opportunity to look at it because the deadline for those call-outs is coming up fairly quickly is October 15th is the deadline. We're looking for the representatives to join our practice subcommittee and our fiscal relations subcommittee.

I believe that that email was sent out on September 19th sent out through the BCAFN. So,, hoping that you have some people who have that expertise with that background from the nation level who can come and join us on these technical working groups.

As I mentioned we do have the two-day session coming up on October 9th and 10th at the Sheraton Wall Center. I'm hoping that people are registering for that. It will be a full discussion on Bill C-92 and what it means and what the implications are to BC First Nations. We want to be able to create a strong understanding of what the legislation means and how nations can draw down on it.

We have several nations already who are beginning that work on jurisdiction and they'll be presenting on what it is that they're doing, what's working, what are some of the challenges. And we're hoping by the end of the two days that we'll be able to walk away with a clearer understanding of what is possible with this legislation so that all children and families from First Nations in BC are able to benefit.

Prior to the all chiefs on October 9th and 10th the child and family leads are RC, myself and Chief Judy Wilson have also been invited to participate in the two-day session that's taken place in Splatsin. I believe that Chief Wayne Christian and his team have been putting together this session to bring together those nations that are working on jurisdiction right now, to also be able to have fulsome discussion sharing ideas about what works, what isn't and what the challenges are and coming up with possibly some recommendations to feed into the two day session on the ninth and 10th. So,, I'm looking forward to the Indigenous jurisdiction gathering as well.

And I think that's it for me. I'm trying to be really quick because I understand where a half hour behind.

JUDY WILSON: I'll also be brief and thank you again for the songs and the prayers this morning and our ancestral people of Musqueam and the modern day descendants and the leadership.

I just wanted to just pick up on one point on the federal one is, and Mary Ellen will speak to it, I hope, is the coordination agreements. We still don't know what the wording and the language in those agreements will be and how you access them. And then the funding of course, which the federal government as you know, is in election mode. So,, they're saying not till October, but whatever respective government comes in, we need to know that piece.

So,, I'll just quickly go onto the provincial landscape. So,, there was a bilateral protocol signed with Minister Conroy, the Ministry of Children, Family Development. And under that protocol, the ministers agreed to for regular meetings with the Leadership Council to discuss matters relating. And that's within the scope and within the accordance to the resolutions the chiefs have given us. We have to continue on with our communications.

As you heard, there's an immediate cease on the practice of earth alerts but we're still finding the policies and the practice have to change on the ground. So, that we're still continuing to deal with that. The practice of flagging of expectant parents, mothers you know, that has to change. And we're still dealing with the issues of baby H of course. So, many in might have heard of that in the news. So,, the stopping birth alert policy, you know, is important, but the issues are continuing, and we need to ensure that it's not just Ministry Child and Family. There needs to be a cross ministerial approach to it. So, that's what we're pushing the province and the agencies to so that, you know, we can end that practice. It tears the families apart and then the tribunal decisions should also, you know, make a people question when they're making those decisions on apprehension like that because of the willful and reckless regard for breaking up families.

The other thing, and I'll leave a lot of that to the RCY, but we're working on renewed relationship with which we did already so that the MOU is associated with resolution. It's in your package to review. It's an important work that the RCY does. So,, we need to have regular meetings, we need to have regular communications.

And the other point is still with 50% of children still being in care that are Indigenous. You know, it's important that we have that data and the RCY has it and that we understand those issues and we can have those advocates working with us and for us and reporting to our governments to support the work that's happening around Indigenous children and family.

So,, the other important aspect I just want to touch on too is the UN Declaration. There's components in a Bill C-92, so yet we have to be careful how we're building on that in the UN Declaration and the provincial legislation. So,, you know because there's already some entrenched in the Bill C-92, so we have to work how that's going to work with the province and then the proposed UN Declaration.

So,, I just want to encourage the chiefs, if you haven't signed the undertaking please sign it so you can look at the UN Declaration legislation and keep in mind, how does that work with children and family? How does that work with languages? How does that work with the other legislation that has passed and some of the ones that are being proposed and some of the legislation that we're dealing with currently.

So,, thank you. And I'll leave a lot of the other stuff to Mary Ellen and RCY here. Okay. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Just before continuing just a clarification for chiefs, delegates and the panel. I did state where a half hour behind, but I'm not expecting any one agenda item to make up that half hour. I did ask each presentation to be reduced by five to seven minutes and this is one of the bigger ticket items of discussion today. So,, we will take the time necessary to have the discussion. So,, don't feel too rushed, panel, but do get your messages across so we can engage chiefs with questions and comments. Mike 5, mike 4. Yeah.

MARY ELLEN TURPEL-LAFOND: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. I too would like to thank Musqueam Nation and Musqueam people for their hospitality and acknowledge their territory. So,, I'm Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Akeykway [ph] is my [Native language] name. But everybody calls me Metal so you can call me metal or heavy metal if it's a bad day. Today's a good day. So,, don't have to call me heavy metal.

I'm just going to ask that they pop up on the screen a sheet that I want to go through. Just to follow up on the briefing that you've received from Leadership Council, we're going to circulate just a one-page document for you today and I want to walk through it in terms of the technical briefing.

We have as, as you know, some really significant gatherings on children and families next week, gathering of those who are working on their own laws or have already got their laws in place. That's the jurisdiction meeting with the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council. I'm very excited to be going to that and to be supporting that because obviously you'll see the first point on this kind of blue power point. People have been ready for a long time and this isn't a new area, but the world is going to change on January 1.

So,, what I prepared for you today is just a one-pager on what will be different. We are 60 days away from January 1 when Bill C-92 comes into place. And as you know from previous presentations and work over the last 18 months, First Nations of BC and UBCIC pushed hard for what ended up in Bill C-92 and many of you around the table presented to the House of Commons and the Senate and Bill C-92 was improved. It was a very major fight to get it to reflect what we wanted. And it's of course not perfect. Like all legislation it can still be changed. There's a few areas without question we're going to be pushing very hard on and keep going. But Testament, I haven’t got time to name people, but there are people around the table who went to Ottawa after the Bill was released and had it improved to include things like custom adoption and other areas where we felt there were still gaps.

So,, what I want to talk about though is I know not everyone here is going to make those children and family meetings next week. So,, what we're leaving you with is a one-pager that they're going to hand out, which is what you see on the screen.

So, what happens on January 1? What is different for you, your community, your children and families on January 1? Getting ready for that day because despite what everyone says, it's going to be an element of chaos with change. Because obviously child welfare system has been in a mess for a long time and despite a lot of talking and a lot of you know, reports and attention things haven't actually changed very much. And as of January 1, the world will be a different place, but it will really only be a different place if you carry it, pick it up and keep going and use some of the tools that are going to be available for you on January 1 that weren't there already.

I've already had a couple of cases where I've appeared in a court or been called in, cases that are scheduled for February 15th for a three day trial in a court around the a number of siblings, First Nations kids where we just resolved the entire case because with C-92 coming there say family unity, family preservation is so important that they're going to change the position that the Ministry of Children and Families has. But again, that's only because we're pushing and pushing and pushing and for once we're going have in place a federal law that affirms inherent rights, affirms a whole set of tools that will apply in British Columbia.

So, today I can't go through at all. Our meetings on children and families are going to address that next week, both at the like First Nations law making side also at the children and families gathering. You're going to see, there's also a national gathering that's coming in November in Winnipeg. That's organized by the First Nations advocate of Manitoba, where a lot of information is going to come out.

At the AFN level, as regional chief, said that there's a chief's committee getting going, but there is no clear relationship on how to do implementation because there's an election. A lot of people are trying to slow it down. But thank goodness just before the writs were dropped, there was an order in council that the entire act comes into force on January 1.

I'll just walk through this briefly. Of course, we're available for questions, we’re available for support. First Nations leadership team is pushing and pushing and we're going to be, you know, needing to do a lot more briefing very soon because you know, we do have 5,000 cases here in British Columbia, not to mention hundreds of other situations where you're going to need support. And we are going to have to get that support out there.

So,, the law that's coming into place isn't creating anything new. It's affirming, inherent rights. That's really important. Because one of the fights we had with them about implementation, they were like, well we want to delay implementation so the provinces can be more comfortable, and we were very clear saying you can't delay it because it's inherent rights all ready. You're only affirming, what are you delaying it for? We are just going to finally get recognized and First Nations laws will have full force in effect in every forum. So,, we were able to push through that.

I say that because if you get any pushback by people saying, Oh the laws changing, it's going to take time. These are new concepts. Please remind them. These are inherent rights. Chiefs speak for their families, heads of families speak for their children. Traditional customary systems of dealing with children are positively affirmed and recognized.

It didn't start on January 1, so I just want to make sure that we push back because I've already, I'm already fighting that. And some of the material that Canada's putting out for information, we are sending them notes back to say stop talking like he created a new world on January 1 this is - I mean Chief Wayne Christian can tell you in 1980 the bylaw was passed at Splatsin and there's hundreds of other examples of work that's been done.

So,, the second line there about what more needs to be done, you'll see the dollar sign. I just want to say that the legislation has two key provisions on funding. The government was not really clear about what they would do on funding. We are pushing hard; we have never accepted no for an answer on funding and we are going to fight like crazy on funding.

And in my respectful view, my legal view as a very skilled lawyer, former judge, professor of law is that we have a foundation in this legislation for funding. And I'm just going to read out the funding provision cause I want to make sure it's in your mind and you start like repeating it in your meetings.

And that is the Government of Canada acknowledges the ongoing call for funding that is predictable, stable, sustainable needs-based and consistent with the principle of substantive equality in order to secure long-term, positive outcomes for children, families and communities. That's a broad concept.

They haven't attached an envelope of money to it but they're not going to have any choice but to do it. So, definitely push hard at your tables on that.

You are also going to have some push back. There are some naysayers I've been hearing already saying, Oh First Nations can't go forward with child welfare because what about liability?

We are doing an opinion. I'm preparing an opinion right now for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, which I believe we'll be sharing through the Leadership Council on the issue of liability. You're going to have to get insurance like everybody, everybody gets liability insurance. It's normal. It happens. We're going to need special insurance policies. You know, non-Indigenous foster parents get insurance through the Ministry of Children and Families, delegated agencies have insurance. It's not a barrier liability.

So,, we'll be getting you something on that soon because you might have some fear mongering around that, and we certainly don't want you to think it's a barrier cause it's not. So,, we're going to keep pushing on the funding liability and a few others so that some of those barriers come down.

Now the third bullet with the question mark is what if you have cases, you have families in the system now what do you do? So,, there's three points that we're making today and that we would like to encourage you to consider. Take every opportunity to continue to advocate for your children and families under your authority as chiefs. Make sure you know that your families and caregivers have new rights. Because families, parents, grandparents, kinship relations have rights under this legislation that have never been in existence before, including a right to be informed and notified, not just you get the facts to the band office there's a proceeding. To be meaningfully notified and informed every time any kind of decision is made and to participate, including having status as a party in a court proceeding if you want it or the right to make representations. So,, it's important that you have a copy of Bill C-92. If you have a case, anywhere you go there, you bring that bill and you say, I have a right to be heard, you are going to listen to me, do not back down.

And if you have any difficulty, you make sure you get in touch with us because we will back you up for that. So,, this is about massive change. So,, if they say, sorry we can't hear from you, it's not consistent with the provincial child welfare legislation. You say, no, here it is. I have a right to be heard. I'm the grandparent, I am the aunt, I'm the chief, I am the councillor, I'm the matriarch, whatever.

The next point is, so that 0.3 you can be, you can have standing as a party. So,, who has standing now as a party? Grandparents, parents, chief, so forth. So,, you have automatic standing, which means if there's a court case going on, you go in and you say, I'm here to have full standing in this case.

Now we are going to have to push to make sure you get representation if you need it. Because you know, in BC we get - we don't have a full set of resources in place first day, but you don't need those resources. You know what to say and you need to make sure you're treated with respect.

If you're not treated with respect, please contact us, let us know because we will make complaints if judges don't treat you with respect, if lawyers don't treat you with respect, if social workers don't treat you with respect, if you and your matriarchs and families are not given utmost respect, we will address that issue. Okay?

So,, we're going to deal with the systemic racism and the world is a changed place.

In terms of the, the fourth bullet point where you see the family with the heart. One of the important things in Bill C-92 that I want to put out for you is you have a right to ask for a reassessment of any case reassessment of the placement of a child. You may have a child that is put into permanent long-term care, severed all rights with the birth family under the provincial law. You have a right to ask for it to be reassessed.

I know those are hard cases, right? There've been some bad, bad cases. I'm, I'm well aware of them where cases where even in my time I fought hard and lost and it's been really a bitter pill to swallow because it was wrongly decided. We have a right to get those reopened. So,, if you have a case that you want reconsidered, bring it forward. So,, at the bottom, bring it to your delegated agency if you have one, bring it to the social worker, bring it to an advocate, bring it to a lawyer, bring it to the courts, bring it to us. Okay. So,, we want to make sure that there's a reassessment. And that open ability to do that is very significant.

Now the next one, and you'll see that sort of loudspeaker on the left-hand side. So, again, this is that your right to be informed and some of the section numbers have been put down here just for you. And so, you will get, as I say, this material. It is just the beginning carr it around with you. We'll give you more. You have that right to be informed.

So,, we want to work out an arrangement for instance, with the Ministry of Children and Families. We've had some discussions, as the chiefs here have said, we have a table with them where we've said, what are you going to do on day one? And then we're actually not asking their permission, but we're telling them we expect them to change how they, not just notify but inform parents and community about what happens with kids.

Because kids tend to go into foster care, go down the rabbit hole and that's it. And then you're told confidentiality, stay away. So,, we're pushing back very hard on that.

So,, the final one is, again, that making standing as a party. I just flagged that because sometimes when a new system comes into place, as you know, like people are so entrenched in the old system and the old way of doing things like they're going like, you know, Ministry of Children and Families has 4,000 employees, right? They're not going know this, they haven't been trained on it, right? They're still training them on the old system. So,, on day one they're not going know it. And again, it's, it's going be on your shoulders as First Nations leaders to really go there and remind them. So,, we're going to have a bit of a transition, so don't hesitate to do that. If you have to take Bill C-92 a copy itself, take it.

We'll give you more fact sheets. We have a bunch more sheets for you. And we're going to unveil some of those at the children and family gathering. But we have a lot of work to be done. But it's very important and it's very exciting work. But without a doubt, those concepts in Bill C-92, the right of a child to be raised in their family, their community, their territory with their culture and language, the right of the child to be placed in the family, in their own First Nations family, not, not the any Aboriginal melting pot family, their First Nation. You don't place Haida children in Salish families unless they want that, you know, and this is really important. So,, getting rights and title holders and the proper system in place to recognize children and where they belong and how decisions are made with their families and governments is a big shift.

Right? It's a big shift for some of the existing child welfare agencies. So,, we, without a doubt, I would say to you that by the time we're here next year, there's going to be someone who's passed the law and is exercising their own jurisdiction. Kukpis Wilson said, you know, how is this going to work?

I just want to finish. It's not on this sheet. It's another sheet. But I want to finish by saying some of you have agreements are ready bilateral trilateral agreements, your jurisdiction tables and your treaty process, child and families, one of the items. And that's fantastic. You do not need to get a mandate on your inherent rights to pass law over children and families. The Bill C-92 was drafted to give you a full and complete mandate and they don't have to go back and get any more mandate. It's just a matter of coordinating. What the new bill says in section 18 is that you pass, you can pass your laws, you can request a coordinating agreement.

So,, if you want to just pass your law, you don't want to deal with the feds and the provinces. That's your choice. You can do that. That's based on your inherent rights. The federal and provincial government may say, well, we may not recognize that law. Well, I think they have no choice. They have to recognize it. The issue is what happens when there's a conflict between what's in your law and the CFNCSA of BC. You know, so you can do this. You can say, look, we're starting the process to pass our own law and don't get too worried about what passing a law means. There are really serious work everywhere in terms of protecting and revitalizing traditional laws and customs. That's important. The first law can just be, we're going to decide this according to our First Nations customs and traditions, end of story.

It only has to be two paragraphs long. It doesn't have to be a big thing, right? You just need to protect your inherent practices and rights. You can request, you can say we're doing that process. We want a coordinating agreement, which means the feds and the provinces have to come to the table. They have 12 months. If they don't have a coordinating agreement after 12 months, your law is paramount to their law. That's how it overrides the provincial and federal law. In the U S we call that under the US tribal sovereignty system where we kind of borrowed some of these concepts from because they're like, were hard to argue was that's called full force in effect. We want your law to have full force in effect and be the law that applies to your families, no matter where they are. There's no on reserve, off reserve in this law. It's about people.

So, just that's another thing someone's going to say, Oh, your laws only apply on reserve. Say that is nonsense. Forget it. This person named Mary Ellen told me you're crazy and we're going to fight you over that. Because we're not accepting that. So,, the laws apply to your people, it's jurisdiction over the person no matter where they are.

So, even if you have some kids in Edmonton or whatever, or you got some kids from the, you know, Cree nation, my band here in Vancouver, you got it. We got to realign how this work is done. Okay. So,, priority on placement and the jurisdiction piece is there, there is nothing to stop you from passing your own law in the day one. It can be however you wish to do it. And you can do it over time in different ways and you can change it.

But I know that, you know, the Kukpis Christian and others on Leadership Council will say occupy the field, occupy the field, occupy the field, which is just the kind of legal way of saying they've sort of viewed it as the province has full power, which was a mistake, right? We know that wasn't consistent with everything going right back to the Royal proclamation and inherent rights and everything. So, now occupy the field, at least send a notice to them saying we're working on our law, get your process started. And we are going to be doing a lot of working around. But the most important thing I would just say to you is for all of the cases that you have absolutely step up. I know you're very busy. I know there's hundreds of things that come across the community and leadership has lots and lots of lots and lots of issues. But this is one where if you flex now, it will be so much easier, right? It'd be so much easier to get things out of the start. It's like the first day of school. Like you can put that best foot forward on the first day, you know, by December I think of my 15-year-old. He always, he's got his act together on the first day by about the end of September he is falling apart. But we ought to, we got to push really hard to come out of the starting gate strong.

There is no region stronger than British Columbia. I am working in Saskatchewan where 90% of the kids in care are First Nations, Manitoba elsewhere, but there's no stronger region than here because of the strength of First Nations laws and traditions and practices and because of the history of advocacy and push back on the system. But we also had to go to court to win a lot of cases.

I mean we've had removals at birth. We're still in courts on cases of removals at birth and birth alerts. Yes, the birth alert has been removed. That was wonderful. On September the 19th that the province did that and credit First Nations Leadership Council pushing them hard to do that. But we're still going to have cases where hospitals do removals, right? So,, you got to reach out for help and step up. But if the only thing you can do because you're swamped on January 1 is take this blue sheet, right? A version we give you and the Act and just put it in front of peoples, put it in front of people and say, you need to listen to us. You need to hear from us. Family unity, family preservation, passing our culture and language to our children is the imperative, right? And we need to find a solution.

The final thing I'm going to say, which is going to be really interesting, but really important is one of the most powerful tools in this legislation is the provision that says children cannot be removed due to poverty, lack of housing, or a health issue from a caregiver. As you know, a lot of grandparents raising grandchildren get sick, children are removed. They're not to remove the child for that. And that's that sort of neglect category.

But as you know, you're sitting in a situation where do you have the housing? No, you don't. You know, what are you going to do? Right? From a leadership viewpoint, we know that you're going to have challenges from a leadership viewpoint because they're going to try and push it all down on you to fill that gap, right? So, again, when it comes to supporting families in dealing with housing issues, dealing with lack of support for families, we're going to have to really push back hard.

So, those provisions as well, you've got to back you up. You can't remove the child because of bad housing. So,, what's going to happen? If the community doesn't have the housing then we got to get more housing, we got to get an emergency situation. We have to have that in place. We can't consent to continuing to do it.

So,, these are very - I call them tools. You have the right to pass your laws. Of course, this is a clear pathway forward, but on January 1, it's a whole new set of tools, right? So,, it's going to be a really great new year’s. I'm very excited about it personally. But I don't anticipate that I'll be getting a lot of sleep because in order for us to do this work, we really need to pull together and we need to be very supportive of each other and really come and those who are breaking trail need to really support the others.

Because I guarantee you there'll be cases everywhere and we'll get some good decisions and we will get changed. But it's like sort of the new day finally has dawned, but we've got to use those tools. So,, we'll get you more information. We know you have a very busy agenda here. The work is intense. Be prepared for a level of chaos. I can just tell you that anytime there's change of this magnitude, no one is in planning for it. The more we let rights and title holders drive it, the more we bring it to British Columbia to have our made in British Columbia approach, the better and more likely it will be because there could be another region. If we are stuck with another part of Canada, it could be another part. They're like, not even, they don't have as many children. They, you know, whatever, they're still wonderful people. We'll, we'll work with them, but they're just not like, you know, we're like at the starting gate where we've been held back.

So, British Columbia is like within six months, like within a year. You know, it would be great if we had maybe ten First Nations laws operating maybe more. I mean maybe we'll have 50, I don't know. I certainly think that we should take full advantage of it. And you heard from the Justice Council yesterday, for those of you who are here at the First Nations Justice Council, I know we're working with them as well because we do have the ability to set up our own courts, tribal courts to decide our cases. If it gets that we have to do that, and we need to do that or do our own mediation. We are also exploring those issues. So,, Justice Council will say more about that.

I'm going to just stop there. I know we're out of time, but you're going to get this sheet. If you have questions, I'll be here today and tomorrow cause I'll be back.

The UNDRIP legislation that we're going to talk about tomorrow, that UNDRIP legislation in BC also helps affirm many of the things we're talking about here. They really like swim together. Like it's really - it will mean it will be a really possibly very beautiful situation in British Columbia where you know, it's not so hard to fight these issues. We can turn the corner. So,, I'm able to do that. I can answer questions today if we have time, but I will be here as well if you need anything. I will be at both of those gatherings. We will get information out. If you're technical people need technical briefings, we can provide support to them and we can share opinions with them on liability and so forth as they come out. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. And we'll go to the RCY before opening it up to questions and comments. Mike 5.

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

JENNIFER CHARLESWORTH: Right. Thank you very much. My name is Jennifer Charlesworth. I'm the representative for children and youth of British Columbia and celebrated my first anniversary in that role yesterday.

So,, first of all, as a way of beginning and centering myself, I want to acknowledge with gratitude being able to gather on the lands of the Musqueam peoples. I'm also feeling very honoured to have seen the honouring of you, Grand Chief, and I want you to know that there have been words that you have shared with me over the years that I have taken to heart in my own practice. And that's influenced how I show up as a representative. So,, my gratitude to you, gratitude for the prayers for the elders speaking.

So,, I want to - I will move quite quickly. I was going introduce myself a little bit and where I come from, but I think I'm going to slide over that and perhaps I'll have an opportunity when we gather next week to talk about children and youth.

But there is the first and most important thing I want to say is that as the representative for children and youth, we fully support the direction that is being taken place with resumption of jurisdiction over child, youth and family matters and the wellbeing of your children in youth. So, that's the most important place to start.

So,, my office is an independent office. We are not accountable to a ministry, but we are accountable and report to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and I report to a select standing committee on children and youth.

And we have three main roles. The first is advocacy. And I'm going to come back to that in a few moments. The second is investigations. You may know us best by the investigations, the reports that have been done, particularly on very disturbing cases and all too often pertaining to Indigenous children and youth.

And the third area is monitoring and research. So,, let me unpack each of those very briefly. The advocacy I feel is the one that's most important in this circle right now. Because what we do, my staff, there are advocates that are highly trained, significant number of Indigenous staff. In fact, 20% of our staff are Indigenous and they walk alongside children, youth, young adults and their families in order to ensure that their rights are upheld.

So,, anyone can contact us if they feel that a child's rights to their family, to cultural connection to the services and supports that they need to be listened to is not being upheld. And there are many ways that we can walk alongside. Sometimes we might coach and assist in terms of self-advocacy and other times we will be in there. And sometimes for many, many years. In fact, over this last weekend, a young person that we have been involved in his life for many years about 11 years, I think since Mary Ellen's time.

We were very actively advocating over the weekend to ensure that he was well cared for in a very difficult circumstance. So,, advocacy is very important, and week can assist and support you as you're going forward in these times.

The other thing is I'll skip over the investigations. You may be more familiar with that, but the other thing that I want to talk about is monitoring and research.

So,, what we have done is we have created a different structure in the office in this last year. We have a designated deputy that's responsible for advocacy, First Nations, Metis and Intuit relations and we are recruiting for that position, will be recruiting very shortly for that position. And I have invited First Nations Leadership Council to participate in that selection process. We need to find someone who can be really attentive to the changing landscape.

We've also created two teams under Indigenous strategies and partnerships and one of them is monitoring and research. There are stacks of reports in my office that speak to what needs to be done. There's a legislation, there's Grand Chief Ed John's report. So, that team is responsible for ensuring and monitoring governments reflection and action on those reports and those recommendations that includes missing and murdered TRC. And of course, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. So, that allows us to exercise our influence.

We also are working on the joint commitment that Chief Wilson spoke about and that will lead us into other ways in which we can be in service in this time. We have a tremendous amount of data. We have things that we think will be helpful to you. I call it stories by numbers.

So,, the numbers and the information that we have tell a story about some of the patterns, the trends, the things that we're worried about. And I can tell you every day I see and read files that scare me, that worry me and that we must do better. So, sometimes those stories and the data and the patterns and the trends could be very useful to you. And our commitment is to make that much more accessible.

The other thing is that we see amazing practice. We see bright spots, we see things that communities are proud of and we are sharing more of that.

Now the other thing is we can be influential. We can of course monitor the government's response and most importantly the average allocation of resources and funding. We can shine a light on the things that need to be done and we can support in public education. I'm also involved in the Canadian Council on Child and Youth Advocates and that council has stepped up to again, work alongside and take direction from First Nations leaders across this country as we move forward in exercising the best that we can do in support of this movement forward.

So,, I'm going to stop there and say that there's more to come next week when we meet, but I want to affirm that we are absolutely supportive. Want to walk alongside or take your direction and follow. We have things that we think will be helpful and, in the meantime, if there are ways that we can be supportive in terms of the advocacy work that you're doing, please contact us and we will do our very best to assist in this transition period. So,, thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Open up to questions and comments. Starting at mike y sorry. Chief Harris.

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

DON HARRIS: The Chief Don Harris from Douglas First Nation. Some of you may recall that I had been at this table for years fighting over a certain case. It took me nine years to get some children home on the case that was never investigated, never followed up on. Yeah. And the children were removed right from the community, destroyed the family and everything. But we do have them home.

But what we've done since we've created a department to address the child and family more so on the prevention side, but we still have a number of issues surrounding that. The first one is that you may also recall that I've been fighting to try and get protocols with the designated agencies. The agency we've been trying to deal with. It's gone through several presidents already, all promised to sit down with us, never have.

One of the things they have done, they've increased the days known as to a few days’ notice when there's action being taken still by fax. But these are just some of the issues that we really need to address is that we need to be able to, you know, be talk about control of our children wherever they are, but we don't have that working relationship with the designated agencies and they refused a sit down with us and develop the protocols just so that we can have - like, we want to know when there's an issue with one of our children so we can address it before it becomes an action.

And most recently we did have an incident where the - it was a band member in another community living in another community at the time had an issue with MCFD or an incident with MCFD that there was an apprehension. So,, our department, we reached out to try and work with the family, see what we can do to help the family. And I think MCFD was testing the jurisdiction and authorities, because they directed our staff to monitor 24 hours a day in a hospital in Vancouver.

You know, they were our band members, but the incident was not in our communities and it happened to be a weekend. So,, we had two staff members that spent 24 hours a day taking turns, 24 hours a day through the weekend monitoring four MCFD on one of their cases. So,, this is another area that we have to look at is that how do you address those jurisdictions when MCFD cases. Our staff, because of the weekend, didn't have the opportunity to try and contact somebody to do the find out why, how, or what to do.

They sat down there all weekend. So, that was a -- But the big thing is that a lot of talk I've been hearing is with MCFD and the governments here, we need the protocols between ourselves, our First Nations child agencies. So, that is a big thing that we - big hurdle we need to overcome as well so that we can work with our community members. We have the right to our community members, but we don't have the ability to deal with the designated agencies at this time to gain that knowledge or, or information of when there are incidents happening. So,, thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you to the panel. We've got a number of speakers who are going to hear from them before coming back to you. I've got 17, 7, 14, 6 and 21, mike 17.

CHAD ENEAS: [Native language]. Thank you to the ancestral lands where we're at. And I guess I have a couple of comments in terms of the presentation. The made in BC model. If you look back at the time when Canada Confederated BC was not part of the initial country of Canada in the terms of the Union it clearly expresses the relationship in BC being unique as to unceded territory. And that includes not only the intertribal relationships, but that also includes our rights to govern. And I think I just want to express that at the outset that it is very unique in BC and it's not like in other parts of the country where at the time of Confederation that a number of treaties were already executed at that point.

So,, I have to clearly express that this continues to be unceded territory. And I think that in a collective approach from the Union's perspective that that needs to be maintained and protected and in terms of the community's engagement and their ability to be fully informed in moving forward.

So,, I just want to make that note that BC does require a different set of circumstances entirely.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mike 7.

TRAVIS HALL: Travis Hall, Heiltsuk Tribal Council proxy. One thing I just wanted to state was that in the assessment of all these cases sadly the law enforcement officers and their practice is very discriminatory against our people, especially when poverty has an issue to do with it. And their assessment is that, you know, sadly their home is unfit, but it's not due to our anything we have control over.

We've initiated in our community that the RCMP go through a cultural sensitivity course that's put on barter people. Sadly, that's in none of their training when they go to become a law enforcement officer. So,, I just wanted to state that because it was very detrimental to those families and in those cases.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Mike 14.

COLLEEN JACOB: Colleen Jacob [Native language]. I just wanted to say a little bit of comments and I do thank the Musqueam for them lending us their land to have this meeting here.

I have a couple of nephews that were in care in Vancouver. They were taken away and it was my mom who was very persistent. She had to travel to Vancouver four hours just to come to all the courts. And she really made it a point to come to the courts every time they had something. And the Ministry wanted to go CCO and we had no idea what any of this meant. We had to struggle through this whole system to learn what was happening. And so we ended up going to court and we did bring our nephews back. I have one nephew and my mom has another.

And to me I really feel like, you know, that was the right thing to do to bring them home because I think if they were raised differently, they would not know who they are and they are growing up in their own lands, their own culture. And I'm really thankful for that.

And you know, I'm also thankful for this direction that we're going, and I don't know how it's going to unfold. I know that we're going to be looking at the details and if there are, you know, we'll go along, we'll learn about it. And if there are improvements that we need to make, then those are the improvement and improvements that we will, you know, reach when we get there. But I I'm a really strong believer that, you know, that this is something that we needed to do.

We need to do it in our own way using our own customs and again, that we are capable of doing it. And because I think, you know, our people always had a problem with authority. You know, I, I guess I speak from my own experience or even what I've witnessed in our people that we do not want to have to deal with you know, so-called authorities, but, you know, just to have us do it our own way. So, again, I am thankful for, you know, this direction that we're going and so thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Chief. Mike 6.

TERRY WALKUS: Yeah. Terry Walkus, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'x proxy .

Everything I've heard this morning, it's great, but there's still stuff that are very frustrating with the system. I was part of a meeting awhile back where I believe there was five children who got adopted out and this family said, we will give you access to your children anytime. And now this day they say you can't see your kids anymore.

So,, this adoption process needs to be looked at again. And this mother who gave up her kids had no support whatsoever. If she came and asked at the time, like, you guys probably heard me so many times at this table, it's so frustrating with everything. I don't appreciate what happens personally with families who are charged in regards to sexual assault. But this is stuff that has happened a while back. I try to ask ministry, what can these grandparents do to make it right? Because I was in the meeting about two weeks ago where the grandfather and grandmother can't even see their kids. It said straight out in the party office. No, they will never see their grandchildren. How can you say that?

Everybody has a past. Everybody makes mistakes. Everybody tries to make them right. I'm like I said, I'm not supporting what they did, but they miss their grandchildren. I don't look into their past as to where this happened or when it happened, whether it's five, 10 years, but we need to look at that. And also, there needs to be an open area for other parents who are say are in Vancouver here? I've received calls from people who say, I heard you help a lot of your members with children in care. Can you help me? And I don't like to step on anybody's toes in any nation. I got respect for all nations and I ask, I say, well, can you get your chief or any of your leadership to contact me before I say anything? I will not step on anybody's toes. I got respect for them as I was taught. I imagine I'll be seeing you soon, because I've reached out to Bill Yoachim because of everything that's been going on in our nation. We had one judge who was good to us in Port Hardy, but that's only her. She always let the leadership speak. And she helped us get two of our kids back in Campbell River because she sat on the board, I mean, at the, at the table and said, yeah, I've never seen nine leaders to come into a courthouse supporting their members. So,, the father received his kids back and then there was, this judge has been good to us. The other ones still won't give us the time of day. So,, I appreciate that.

But I would just, you know, like to see some changes in regards to the adoption because this mother is crying. She can't see her kids anymore. You know, I brought a case where my cousin hung himself fighting ministry. And then 10 years later his wife died with his kids in care. So,, they spent a good 20 years fighting the system.

What did they do? Everything you said was, you know what I wanted to hear, I wish it was tomorrow, but you know, it's - I'd like to know who I talk to. Like, you know when you say the October 15th deadline, we need to know and be on the same page because it's been us as leadership. I have two more back there that share the same goals as I do with the children in care.

I got nothing against our health and family services office, but they don't support our children in care quite like us. So,, I'd just like to know like anything, any deadlines or anything that we can pass on to whoever is going to be applying for this funding. And like I said, this can’t come any sooner and I appreciate everything that's been done at the front. But like I said, I'd like to know what we can do for that family with it, with the parents who died fighting the system and they still got kids in there in the system. Cause I go to that office still today and they still have that same BS attitude, the continuing custody order. They keep pushing that on our people.

You know the mother, a new mother still -- it's not even about drinking or drugs anymore. It's about what they want. They want, like you said, a new homes and bigger homes and food and we have all that covered, but they have their own way of saying, no, it's not good enough, but we need to look at grandparents or anybody, even if they're handicapped, they're the ones that are doing all the work, but they're not being recognized. And that opposition party won't even look at anybody who can barely walk. But that's what’s keeping that person alive because they drive him -- I've seen him drive him to Campbell River and Nanaimo, Vancouver with their own money? But ministry just says, no, you're handicapped. You're not good enough for your grandchildren and it's wrong. That needs to change. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. I've got four more speakers and I'm cutting the line there. There was mentioned in the presentation, there's a special session coming up on this in the near future, mike 21.

MELINDA SWAN: Good morning. My name is Melinda Swan, proxy for Ahousaht. Where I come from, we have a program called USMA, it is parallel to MCFD

Our community has gotten funding through that program to have family support workers who represent the families in our community. So,, my question is, are they going to be how are they going to be notified of the change?

There's information here for the chiefs and for next week for the chiefs. But what about that behind the scenes workers? What's the plan for that?

Is there any going to be any formal notification beforehand to all the chiefs to share with our staff back home from the panel or from UBCIC. And in other situations, we have a call-in helpline. I heard the lady mention that we need to be prepared for a level of chaos. I just, I'm trying to figure out how do we help those people that don't have the services in their community? And years ago, our hereditary chiefs made a stance and said, no more children would be taken away from our community. And we worked on work together with this USMA and developed protocol agreements and did the hard work.

So,, I applaud, you know, I've raised my hands up to the panel for all the work that they've done. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kleco kleco. Mike 9. STUART ALEC: Chief Stuart Aleck for Nasco. My question would be some clarity around the ongoing funding for the 84 nations that are not part of a agri group or an agency. Do we have to negotiate our long-term funding at our own tables such as GDG tables? That was my question. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Mike 12.

ANDREW TOM: Good morning. My name is Andrew Thom. I'm deputy chief in proxy of Witset First Nation. I wear many hats as most of us do around the table and I'm Wet’suwet’en from Witset. Our nation has been working really hard over a many number of years on developing our own laws and our constitution. And I think in a lot of ways we're ahead of the game and in that regard, we have our Annabet [ph] program that has been doing a lot of great work.

That program is proposal driven right now. And one of the other hats that I wear my day job is I'm an assistant director at Gitxsan Child and Family Services, one of the 24 delegated Aboriginal agencies. And through my work we are funded through a population and child count formula.

My question to the panel is: are there resources for those that are non-affiliated with a delegated Aboriginal agency? Because that's the hum on the street right now is this new legislation doesn't come with resources and it doesn't come with funding. So,, I just wanted to ask that here and seek some clarification so that when I'm asked this type of question at home, I could provide them with some answers or at least redirect them to those that may have those answers. So,, are there resources coming with this new legislation? Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Mike 21.

STEVEM PRESTBAKMO: Hello, I'm Steven Prestbakmo, proxy for Gitwangak. I was I was adopted myself so this kind of strikes close to home. Me and my sister were taken with our mother who was put into foster care and told that we'd be taken care of through that family. My sister was abused, raped by her -- my mom's foster brother, so they thought it would be safer that we be taken from my mom and put into foster care ourselves. I got lucky. My sister didn't, she went through more abuse. We were finally adopted. A great family we were raised by, spent our whole lives feeling non-involved. My family was very close to me and my mother and father, but my aunts and uncles, they wouldn't accept me. They didn’t accept my sister and my brother. There were other two that were adopted. We were not accepted. We didn't belong. They were Norwegian. We were all native.

So,, growing up I fought and finally met my sister and brought myself back to the Kitwanga area to meet my family, to meet my mother. And I spent half of my life rebuilding, learning about where I'm from and who my family is and I just think if I didn't do that, my children wouldn't know where they're from and their children wouldn't know where they were from. And is there a way, because I know my family fought to keep me and my grandparents wanted to keep me, but the government said no, they have to go, they've gone through abuse but the abuse was from them. Is there, is there anything out there that's finding children whose parents may be like me didn't find their families, is there something out there looking for these children?

Because I know the best thing that happened to me was finding where I came from and knowing where I belong. And I know there's children out there who, probably like me, don't belong where they are, they're not welcome. They grew up with relatives that don't like them.

Are we doing something to bring those children back? Is there a way that we could put a program where our bands would find out if these children are in the system and have the right to go and get our grandchildren back and bring them back to our homes and our families where they'd be loved and belonged? Because my family, even though I never grew up with them, took me in and loved me and made me part of their family immediately when I came back. And that's the way of our people and that's, that's what I've learned through my journey in life. And it was not an easy journey. And for my sister it was very hard.

So, that's my question is there anything or any kind of source that we're putting together to find these children and bring these children home because maybe their parents are lost but they don't have to be. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you to the panel. That's a lot to unpack. I don't think we need to hear from everybody, but who would like to start? Mike four.

MELINDA SWAN: Yeah, I know we are probably not going to have time so I may have to have some side conversations, but I just wanted to validate particularly the last speaker about the fact that that's exactly what -- where we are, which is the door is kicked open to be able to do family reunification, making sure the people that have been blown out through the system can be reconnected to their family, culture and language and that governments, First Nations governments are in charge of that now. Obviously, resources and other things.

The other point I would just make, and I know Terry's comments about what's been gone down in port Hardy are important and I'm working with them, I'm working with them now. We're trying to turn a corner there, but there are situations as we know in every community that are so awful, so wrong that like its reconciliation sounds like a joke, right?

I mean there are cases where there's going to have to be, you know, civil claims. There's going to have to be compensation to people. There's going to have to be apologies. Then there has to be the Active work of fixing all of the brokenness that has happened.

And I think it's really important that one of the strategic things is this kind of moves into a new way is your governments are not responsible for -- you're going to have to repair. We've all been repairing for years, but there are people who need to be held to account. And I know Cheryl Casimer spoke earlier about the human rights tribunal decision. I know children that were removed between 2006 and today on an ongoing basis, you know, there's compensation through the human rights process. There's class actions that are being settled. There's probably new class actions that are going to be taken forward.

Like the mess that is there is not going to be cleaned up overnight. So,, the people that we're meeting along the way that we know very well, that are friends and family we need to support them. Even to assess some of that.

But the bigger issue of course is, you know, apologies are not enough. But you know, we, we really in British Columbia have never had an apology for the debacle of this child welfare system. From the province in particular. And we do have you know, the 60 scoop, the deadline just passed on the 60s scoop piece.

One of the things about the human rights tribunal decision, I would just note again, and Cheryl Casimer told you there's more information for you. There's compensation for parents and grandparents that lost their children. And that's like, I know it says 40,000, but it's 40,000 for every child.

So,, I mean, I know I have lots of examples where there's like six and seven children and I know it's not enough, but it is very important that we hold them to that, and we make them pay something for the human rights abuse. And there's other things. So,, I know it's not about money, it's about making positive change for the future. But that reconciliation piece is important. And I know, again, just the North Island piece for Terry, you know, they're just -- Grand Chief Ed John reviewed it. I mean, many of us have been there, but the issue is now, particularly with this bill coming forward, it's a big -- the world does change. Like laws do change the world. That's why we pushed so hard to get C-92. And it's not going to be everything overnight, but you will have tools that make it much more easy. But then we gotta use them. Right. So,, we'll be having a lot more discussion and showing a lot more solidarity and support for each other on your journeys.

I would just want to say about the funding. There was a couple of key issues made about the funding, about the government to government work. You know, the delegated agencies were able to go to actuals, right. But that was the old model. But that was because every home was so grossly underfunded and how agencies work or delegated, a lot of those agencies will probably now not be delegated but will be empowered by their First Nations. So,, we're now in this big time of change. Like you know how people are working together, how are we going to do it is going to have a different basis. The question is: how will the funding flow? Right? And how will we do that?

Where we are today is at our tables in British Columbia where we've, we faced Indigenous Services, First Nations Leadership Council has pushed them very hard to open up on an equal basis funding to First Nations that are not in agencies on the same basis as everyone else. So,, the same -- so equality, right? So,, everyone, all rights and title, rights and title holders pick their governments and they pick how they want their services and they shouldn't, because of their choice, not going fund it.

Now it does make good sense to work together, right? For different reasons, but we're going to have to unravel that mess. So, again, in anticipation of that coming, you know, we may think about having even something ready for you to send to Indigenous Services to say like, we need it. I mean they've been flowing out small amounts of money, but they have not been adequate. And that's been made known to them very strongly. And this legislation doesn't say delegated agencies get X amount of money other First Nations don't. Like it doesn't say that it's principles based on rights and title holders making choices and making sure children are connected. So, not removing kids because of poverty affects everybody. It doesn't say, and if you're an independent man, you don't get any money. I mean this is where we've been pushing back hard saying there shouldn't be a kind of like play favorites approach, right? It's a coherent policy.

So,, I can say that Indigenous Services Canada, in my dealings with them, they do not have a proper funding arrangement in place. They're under a lot of pressure and we will need in British Columbia to keep that pressure up and to crack that. It's not, it's not answered, but we got to push very hard because it's kind of, it's falling apart obviously.

Right. But they're not replacing it with the new, the new one. So,, the funding issues are critical. Earlier in Cheryl's presentation, she talked about how we are trying to get a fund, a fiscal committee together to push and keep pushing. And we are doing that. The province has been very supportive of that as well because they don't know what it means for them. Right. So,, we are going to have to deal with it. So,, no one has been removed. No one has said you're in this category and you're in that category. Really, this is the new regime on January 1 and it should be stable, predictable needs based funding. Right. So,, the new language, you need to adopt it. So,, you'll be hearing more next week at our meetings about the funding, but we are still pushing a rock up a Hill, a bit on the funding. But you know, again, my prediction is we're going be successful. It's coming. But it's also been punishing not to have it.

And the jurisdiction tables that had been working, they've also been underfunded. They've been experimental, exploratory, you know, without a mandate or whatever. Now their mandate and they are not experimental and exploratory. So,, all of that's going change. There's going have to be a funding category changed in how treasury deals with this in Ottawa, that it's a permanent funded line. So,, it's going to switch pretty quickly.

CHERYL CASIMER: I just wanted to thank everybody for their comments and questions, and I think Mary Ellen did a good job in addressing most of them. I did want to just share one piece of information though because a lot of the issues that have been raised are the immediate, what we've presented to you is something that's going to be coming down the pipe in the new year. And I know for some it can't come fast enough, but at the same time, I think it provides us an opportunity to get our ducks in a row and to do the work that needs to happen at home in order to be able to assume that jurisdiction and authority.

But some of the things that can happen now is in relation to the question about reunification and reconnecting children who are in care to their communities. I just wanted to bring your attention back to the report that Grand Chief Ed John had commissioned a while ago.

And during that process when he was out visiting communities, he found out that leadership didn't know where their children in care were or didn't know what children -- who was in care. So,, through that work he was able to kick the door open and provide the opportunity for leadership for here and now to contact the ministry and say, I need a listing of all of my children that are in care. I need to know where they are because it is your right to know where your children are, where they've been placed, and who they are. So, that opportunity is available. Now, I just wanted to share that with you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you to the panel for speeding your way through that. And as mentioned, you have two days, two more days on this topic next week. So,, encouraging if you're interested to be there for that. Hopefully you're registered. Kukpis whispered in my ear as she walked by. So,, there is a registration process.

(track 22)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Morgan is here from FNESC, Deb Jeffery's on your agenda, but she went to Ottawa last minute for National Indian Education Council business. So, we've got, we will get through the next two of this and health between now and lunch we're allowing about 10 minutes each, so we'll try for that mike 4.

# TRIPARTITE FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION AGREEMENT

JAN HOGAN: Before I begin, I just want to acknowledge that we're on the traditional territory of the Musqueam First Nation. My name's Jan Hogan. I'm Nlka’pamux from Lytton First Nation and I also work for FNESC. So, Tyrone said I had to be really fast, but I don't talk as fast as Debbie Jeffery. So, bear with me.

The first issue we want to raise is education jurisdiction. This is an initiative that we've had in place since 2006. We have federal and provincial legislation and we have First Nations who are working to negotiate agreements. So, this is a sectoral education self-government agreement.

We ran into a roadblock sometime around 2008 when they applied own source revenue to our agreements. And we got rid of that roadblock and had the policy reverse. So, OSR no longer applies to any sectorial self-government agreements. So, since about 2016 our negotiating, First Nations have been working on updating the template agreement they would sign with Canada.

This agreement was updated, and we were told by Canada that they would approve the agreement in late summer. And at that time, we had six First Nations getting ready to initial the agreement. So, unfortunately Canada dropped the ball and due to internal processes and confusion, they did not approve the agreement before the writ was dropped.

So, again, our initiative has been delayed and we are now waiting for a new government to be formed and just hoping that they'll pick this initiative up. So, needless to say, we're quite disappointed on that front.

The second issue we want to highlight are local education agreements, LEAs are a big part of our BCT agreement as it serves as the main accountability mechanism between First Nations and school districts. And one of the main commitments in BCT is that if a First Nation requests in Lea, a school district now has to enter into an LEA. The second part of that commitment is that BC and FNESC agreed that a provincial LEA will be used as a floor agreement as it sets out minimum standards required for an effective LEA. The province has now come back with a plan for proposed legislation that falls short of using a provincial LEA and instead is proposing vague themes be used and that be used as the floor for the LEA. This is a really important issue because our an on reserve students have a 50% graduation rate and yesterday, I was at an education partners meeting where we found out that 40% of us students getting issued the adult Dogwood are kids under 18 the adult Dogwood is not a graduation certificate that allows you to go to postsecondary. So, we know that a lot of our kids are being streamed into that program. So, it's really critical that we get the legislation right on the LEAs.

So, if the province cannot commit to a provincial LEA, we will be requesting that the legislation they're proposing not proceed as we cannot commit to a process that is less than given the issues we have with accountability. We also require provincial legislation for our jurisdiction initiative. As I said, we're getting close to signing those jurisdiction agreements and one of the Activities under jurisdiction will be certifying our own First Nation teachers.

So, we're currently working on a joint initiative with the BC teachers regulation branch on a process to jointly certify First Nation teachers with First Nations standards. And this requires changes to the Teachers Act and the First Nations Education Act. So, we're also encountering some pushback from BC on this issue. They're not willing to commit that they'll make this a priority for getting the legislation through in spring 2020. And if these legislative amendments do not go through, it will cause further delay in implementing jurisdiction.

The third issue we want to highlight is the children and youth in care strategy. The Summit, UBCIC and BCAFN have all passed resolutions supporting the development of a children in care education strategy. And we will report more on this next week at the chiefs meeting on children and families. But we're, we're happy that everyone is very supportive of us moving ahead with this strategy.

The last issue we want to report on is the transportation for students in public schools. This was another issue that we're trying to solve through BCT. Leading up to BCT we have been hearing lots of public schools weren't transporting our kids to get to schools and in some cases, they were even refusing service. So, a commitment and BCT was for school districts to work with First Nations to develop plans to get our kids to school and that the funding would be targeted. So, this did happen, but some anticipated complications arose, and we don't have enough funding to implement the plans fully. Canada has committed an additional $3 million and the province and additional $1 million and FNESC an additional 500,000, but it still isn't enough. So, we will be excluding extracurricular activities this year, building our business case to access more funding next year.

So, needless to say we're very much looking forward to the legislation on UNDRIP as we're currently encountering a few issues in our work with BC and BC living up to their commitments and our BCT agreement. So, that's it for my report. Kukstemc.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Jan. Mike 10.

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

FRED ROBBINS: I am just kind of curious about the strikes that happen that impact First Nations students. Is there any way that we can remedy some of that stuff because we've already committed to funding for the students to go to school? School districts have already taken the money and then when there's a teacher strike our students are getting left behind. I'm just kind of curious if has a FNESC taken any of that in consideration?

JAN HOGAN: We have, and we actually have a language in our template LEA that can address that we're a school districts are willing to work with First Nations to offer service during strike periods. So, there is a clause in our template LEA that you can pull out. I know the last time the teachers had a strike, I worked with the First Nation that didn't even have an LEA, but we use that clause for them to work out an arrangement with the school district

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mike 12

JORDAN MULDOE: Jordan Muldoe, Kispiox proxy chief. We have about seven reserves that go to the high school there. And the one thing that we're finding is that there's two streams of education that you were mentioning before, is that they're not, they're not getting their -- when they leave, they have to do their upgrade when they go back to college, they've got to have another two years of upgrading because they're not getting their dogwood and stuff like that. But the thing with that, there's a breakdown of communication with the parents as well because there's no notification to the parents and when they're streaming their students into this kind of category. And sometimes they don't understand that.

So, it'd be a good idea to have somebody visit those high schools that are doing this. Letting them know, let the parents know you are bringing out communication to them and knowing that, Hey, this is what you're doing because they don't know that.

Thanks.

TYRONE MCNEIL: You probably aware that the president of the FNESC, I'd respond to that in such a way that we've worked at the Ministry of Education. We're highlighting certain school districts that are really underperforming and we're sending in teams to have conversations, serious conversations with school boards, school administration, and that's certainly an aspect of those conversations. So, we're starting with, I believe it's six districts, but as the priority then after that we will have similar conversations with other districts as well. Just helping parents hold the system accountable.

JORDAN MULDOE: The other thing too is that the amount of funding that's going through that school, the amount of money that's going to, that's being pumped into that school should be more than enough to adequate for extra people, extra teachers that are going in there. That's, that's not the case because they have a district in a different, their district office is out of, out of the town. So, the amount of funding that's going in there that should be taken into account of how many, what's going in there because that's federally funded and we I know as First Nations that they get a lot of money that goes through that school and they should be getting top notch education for there for the students.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Absolutely. So, Jan will give you her business card on the way out so you can have follow up conversations.

Sorry, we are really pressed for time. Is that it? For questions and comments?

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: [Native language]. Chief Wayne Christian. This question is for you Ty, as the, as the president or the head of the FNESC. You know that the evolving legal landscape is going to be shifting or Birch Colombia in relation to UNDRIP. Right. And so, with that as the whole issue around the right of self-determination and jurisdiction for nations to take control of education, you started listing them all off. They're all there.

So, what is the thinking or is even FNESC even looking at the issue of transfer of jurisdictional processes to nation-based entities. You know, like the Secwepemc Nation, we've got 15,000 people, you know, 17 Indian Act communities, 32 communities in total, and we've been having discussions around a nation-based jurisdictional process. So, what is a FNESC sort of doing a long outline as we evolve with the implementation of UNDRIP?

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. The thinking so far is that the jurisdiction process that we've been undertaking over the last 13 or 14 years takes into consideration different local applications of jurisdiction over education. Whether you want to do that on a nation based or individual community or groups of communities, it might be 17 it might be 10 of the 17. But think of it this way, the work we're doing in jurisdiction could and should be a template for your aspirations around education. Whether you take it over or in 100% or we provide services in support of you, we're not in control of it. You guys are in control of it. So, we do have a group called negotiating First Nations having those kinds of discussions right now. But nobody's approached us yet on a what is a nation like the 17 it's subsets of that so far but absolutely open to it. Final comment, Mike 9 and we have to go on.

BONNIE JACOBSON: Wyet. Chief Bonnie Jacobson, Upper Similkameen. What I'd like to know is with all the changes that have happened in the Indian Act in the last 10 years, there's a lot of new students that have just now become First Nations and already the bands being notified. Is there any more funding going into the schooling? Because they entered grade one as a regular student and due to the government discrimination, they are now registered as First Nations. Has that been taken accounted? And are you following up on those numbers? Cause there should be, there's thousands of them. In my band alone I've got 40 new elementary kids based all over British Columbia, probably registered under your, some of your school. So, is that money being tracked? Is that money being added?

TYRONE MCNEIL: The funding around that is based on a policy called nominal role. Regardless if you had 40 or 50 new members given the year, as long as they're entered in nominal role, they're funded. It's not gray. It's black and white. Now it won't be necessarily funded in the middle of the school year because nominal role needs to be met by September 30th in any given school year.

BONNIE JACOBSON: Yeah, but they're on there. They are nominal roles. They live all over British Columbia. They're not on the reserve.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Then they come under the provinces jurisdiction, which is 1701(4).

BONNIE JACOBSON: Yeah. But what I'm saying is that they're not going to go into school and say, Hey, I'm First Nation now where's the money for those? Like are you guys tracking who has what? What kids have status, what kids don't have status. So, the money trail,

TYRONE MCNEIL: But we track kids through the nominal role, which is the federal government’s process in our schools and whatnot. And the 1701 process for the province. It's absolutely tracked by student, by school, district, by school.

JAN HOGAN: You have to self-identify on the 1701 form, whether you're of Indigenous ancestry and at the Ministry of Education does track that. And then you get the targeted funds that go along with identifying,

BONNIE JACOBSEN: Okay, that's my missing piece because my students don't know that. I don't know that

JAN HOGAN: What my school district does, our Aboriginal committee or Indigenous committee is, we send out a notice this time of year saying all Indigenous families when that form comes around, tick yes. Because it does mean additional funding for students and possibly additional services.

TYRONE MCNEIL: We're out of time, can you just drop off a business card anyway by?

JAN HOGAN: Sure.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay. Thanks, Jan. I'm going it over. Don.

DON TOM: Thank you, Jan, for your presentation. We will be moving on with our agenda. So, I thank you for being gracious with your time today, huychqa. At this time, you'd like to invite up a First Nations Health Council chair.

The next agenda item can be found in tab five, page 393.

(Track 23)

# FNHC TRANSITION

CHARLENE BELLEAU: Good morning. My name is Charlene Belleau. I am from the Esketemc First Nation from Alkali Lake. I'd like to acknowledge the Musqueam people for allowing us into their lands to do our business today and thank them for the great food and taking care of us.

Before I begin, I'd like to also congratulate Grand Chief Stewart Phillip for his ongoing leadership over the years. I remember Grand Chief Stewart Phillip’s story about making his way up to the First Nations Summit offices to begin the process of the Leadership Council and the important work that they continue to do together between the BCAFN, UBCIC and the First Nations Summit. So, again, just thank you.

So, as they were able to develop the relationships back then I acknowledged their leadership again, the UBCIC, the Summit and the BCAFN for their vision for a better health for our people.

At the first ministers meeting, way back, starting in 2005, there was an MOU that was to guide the relationship between the Leadership Council and the First Nations Health Council. We have work to do to renew that MOU with the Leadership Council.

We do have a meeting coming up with them in November where there's a lot of the topics that they are reporting on at this meeting, including child and family, housing, education that we really need to find a way to work together on instead of having separate tables. So, I look forward to how those kind of topics can support the work on social determinants in health. So, I want to again thank them for the work they do there.

One of the key documents that outline the governance framework and a lot of the questions that you're getting by letters about the First Nations Health Council. One of the key documents is the consensus paper that the chiefs and leaders in 2011 passed. It was a BC First Nations’ perspective on a new health governance agreement that was endorsed again by the chiefs back in 2011. That specific document provided the First Nations Health Council mandate that it also established the regional caucuses that are held in your regions every fall and spring. And also Gathering Wisdom as a forum for discussion and addressing concerns. Those are held every 18 months. Those processes were established by the leaders as processes for accountability and transparency. Gathering Wisdom 2010 will be celebrating 10 years of success. I knowledge, all of the past leaders and any of you that have had any role in the First Nations Health Council or the First Nations Health Authority. There's a lot of work that's happened in 10 years.

So, January 14th, 15th, and 16th if you've got your calendars, you can mark those as Gathering Wisdom where we will celebrate a lot of the success. In the 2011 consensus paper the chiefs and leaders outlined the governance process and explicitly outlined to keep the politics separate from the business of health.

The First Nations Health Council were never to interfere with the business of the board of directors or the operations of the First Nations Health Authority. Simply the First Nations Health Authority delivers programs and services. The Health Council is to advocate and provide political leadership. The First Nations health directors from your communities provide technical advice to both organizations. Just coming current, one of the other things that I think is important for you to know is that there's a legal requirement with the First Nations Health Council, Health Authority to have an evaluation every five years.

That's a legal requirement of the tripartite framework agreement. So, currently there's 70 evaluations that are being completed and will be tabled at the fall caucus sessions that are scheduled within your respective regions and also will be reported out at Gathering Wisdom again. So, this is the first of a five-year period where those evaluations are being done.

The regional engagement sessions will provide an opportunity for feedback. We're in a period of transformation. The first few years of the work of the First Nations Health Council and the Health Authority was to do health transfer. Funds have now been transferred to your communities where this is an opportunity to transform health. How do you want to see health delivered differently within your nations? So, it's an opportunity again, I think to improve the health services within your respective communities. Specific questions around leadership transition and the resolutions that were at the BCAFN and also on this agenda.

The terms of reference of the First Nations Health Council have provisions for change of leadership. In July of 2019, there was a change of leadership. There were five regional representatives, our Chief Willie Blackwater from the North, Ernest Armand from the coastal, Derek Hanson from the Fraser Salish, Les Dorian from Victoria and myself that sat to look at a transition. And it was at that point that I was appointed interim chair and Les was appointed deputy chair. Both of those were confirmed in an August meeting of the First Nations Health Council. Those decisions to change leadership were in camera and remain confidential. The legal opinions are privileged and confidential because I take note that there is a request for that information in your band council resolutions and as leaders, I'm sure that while you deal with your staff challenges, you know that those information is confidential to your respective communities.

In terms of the resolution on regionalization those will be addressed at the fall 2019 caucuses and again, at Gathering Wisdom. Resolution on transparency again and accountability will be addressed at the caucus in Gathering Wisdom.

Some of the challenges that I've seen, I've only been on the Health Council for about two years. But I see where we need a lot of work to improve the governance structure of the Health Council and the Health Authority. It doesn't seem -- right now there's dual roles. So, I sit as a Health Council member, but I also sit as a member that provides direction to the board of directors, you know, it doesn't seem to fit. It doesn't seem people know when to sit as a Health Council member or as a member of the society. Mixing roles is very easy in what there currently is.

There are questions of operations where we really have no business in the operations of the Health Authority. They have five staff and the board of directors oversee the administration. Some of the other challenges that I see with the terms of reference and again, it's, it's here for leadership to consider. And the questions that I've asked since I started on the Health Council is there's a call for an evaluation of the First Nations Health Council. This has never been done in the duration of the Health Council’s work.

In 2015 especially, there was a call for a substantive review of the First Nations Health Council terms of reference. This was at the direction of the leaders, but that's never been done. As the chair whether it's the former chair or myself today, you know, it's a part of our responsibility to provide leadership to the Health Council, evaluate the performance and progress that we may be making or not making and how do we improve that. You know, so if we had taken time to do those evaluations perhaps, we wouldn't be in this situation.

Also, I think that, you know, it's important for leaders to know that in the First Nations Health Council, there are positions of chair and deputy chair that are covered and paid and reported out by the first, by the audits and reports that are made by the Health Authority. The chair in the review of the documents that I've have, the chair is eligible for 240 working days, which translates to about 168,000 per year and an additional 15,000 annual retainer for a total of about 183 plus travel expenses to do the work of the chair.

The deputy chair has is eligible for 118 days for approximately 59,000 and to retainer of 11,000 for a total of approximately 70,000 per year plus travel expenses.

In terms of just some of the issues raised in the letter. And just in closing, there's referenced a lateral violence and blatant politicking. I know I've had my share of bullying, you know, within the Health Council, but I've been able to stand up to that and to stop that from happening to myself within the Health Council. And hopefully others have been able to have a voice as well.

There's much healing and health to do within the Health Council, within the Health Authority and within the health directors. There's a lot of healing to rebuild relationships with our Indigenous organizations, the First Nations Leadership Council, FNESC, Child and Family Services, all of those organizations, we've never been at the table with them. And we would like to so that we can continue to work on the social determinants of health together instead of at separate tables.

There's a lot of trust that we have to re-establish with our government partners. But we've started that work. I've been in meetings with deputies and I've been in meetings with ministers where the change is good for ourselves. This work again begins with us.

Again, I want to just be able to close in saying that we don't have time in health education, your agendas are full, to undermine one another. We need to be able to hold up each other. We need to remember why we're here. This is for our people; the health of our people and we need to learn from this. Like, how are we not going to have this happen again? To me it's by the leaders engaging in the terms of reference, perhaps approving the terms of reference, perhaps having a say in who your Health Council chair and deputy chair would be. The opportunity for that kind of discussion will happen at your fall caucus sessions that are scheduled. And also, at Gathering Wisdom coming up in January. Kukstemc.

DON TOM: Thank you. Charlene. Just to remind everyone that we will be having a further discussion. There is a resolution that's being tabled on this and I would ask that we have a further discussion when that resolution comes to the floor. Being aware of that we do have an honouring of David Dennis that's taking place over lunchtime and that we do need to have time to eat and also to witness that celebration.

So, with your permission, chiefs, I would ask that we table this discussion or any further discussions for when the resolution comes to the floor. Thank you, chiefs. And thank you, Charlene, for the update provided this morning. Thank you. Would call on our elder to bless our food at this time,

(LUNCH PRAYER)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thanks Scott. Thank you. So, we'll reconvene at 12:45 for quite a short lunch.

(LUNCH)

(track 24)

DON TOM: Good. Thank you for the announcements. And at this time, we'll move into the honouring of David Dennis celebration of life. Some of many of you came to the dinner on the 30th and had a time, a chance to share some words, but the Union wanted to set some time on our agenda. So, right now we'll turn it over to David Dennis and the chief Robert Dennis, my apologies.

(SONG)

ROBERT DENNIS: Thank you. First of all, I need high heels to stand beside all of my nephews. Even that doesn’t help.

Today for us is we want to deliver a message about David and his family. What David became in his life is very appropriate. Many, many, many years ago, probably hundreds of years ago, our village was attacked by an American tribe and almost all of our people were wiped out. And the chief of the day decided we'll go retreat in our territory and we'll multiply, and we'll regain our lands back. So, our people went back into the woods, lived there for decades, multiplied, became big enough to have warriors. Amongst that group where David descends from was one of the warriors was walking around in our village and in our, or in our territory, sorry, and while walking around the territory, he heard another voice, another voice talking. He said, Hey, that's, that's our language. That man's talking Huu-ay-aht.

So, they met and sure enough this other group was from Huu-ay-aht, but they were captured in the village. And in doing so they got together and planned of how they were going to take the village back. And the Huu-ay-aht that was a prisoner amongst in our own land. Him and his family went on the roof while our group went and prepared to take our land back.

And one of the reasons we know this to be the story is that David's grandfather was given the name [Native language]. And [Native language] literally means he's bringing the good news of having found some of our people. So, that's how long that name has been in our tribe.

So, David comes from a warrior family. We have a proud history. David's great grandfather used to say, yeah, witwok [ph]. Yeah, we're witwok. Witwok is the warriors in our language. And he'd always say that over and over and when David's father, he seen that picture out there. [Native language] was his name, said it was very appropriate that Clarence was taking that path. And if David's grandfather was alive today, he would say the same thing. It's very appropriate of the path that he's taken. So, it's really honourable for us as a family that David has chosen a life of helping the unfortunate in our society.

We in Huu-ay-aht are proud of what he's done and who he stood for and what he stands for and why he stands for it. Somebody has to, somebody has got to take care of all our people and those numbers are growing. We need more David Dennis’s in this world. And I always have the honour of being the uncle of actually all of them here. I'm the uncle and I'm proud of my nephews and proud of where many of my nieces are going. And it's good to see that our, our people are saying, you know, we need to take care of our people.

And when I think of David, I think of unconditional love that he's the one that's going to go down and see somebody in trouble and gladly help that person. Somebody… another village needs help of some kind. I knew David would be there. The unconditional love, the unconditional support that my nephew gave to different people around the province. It's when you're at home, it makes you feel proud. You feel good, you feel proud.

So, for us it's really important. We're really happy of this recognition. Very, very deserving. And there's a part in David's childhood that I'm proud of. When David was very young, he used to come over every summer to live with us and I was telling him the other day how his auntie unconditionally would just take them in, no questions asked, just come on over, you can stay with us.

And so, I had that few years of experience and love and kindness, living with Dave, and then to watch my nephew grow up and become the leader that he's become, it's been very inspirational for all of us.

And what I'd like to do right now is to do a song and the song literally means I'm lifted up now and my day is better. And that's why we want to sing this song here today. That you people are here to support and recognize Dave for who he is. And we want to thank you with the song. And we also hope that this prayer song will, it will help David in his journey, and I couldn't help but glance to my right there on the screen I seen that the old Union of BC Indian Chiefs photo, and I know David's grand uncle was in that photo.

And so, this fight that David carries on, he carries on from very good roots and so for today, we're really happy to do this song, to do things that we'd done. We asked young, [Native language] his name [Native language], Indian agent name, Edward Johnson right. Yeah. He'd done a say, what do we call [Native language] in our language giving strength to what we're doing here today. Actually, I should have let Ed speak as I like how he tells when he does a [Native language] and it really means… as a matter of fact, if you don't mind, I'd like him to explain that and then we'll do the song

EDWARD JOHNSON: [Native language]. It's a good day. I stand beside my cousin. And [Native language] is it's calling in our ancestors, you know, to come witness the day. The story my uncle told about our people that were held captive and they went on top of the roof. But a little part of that story is the where when we knew our people were safe on top of the roof, when we came to take our land back, there was a signal and the signal was a [Native language]. When we heard that signal, we knew it was time for us to come into our territory and ask them politely to leave. But it's a very important [Native language] that's just a little bit of the story and how it's connected. Chu.

ROBERT DENNIS: Okay. We'd like to know, do a song for [Native language], [Native language], his Huu-ay-aht name. We're very proud of this young man because he does descend from our head chief family and our nation. [Native language], David Dennis

(SONG)

ROBERT DENNIS: In finishing, we wanted to say that we know Dave needs a liver. We know that he needs help. And I'll be in touch with Stewart because I seen what's happening here. So, our nation would like to be involved in some capacity there, whatever has to be done and we'll come forward with helping in whatever way we can. I can say that because fortunately half the council is here, so I'm safe in saying that. Right? That always helps. And you know, it is important that we get to stand together to now fight for someone who's been fighting for lots of people. It's time that we came together and said, you know, look, Dave, you've been fighting for us. You've helped us when we needed you. Now it's our turn to help you because you need our help and we want it to sing that song on behalf of our head.

Chief Clichen [ph], Clichen is the Tyee H’awiih of our nation. It means that he's the head chief of our nation. That's what Tyee H’awiih means so Clichen can let us use this song here today. Like I said, that song means I'm lifted now my day is lifted and my day is going to get better now. And with all the help here, David, we wanted to send that song with you because we know you need the support of all of us now, and all of us are here to support you and be part of whatever we need to do to help you. And to do that, we need to have a communication. Okay, what does that help going to be? And let's do what we got to do and do everything we can to help you in our language. Chu chu. Kleco kleco [Native language].

CHRISTIE CHARLES: [Native language]. My honoured and respected friends it fills my heart absolutely fills my heart to be asked to come here to share a few words on behalf of our Musqueam people. I come from… my name is Christie Charles and I come from the warrior lineage from here, from like right here where we are down the road. And when I got the phone call to come here for lunch and to honour Dave, I said, Oh, I know Dave. I haven't seen him for over 10 years, but I know him so well and his work speaks volumes and it caused ripple effects beyond generations. And I was fortunate enough to grow up and witness a lot of the work that this amazing, powerful lawyer has done for everyone, everyone, everyone. And I was just sitting here with sister Sade. He's talking about, I don't know, [indiscernible] and his face is everywhere, and, Dave, you are such a giant powerful being, but you are so gentle and so fierce, and it's such an honour to have you here and to always be standing up for people.

I wanted to share this with you. It's a neck lace, but it represents our warrior, our warrior regalia, a Cedar paddle and the type of beads we would put on our regalia. So, I wanted to honour you with this on behalf of our Musqueam warriors, from one warrior lineage to another. Huychqa siem.

ELAINE ALEC: Good afternoon, family, friends, elders, leadership. My name is Teekweeneek and I'm from the Okanagan and Shuswap nations. My name means standing by water given to me by my [Native language]. My late father was Sol Kenzie Basil from the Bonaparte Indian band from the Secwepemc nation. He was chief there back in the 70s, and he was also part of the American Indian movement and the red power movement back in 74. Well before then, but he used to travel extensively throughout British Columbia and Canada with David's dad along with Larry Joe Face who was Monty's dad, who is our brother, who is Joan’s ex, who is also my stepdad.

So, at Dave celebration Dave, if you know him, he is always laughing and making people laugh and appreciates that and I so appreciate that about him. But if you'll see the picture that I'm raffling on behalf of our family, I wanted to explain a bit about that and its significance and its importance. The picture that we're raffling outside of the warriors standing there at the Bonaparte occupation my dad is in it, Joe Face is in it and CD is in it. And my mom had that picture blown up and mounted and we've had it for a really long time, and I shared that my mom would have wanted us to contribute that to help Dave in any way that we could because she absolutely loved him. And whenever he would call and ask for help or ask for rides for any of the boys or anybody that wanted to go to an occupation or a blockade, he would phone and my mom would let us use her minivan to go pick people up on the side of the highway somewhere random and drive them off somewhere to bring them to the front lines.

I've known Dave for 24 years and he inspired me the first moment I met him, and he was talking about all of the work that he had been doing and he was 20 at the time and he just riled me up. He was sitting there, and we were talking, and he was sharing his passion and talking about what we needed to do to protect the land and stand up for people and have no fear and have that courage and what our responsibility was as young people to take up that fight. And he did that with so many people across the province and across Canada. And wherever Dave would go, he would get a following. People just totally trusted him and love to hear his words and were so inspired by him. And he inspired so many of the young leaders that we have today. A lot of the warriors that you see coming to the front lines and standing up and having the courage.

Dave was one of the mentors that helped bring them to the front lines. He inspired them to stand up and have a voice and gave a voice to people who felt like they had no voice. And because he did so unconditionally, people wanted to help him. And Dave never let anybody help him. If you came up and asked him how he was doing or wanted to know what he, you know, what he needed, he quickly turns the conversation around on you and asks what you need or starts being there for you. And Dave's been one of those people in my life that has taken care of me. They talked about warriors and how he's a war chief. And I truly believe that. And I know that our ancestors and our parents are so proud of him and the work that he's done. And he's a true warrior and he has done so much for so many people.

You know, warrior means more than just being the person who stands in the front. Warrior means more than being strong and courageous. A warrior is one that provides a safe space for people. And I told a story about, you know, my, my life and how I felt very unsafe for a majority of my life as a young woman and being taken advantage of and not feeling safe with a lot of men in my life. And I think that is what makes Dave a true warrior. Because not only is he fierce and courageous and stands in the front line of everybody he also creates that safe space for women. You know, one of those rare gentlemen that have been the person that you can go to and know that you'll be taken care of, loved, and that he would never take advantage of his status.

The Stardust never takes advantage of his Stardust because we were talking, we all shared stories about him at his dinner and everybody talked about they compared him to some of the most amazing speakers in history. And when you get to hear Dave, if you haven't heard him yet, you're going feel the stardust that he sprinkles. And you're going think about ways you see things, ways to implement or put to action, the things that he talks about and wonder how you can bring that forward. And, you know, I'm just so proud of him, you know, and I can't wait to hear him again, but I am so honoured to be able to stand here and share some words about Dave and the work that he's done and how he's inspired so many people.

Yeah.

And the message that he carries forward now, so I'm not going to say anymore because I just can't say anymore. But I love you so much.

JOAN PHILLIP: Yes. that photograph Stewart was suggesting we should do a little story with it, who was running by with who? I was teasing Stewart about one of his ex’s in there and he says, well, one of yours is in there too. So, oh gee,

It's such a beautiful picture because it really symbolizes the next generation that is Dave, willing to do anything it takes to get what we want for our people. And I always say what we don't accomplish, we pass on to the next generation. And I also said that night that I feel secure because we're passing the torch to someone that's not only capable but has the passion to carry on what our ancestors have done and that's protecting our rights and protecting the people. So, I really hold, hold him up. Cause now I don't have to worry about passing on that torch. Wyet limt lim.

STEWART PHILLIP: The other day we had the wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the Charlie family for the contributions that Grand Chief Rose Charlie made to what's often called the Indian movement. And during the course of my remarks, I said in many ways, she's a mother of the, the Indian rights movement in British Columbia because the fundraising that the Indian homemakers did in order to allow this organization to begin. So, Rose Charlie is the mother of the Indian rights movement. David certainly is one of the sons and of the revolution and it's always young people that get to a point and decide that there's just too much talk and not enough action. And we saw that a few days ago when there was 100,000 young people in the streets voicing their concerns about the climate crisis. So, it's a real honour to have David here at our UBC IC meeting.

And as you know, he's in dire straits. He has a life ending liver disease and we're helping him in his fight so that he can survive. And Dave's expenses and Joan and I went through this 23 years ago. There's all kinds of needs that somehow Dave has to meet.

So, what he really needs is a donations support and to help him through this very difficult time. I asked all of you to pray for David for his survival and continuation on with his journey. And I know that all of you understand what all of that means. So, I want to thank you for your patience and for your time. Taking a few moments to acknowledge the tremendous contributions to Dave and his cohorts, native youth movement, West Coast Warrior Society have made to help us in our struggle.

We all know that there are many dimensions to our struggle. There's a political dimension, there's a legal dimension, and there's boots on the ground dimension. And certainly, David has, you know, contributed greatly to that, to mobilize the young people. So, we love you David, and wish you well in your future endeavors. Chief Robert is just so wonderful to have you here and to you hear your voice in this room and, and greatly appreciate your presence and you know and the posse you brought with her here. You know, it's good to see all of you. Wyet limt lim.

(SONG)

DAVID DENNIS: Thank you. Everybody that that has spoken before me. We are taught in Nuu-chah-nulth just to acknowledge gifts that are given to you. You know, it's improper for us to say thank you back, but quite often I find myself, I just can't help.

But I just wanted to take care of some business really quickly and then I'll get into my diagram here. But as I was getting this necklace, I was thinking about the ending of that first Star Wars movie. Well, now I'll get the metals there and they're sitting there winking at each other because they know there are a bunch of bandits, but, Sade, it goes without saying that I share your pain with you that you're experiencing right now. And I wanted to acknowledge your loss and I couldn't begin today without acknowledging that. And we're here for you. I'll always be here for you.

Now I've been accused of a speaking from anything from Malcolm X to Oprah Winfrey. So, what don't you want? I guess I should begin with the kind of how all of this started, you know, it started with a very cold Doctor coming in and saying, you better call everybody because you got a few days to live. And at that point my liver had shutdown far enough that to the best of their medical opinions that I had two days to live.

I know health has been on the agenda. I know that looking during the research when we did the event, the researchers pulled up a lot of information on health and it almost becomes a complete sub-category. Not that we brush it aside, but I think that we don't pay attention to it too much. And you know, I didn't sit there and start feeling bad for myself. I started thinking, shit, a lot of people are getting really sad and that really sucks. And I decided at that point that I had to make a change regardless of the outcome. If anybody has been through a withdrawals from alcohol, they are a terrible thing to go through. I have two sets of medically produced antral apathy, which is a brain injury caused by a traumatic events, hits to the brain as well as when your liver shuts down, it produces too much ammonia in your head. So, beyond the value, the amount of things that are produced from this ammonia in your head, you start to have an incredibly vivid dreams.

And knowing me, like I just I can't give up that fight. I can't. You know, I have a family. And if you're able to get onto any of these guys’ Facebook sites, I would say take a look at my daughter Isabella. She got up and spoke. She was, it was incredible. Like it was the highlight of the night for me. So, I know that when we put words behind our ancestors and our grandfathers and our great grandfathers and our teachings, that quite often we get lost just in the words. And we don't come behind the meaning.

Believe me, when you're close to death, those words have meaning. Those words have deep meaning. During the evening. And during the event there we had a lot of conversations about [indiscernible] hierarchy of needs beyond shelter, beyond food. But the greatest thing that that's taught through that diagram that's there is the base of it and it's the need to belong. And that's the warmth and connection that we create through bonds, through alliances, through political unity. And there's no doubt in my mind that you know, my grandfather and my father fit within this organization because they understood that, that that teaching is a universal teaching amongst all of us, amongst everybody. And here that has Indigenous blood or understands our struggle. They have that deeply ingrained inside of them. Getting back to Star Wars, they call it mini colorants. It just means you possess this, a natural ability to give back to your communities. And I recognize that you guys get the crap beaten out of you when you get back home.

You know, I realized that you know, not only as Joan said, the political stuff that we leave behind, we also leave behind our own personal messes. It's because the human spirit is infallible. It has its faults, but I've been lucky enough to have some very strong people beside me throughout this struggle. Very strong people with very strong words, very strong wisdom and connection and warmth to one another. And they demonstrate that every day in their work. And Stewart and Joan, we used to go to the night and day quite a bit. I don't know if any have been lucky enough to participate in feasts that are there, but it’s incredible and I am reminded of the Slocan, which is close to the palliative hospice that I live at. And every day, you know, it's not scolding, it's not pointing fingers. It's just reminding ourselves that I've had luxuries in my life, or I've had the ability in the platform to create that change.

Today… is it October 2nd? All right. Four months sober today, four months sober today. It's probably a spit in the bucket, some of you veterans out there, but it means a lot to me. I always know when I start to -- got start bringing it all in, I see Stewart looking at the agenda. I just wanted to just bring it back to the dream that occurred to me while I was in my sickness. We talk a lot about driving in the same canoe. I've been a warrior all my life. I really understand it. I really understand where political, strategic, military buttons to push to our common person that works against us. I understand that in a really deeply ingrained way because I've been taught that since I was a child. I've also grown up under a woman, my mother, Angie Todd Dennis who was an incredible woman. She ran for mayor in 1973 and came in third place. Okay. My father started the Native Indian Brotherhood. He was behind building that political movement. My grandfather sat here with your relatives, your uncles, your aunties to help develop this movement.

We gotta stop putting health as a subtext to what we're doing. We have to put it at the forefront. It has to be the tip of the spear. We're very good at articulating rights. I bet you we can probably ramble off all the articles of the UNDRIP and that other thing where we get lawyers coming up here with PowerPoints and saying this and that. And then just they was like, all right. Yeah, I get it. The world knows it sucks for us. But really what it means is that we have every single Indigenous person in this province has the right to sit on a platform of luxury that I have been able to sit on because I have great people and allies behind me and I still have yet to be placed on the liver transplant list. So, may not get there with you. And I know that that there'll be others to pick up the flag.

Sade, you understand the pain? You understand what sobriety and change means. You understand to remind our leadership of that.

It's weird when I come to places and everybody thinks on this leg, this gun told men that, but I'm not like deep down in my heart, I truly believe in the safety and security and equality that each of us are entitled to.

On my way here, lastly, in closing on my way here, I got an email or a Facebook message from a random person and she said she was told that she doesn't qualify to be on the liver transplant list because she's an alcoholic. Even though that this paper that you've seen put in front of you as provincial Health Authority is saying all of these things about what they're doing to create that change.

So, in my dream, and this is where you can take your notebooks out. We have to get the brightest mathematicians and social scientists behind us. We have to recruit them. We have to tax the rich, we have to get the money that belongs, that sits in the federal and provincial treasuries and redirect that back towards health care. So, people have a platform to sit upon in which to build a healthy life because we're never going to make the right political decisions if we're clouded in our brains. And the one thing that fixes that is sobriety and we have to define that for ourselves. Ultimately everybody teaches that as a fundamental goal of sobriety is that you have to make that fundamental decision on your own. But that doesn't preclude you from transplants. That doesn't preclude you from us demanding that we have world class detox centers. So, we're going to go and we're going to go to the MIT or the brightest scientists in the world can think up an algorithm and come out with a number.

Yeah, put social science on a piece of paper that says this is how much that we're spending in booze and health care. This is how much we're spending in counseling. This is how much we're spending in recovery. And we're going to say we want that back and guaranteed taxational income in order for every Indigenous citizen in this province to have two years of guaranteed living wages upon which they can build and rebuild their lives. And I guarantee you that's where we're going to make the right sober decisions, that we're going to create lasting change.

So, if I go down, I want to know who's going carry that flag with me. I'd like you to stand up if you would carry that flag. Thank you. This is the step towards ourselves that they call it ourselves. Co-as, real people [Native language] soul. [Native language], strength. So, don't please do not walk away from this thinking pitiful thoughts of me, because I'm going to fight this thing to the end because there's nothing than I would like better than to be behind you when you break those doors of racism down and kick some ass and bring some money back home for our people. So, please thank you. And thank you for your time today.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you for that. Just as we're transitioning back to the rest of the agenda, Charlene's going to be passing or bringing a hat around and encouraging you to reach for your wallets and make a contribution or a donation towards some of the expenses that David is up against here and now. So, encouraging Charlene to start that now.

(track 25)

TYRONE MCNEIL: And just to signal to the chiefs said sometime between now and 3:30, I've got to find some space so we can get to some of the resolutions. So, we might end up cutting short one or two agenda items to make space for resolutions prior to the federal election piece that's begins at 3:30. So, in transitioning, inviting forward the Honourable George Heyman and, Ang Smith would you come forward to my right, please.

TERRY TEEGEE: [Native language]. Thank you, David, for continuing to fight. [Native language]. And a on behalf of the British Columbia Assembly First Nations, we would like to donate $1,000 to your needs for your health and wish you well. Prayers. Mussi.

DON TOM: Thank you. Regional Chief, just to also to share with everyone and sharing the same feelings that the Union will also be matching the donation as well of a thousand.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you for that. So, transitioning into climate change and environmental assessment it's been arranged for a very brief opening comments and then we're going to go to questions and comments from the chiefs and delegates. So, microphone 4.

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

HON. GEORGE HEYMAN: Thank you, everyone. I'm George Heyman, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change strategy. I want to acknowledge that I've been invited to join you on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, the Tsleil Waututh and in the Squamish peoples.

Very briefly the government of which I'm part has made repeated commitments to take significant steps on the journey to reconciliation. It was an honour to work with many leaders on one of the first steps. And that was a revitalization of the Environmental Assessment Act, a revitalization that we're still working on. That involves early engagement, early engagement, collaboration and consultation with Indigenous peoples in every assessment, at every step of every assessment and the reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People within the Act itself. As we work toward implementation of the Act this fall, we have an Indigenous Implementation committee working on a dispute resolution as well as the application of Indigenous knowledge, which is also an important part of the Act. And I'm pleased to be joined by Ang Smith who's a member and the co co-chair of the Indigenous Implementation committee on that process.

I look forward to the result. We've asked that committee to work from a blank slate of paper, blank sheet of paper and build the regulations from the ground up. It would be impossible to come here and talk about British Columbia or environment or our land without recognizing the impact, the overarching impact that climate change is having on everything. A lot of attention last Friday was put on hundreds of thousands of climate strikers around the world. 100,000 - actually millions around the world. And the focus of Greta Thunberg in starting the student strike. But what wasn't given recognition was the voices that Indigenous people have been raising in British Columbia and around the globe for many, many years because Indigenous people are feeling the impacts on the front line, on traditional economies, on food, on the land that is your home and on language itself.

So, as we move forward in British Columbia to address climate change by both plans to reduce emissions but also plans to adapt and to prepare for the impacts of climate change that we're already feeling. It is critically important that we listen, that we hear the voices of Indigenous people that the knowledge and the experience, the day to day experience and the historical experience of Indigenous people form the strong basis for the work that we do over the many years to come. And with that I will turn the microphone over to Ang Smith.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Minister. Just before going to Ang Kukpis has some remarks first. Microphone 5

JUDY WILSON: A lot of energy there. [Native language]. Chief Judy Wilson, secretary treasurer, Union BC Indian Chiefs and Chief of the Neskonlith band. I want to acknowledge my, our proxy holder Councillor Cora Anthony there as she is carrying the proxy vote.

I just wanted to thank everyone for the songs, for both Grand Chief Stewart Phillip for their recognition and also for Dave Dennis for his warrior way of life and also explaining being a warrior means the peacekeeping and the protection of women and girls and bringing safety to our communities. So, in what the environmental assessment process, every leadership, every band has had experience with Environmental Assessment Act and the processes that were used as a way for the Crown to rubber stamp those projects going through our territories without the respect or proper consultation or consent to First Nations’ rights.

When the NDP Government came in, they had agreed to a massive changes that were required and a complete rewrite of the Environmental Assessment Act was warranted. The BC EA Act was passed in November 2018 last year. Many of you recall that. And the resolutions resulting from those had the First Nations Leadership Council being directly involved in that legislative review. Similar thing, however, doing the UN Declaration legislation. Since then, the role of the Indigenous Implementation committee, if you remember, that's part of the Act that we need this implementation committee. It was meant to provide ongoing consultation on the substance of regulations associated with the Act.

And I remember distinctly many the chiefs pointing out the regulations have to meet the free, prior and informed consent and you know, recognize our Indigenous laws. And there was a lot of discussion in that environmental assessment sessions I was in. And the Leadership Council is becoming concerned though increasingly that the IIC is now being used as a tool to rubber stamp those new regulations without meaningful consultation.

So, it's sort of like we had prior to these changes, something happening like that. Then we go to the changes and then we have something, we're back at square one and clearly, we cannot be back at square one. And the Leadership Council is committed in supporting the IIC’s role to be on the proper title holders, making sure the consultation and we'll continue to engage on a political lever to ensure that is happening. So, I guess what I'm saying is I don't know if Ang is speaking to that there's a lot of changes that have to happen and what was set out in the Act has to be recognized and has to be respected. I'll turn over their current regulatory and policy development to Ang.

ANG SMITH: [Native language], UBCIC, [Native language].

Our group, the Indigenous Implementation committee was brought together to review and provide advice on draft policies and regulations to support the new Environmental Assessment Act. I acknowledge that I've also followed in the steps of Bob Chamberlin, who was initially the co-chair with the BC Environmental Assessment office. He's stepped down because he is pursuing candacy, am I saying it wrong? Candacy as upcoming federal election. So, we wish him luck. And I had the good fortune to, you know, watch a bit of what he was up to and step in his footsteps. And so, I didn't have to come in cold Turkey. I had a little bit of training cause I've called myself a rookie on this committee.

I'm Gitxsan. I'm from the Gitenmax reserve and I'm, I guess I'm going to start there. So, for me it was interesting to see all of the really wonderful First Nations women's stuff that is happening at this table at this meeting. There's a booklet that is with the Grand Chief, Dr. Grand Chief Charlie Rose Charlie. And part of what they said about her was that she was bringing the voice of the community to provincial and national levels. There are a lot of First Nations women on our Indigenous Implementation committee. There are a few men, but we're mostly women and we're really getting a lot of challenging work done.

Yesterday in a meeting, there was tough topics on the table, and I had a visceral reaction. I could feel it in my body, and I was frustrated. Being the co-chair, you have to kind of, what do you say? And I still had to speak up and it was tough. It's hard to explain when you have a visceral reaction to policy and procedure and government and all of this stuff that's going on. So, it was nice to be in that committee surrounded by my fellow First Nations women and other IIC members, and to feel supported enough to be able to say, this is a really hard conversation. But I'm still glad we're having it. And the EAO, the Scott Bailey and the other workers they were very good at hearing the hard stuff without it feeling like we're blaming them for processes that were wrong in the past. But to know that we're trying to make it better for the future.

It's been important to us to understand that even though I'm Gitxsan, I'm not on the committee speaking on behalf of the Gitxsan, that our whole area, just as with other IIC members, they still have a voice on their table. This does not negate it. It’s just an added feature.

It's a lot about relationships and incremental change. I feel like a lot of the work we're doing is really foundational, including Indigenous knowledge and other processes and ensuring we bring the grassroots voice to the table to say, how will this work for the grassroots? How will this work for us? How will we communicate this back? So, that's been an interesting occurrence in our table. We have really passionate, hardworking people working on this and I really appreciate the opportunity to work with them. Along with the BCEAO.

We also acknowledge the hard work at levels like this UBCIC, First Nations Leadership Councils and numerous other high level political realms that I also think that we need to build relationships with so that we could feel supported. So, when we're discussing huge topics like consent and consensus that we have the support of the tables to work together to be able to say it's not all on our shoulders because everyone here at this table knows we work really hard and we have a lot of responsibility on our shoulders already. And sharing that responsibility is part of our community and our support. And I really appreciate that.

I wanted to talk a little bit about what Grand Chief Stewart Phillip said this morning as he explained that he often has a sense of what needs to be said and what needs to be heard. We should all do a little bit more of that because that's really all we're here to do. And I believe that's a big part of what we're doing at IIC. [Native language].

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Questions and comments. Mic 10.

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

FRED ROBBINS: I asked this earlier. Chief Fred Robbins, Esketemc First Nation. I asked this earlier about the accumulated any impacts to the Fraser River. Can we expect something being done with that? I'm kind of sick and tired of seeing tailings being dumped, sewage being dumped into the Fraser River. It's impacting our salmon with the Big Bar rockslide it's becoming critical for the salmon. So, I'm kinda curious as to what you're doing about climate change. Because with all the minerals and sewage that's in the water it warms up the Fraser River and a lot of the fish don't make it to the spawning grounds.

As for the wildfires and the flooding that's been happening throughout the province of BC due to climate change and wildfires, I'm wondering is there strategy around replacing all of the losses of the understory, the blueberries, the medicines, the teas, everything that was burnt up? Is there a strategy around how to rebuild some of those forests?

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Mic 4.

HON. GEORGE HEYMAN: Thank you. I'll deal with the last question - the last part of the question first and unfortunately, the detail of the answer to that is in another ministry, a Minister, Doug Donaldson and Forest Lands and Natural Resources. So, I can't give you a clear answer to that, but I can certainly take the question back and try to get it.

There's two things to say in response to the first part of the question. We know there's been huge impacts over many years that impact fish, impact water and impact wildlife. We're trying to change the nature of how decisions are made with the new act. And part of that is to also provide a mechanism for accumulative impact assessment and regional assessment as part of the Environmental Assessment Act. In addition to that the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resources is working on a land use planning criteria that would address broadly the issues that you are raising. I understand how critically important the impacts that are currently being felt are. And we need to address that as well as part of our climate adaptation plans.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Rebuttal mic 10,

FRED ROBBINS: Just kinda curious because it's as First Nations people we sit around, and we talk about the environment and about how one small piece like a butterfly effect. And then we ask questions from our ministers and ask them about some of their very important information that relates to the next seven generations and still as a government, it's passed off to someone else.

I've sent out numerous letters to a lot of different ministries requesting information and I always get a letter coming back to me saying, no, this does has nothing to do with, with FLNRO, this has nothing to do with DFO, this has nothing to do with the Ministry of Environment. But as far as I understand is EMBC should be involved in all of it. Every piece. And how is that going work and what's it going look like?

I'm just I'm really curious as to how the government kind of, they're all as passing the buck off with nothing being done. I asked for accumulated impacts 12 years ago on the Fraser River with no results from DFO. And DFO sent me letter saying it's a province’s responsibility. So, I don't know how these governments are planning to remedy this if they can't even work together.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. We have a bit of a speakers list, so the panel we're going to hear from the speakers and have you reply all at once, mic 17.

CHAD ENEAS: [Native language]. You know, I think I just want to really get to the point and it's, what's the real cost of not doing or not achieving the targets. We've witnessed in our home communities the stigma of vigilantism of terrorist, of anti-confederate people that have expressed for a century how important the environment and the integrity of the systems to function as they were developed. When you look at the ecological footprint analysis 96, it talks about a finite amount of resources, the clean BC strategy far, far below acceptable levels, even in what the strategy achieves.

My question, I guess, or my comments would be more in line with the legal reality in terms of the provinces authority to extinguish an Aboriginal right. And when approvals are granted by the Ministry of Environment for things where our values are not considered in triggering the assessments, that there's a fundamental flaw in death by a thousand cuts. 60 years ago, we could drink the water in Okanagan Lake in the river that goes next to our community. And today I dare you to drink that water. Our people have an insurmountable amount of knowledge that has allowed us to live for 10,000 years on our ancestral lands. And that needs to be very much weighted in terms of whose scientific data we can rely on.

So, I just want to make those comments and suggestions because they're absolutely, they’re absolutely is a finite amount of resources that we rely on to survive.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, Chief. Mike 24,

PATRICK MICHELL: Chief Patrick Michell Kanaka Bar Band. Just, you all know we liked the EEO process so much we did it twice. Pertain to a hydro project and integral to the review of that hydro project was the impacts on cumulative assessment, which was not required underneath the EAO process, but we insisted that we'd done. That project, had to articulate is this consistent with harm reduction, is this consistent with harm reversal? And more importantly, will this add the cumulative impacts? And through that process, through tenacity and perseverance, we were able to get the answers that hydro project was given an EAO certificate with support of my community.

Now fast forward into something called the NEB process for something called TMX. Now my community participated in that review process for six years and we wrote a letter that says this is inconsistent with harm reduction. This is inconsistent with harm reversal. This, it will add to cumulative impact. And we've said no.

So, the question is, UNDRIP says community… States are required to get a free, prior, informed consent. Well, what happens when Indigenous people give a free, prior and informed no. It goes to the heart of the matter. And so, I applaud her provincial government because apparently, we're still in battle with the federal government's over this. I believe our government is saying that TMX is bad, but then the EAO process, that was counter part of it, I don't recall EAO participating in that review. NEB was there.

So, it's really important that when we look at where we are today, and I just keep looking at it. So, first of all, where's the consent? But secondly, when we're experiencing death by a thousand cuts. To quote a young lady, ecosystems are failing. People are dying. How dare you?

When we bring a project forward and we ask those questions, we're not trying to be obstinate. We're not trying to block. We're saying here, cumulative affects Chief Dan George warned all of us in 1967 if you continue on this path, it'll lead to certain destruction.

So, when we're looking at this with the new EEO process, and I'm glad that may be the over those sections in there, but at some point in time you'll have the acknowledge the First Nation and say this is wrong. You have to take that. That's not consultation, that's consent.

So, I don't want to belabour the point other than the fact is that we are not doing enough to address climate change. And I want to continue to review the clean BC because somebody just said it's far below what is needed. That recent IPCC report says that the Marine environment is getting so bad and it'll just multiply. 24% more losses are expected in the short term in terms of the Marine environment. Why would we allow projects to proceed that would add to that?

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Mike 7

TRAVIS HALL: Travis Hall Heiltsuk Tribal Council. I've said it a number of events and a number of speeches now that the science is what's going to kill us. The science of recording things for three more years is too long a time. Some of the assessment plans that they want to do and apply their science is ridiculous to me. When the information is already there from our elders, like many have said here we have to start maybe engaging in a process or setting up some quick board that says, well let's listen to what their elders have said for eons and eons. Now, you know, my dad, just an example for fishing, my dad and mom says, you know, we don't want you to get in fishing cause the fishing is going down. So, my mom kind of encouraged me to study accounting stuff like this.

But you know, I have a 22-year-old son and he's in 3rd year university now and you know, it's a fear for his, his children and my children and my grandchildren that, you know, you yet to come. But you know, we have to start listening to our what the ancient knowledges that has been passed down to us. Even stuff like cellular knowledge, cellular memory, like water having a spirit. Like these things are being proven in the contemporary science now, but we've been taught this forever.

So, I just say, you know, like it's time to just go and demand that the government start enacting right now. I hear this one young person state that, you know, you'll have the privilege of dying of old age and I'll be dying of climate change. So, those are very strong words. We have to take them to heart and act now.

So, that that's a common message across this whole table I feel. And just that they're the Actual ancestral knowledge of the people of their peoples all have the same feelings.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Final comment, mike 15.

BONNIE JACOBSEN: Mr. Heyman, I spoke with you two years ago. I spoke with you last year. Now we're still going to speak again in November. I'm from the Upper Similkameen Indian band. I would like you to come for a visit and look at all the contamination that the government has allowed to happen in our territory. We're not going away and we're going to fight to get it cleaned up. And you said, I'll look into it. I'll look into it. Are you still looking into it?

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Responses and concluding remarks.

HON. GEORGE HEYMAN: There were a lot of points, a lot of points and a lot of questions and all of them important. I'll try to touch a bit on all of them.

First of all, it is important that when people ask for answers, they get answers. We have not in two years been able to entirely reorganize the relationship between different ministries of government and the mandates, but we are working to communicate with each other and provide answers. So, if those are not forthcoming at the end of this session, I'd be happy to talk get your card and look into it. I don't disagree at all that we have finite resources and that's precisely why we need to do cumulative impacts assessment. And that's why we built it into the new act, which I'm looking forward to coming into effect. We have tried to design a process in the new Act that recognizes in the legislation the importance of Indigenous knowledge and applying that to the assessment at every step of the way in a truly collaborative process.

With respect to TMX the court has been clear. The provincial government does not have the ability to stop the project. I wish we did. I think it's a matter of public record how my government feels about the project. What we are doing in response to the recent court decision is revisiting the conditions and making them as strong as we're allowed to under the law.

And finally, with respect to the contamination and the upper Similkameen. I'll talk to you briefly at the back of the hall and I will look at getting up there this fall or the spring,

ANG SMITH: I just want to make a couple comments.

Chief Fred Robbins, I hear you about the messaging like on our table, too, we hear the not our mandate, that type of stuff. And I feel like all the IIC members are also active community members and know the political realm to a good degree. We get pretty frustrated when our message is not heard.

We talked about possibly working together, learning those relationships between the higher levels, political realms like this to have a stronger voice so that we don't get to just shift things off and say that's not part of IIC. We say this is important. We're going to stand behind it, support some of these big issues. Even though that's not our direct role, we're still keeping them on the docket.

I heard this a couple times, the death of the thousand cuts. What we talked about at our committee also was one person made an analogy regarding a road and how on an EA level possibly a road just seems like, you know, a minimal this and everybody here knows that once you throw a road in that affects this, it has ripple effects. I mean you guys can fill in the fill in the blanks because you live on the land. You know what that impact is. And we need to have a way to convey that messaging of this is a bigger impact in what it looks like on the, on paper.

The comments about science versus ancestral knowledge, we had a whole day and we want to commit more time to it regarding Indigenous knowledge, how to incorporate that. There were definite concerns. Like I said, we have some really awesome committee members. One has like, I think her master's in cumulative effects. We have people that know that statistical data can be used against us, can take up time and processes and how do we make it more effective to be learning about ancestral knowledge, to hold our own people as knowledgeable. How do we document that? So, those are definitely on the table. And so, I really appreciate hearing the passion out there.

JUDY WILSON: Thank you for all those questions. And what I wanted to reply to in a way to all of them is that, you know, our own Indigenous knowledge, our own Indigenous laws and our own Indigenous jurisdictions are paramount regardless of federal and provincial government assumed jurisdiction and laws over our territorial lands. So, the nations need to keep that in mind.

The rewrite of the Environmental Assessment Act you is trying to bring some of that in inside the processes. But I think that's what part of the big struggle is right now over the coming months, there'll be a joint processes to develop the regulations and the policies with a goal to complete them by December so that the new act can convince later this year.

So, we expect the committee, the IIC to produce the draft regulations three brought to a province wide meeting for the chiefs. The IIC members have communicated their frustration, as you heard from Ang, with the level of consultation occurring. And they should be involved in a collaborative role rather, instead of only providing feedback to regulations proposed by the BC Environmental Assessment office, the BC EAO needs to incorporate upcoming legislation on the UN Declaration into the development of the EA regulations and should not be unilaterally defining the meaning of free prior informed consent. And thank you, Chief Patrick, for spelling that out for us and the consent or consensus.

The next steps, say, encourage the minister here to work with the First Nations Energy Mining Council to collaboratively undertake a province-wide meeting for all of our chiefs. So, all of our nations in January 2020, to renew the progress of the IIC and the regional workshops.

So, that's the key work we need to say to you, Minister, here today that the chiefs you know, support that work and we need to ensure as Ang identified very clearly that we're not just part of our process, that we're involved in that process. And we're not just being asked questions or feedback, we're actually part of that. That's the meaningful change the government had ensured that will happen. We have to ensure that does occur. And like I said in the onset in the closing remarks, don't ever forget about our own Indigenous laws because they're Supreme across our lands. In 1910 in our Sir Wilford Laurier Memorial, our ancestral chiefs had already said that. So, in many of the nations you already have your respective frameworks. We’re just in the cases of projects coming across our land the government has to follow their own legislations and policies. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you to the panel, to the Minister and Angie, I encourage you to follow up with the chiefs directly that I think we would appreciate a little bit more for response from you on their specific questions. As we're transitioning into implementing title and rights, just to inform our members and others that might be watching online. We're going in camera for this piece because it is a political strategy session. We don't want others listening in. As well, I notice some of our federal candidates and others have made their way into the room. I encourage you to make your open to the hallway as we're going in camera to First Nations only for this portion of the discussion.

And lastly, when Charlene passed the hat around for David, your kind enough to donate $922 and 88 cents. So, between the BCAFN, so between the BCAFN, and Union’s contribution of $1,000 each, that's $2,922 donated to David. This is on top of the coat and hat raffle and the 50 50 raffle. So, appreciating your support.

(Track 26)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Inviting forward, Clo Ostove and chief Francis Laceese. Are either of you in the house?

Minister, could you carry your conversation outside please? Thank you.

Mic 4.

# IMPLEMENTING TITLE AND RIGHTS

CLO OSTROVE: Well, good afternoon and grand chiefs, chiefs, councillors, delegates and friends. Thank you so much for inviting me.

The material I'm going to discuss is at tab 3. I will not be going page by page. There's a lot of material there. And what I want to talk about, and I've been asked to discuss, is the new tripartite policy, which you'll find at one copy of it at page 183. And this is a recognition and reconciliation policy developed by the federal government, the provincial government and the First Nations Summit. And I'm going to speak very briefly on it.

And we can look at it quickly, but I'm going to talk about how did it come to be developed as it's explained in the material. What does it say and what does it mean? What are its implications?

So, starting with how did it come to be developed? And you'll see, as I mentioned, that the three parties worked on it. As we understand it from the material work started back last February and the document was finalized as of September 4th, 2019. So just several weeks.

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs did have an opportunity to comment on some drafts but to comment only the Union did not have an opportunity and there was no sort of joint effort to develop and participate in a recognition rights-based policy for all First Nations. So, this was a policy developed to apply to BCTC, BC Treaty Commission communities only. And that's what the policy you see there is - that's the group, that's who it's intended to apply to.

So, I do want to say a little bit about what the policy says. As I just mentioned, the policy applies to those in the BCTC process. And you see that right in the interpretation or definitions. You see there's a definition of participating Indigenous nation and that is a nation that has filed a statement of intent under the BCTC process. And you'll see in the policy that that policy applies only to participating Indigenous nations. So BCTC First Nations. And in fact, for BCTC First Nations, if you go to section 15, you'll see that a participating Indigenous nation, a BCTC First Nation can pull out of this policy. They can say, you know what, I don't want this policy to apply to me, so please don't count me in.

Yeah, I can talk to them. I can talk for a long time. Okay. So, what are the main elements like overall, the main elements of the policy? You'll see as you read through it there's a commitment to have BCTC focused on recognition and implementation of title. Looking at the standards of UNDRIP. There's a rejection of the extinguishment and surrender approaches in the document, a focus on self-determination to guide negotiations and a commitment to other policy development into the future. Other topics that are to be discussed. And that's set out in schedule A.

So, we see in the policy if you just want to have a look at how some of this is set out. If you look at, for example, section 20, you'll see there that the Crown recognizes that it has legal obligations to all First Nations.

Dropping down to section 39. BCTC First Nations are not required ,as is the case now, to prove the existence of their rights. So, there is no change there. Section 40, the Crown says that they recognize or they, you know, for everyone to know that recognition of rights negotiations can be pursued with First Nations outside of this policy. So non BCTC First Nations. There's some process issues and statements of the importance and significance of addressing shared territory and overlap issues. So, you'll see that mostly in sections 56, 57 58. And then there's an intention to continue to work on that issue because it is such a thorny, long outstanding issue, a commitment to continue to, or an intention to continue to work on that issue. And you'll see that in the schedule a that's attached, and it lists further discussions to be had.

And then going through further. Another point you'll see is in section 60 and here you see that for BCTC First Nations the existing, albeit likely unlawful policies of the federal government dealing with comprehensive claims as well as the inherent right to self-government. That whole list in section 60. Those policies no longer apply to the BCTC First Nations to the First Nations covered by this policy.

And then as I said, schedule A sets out further work to be done and you know, and they're all important issues. So, you can see what's there.

I want to move on to, you know, what does it mean or what are its implications? And, but before I do, I want to say something that's really important and that is, I was not in the room when these negotiations were taking place, when the drafting was taking place. And the reason that's important is because people, when you draft an agreement, you have an intention. When you draft a policy, you have an intention to achieve something. I don't know what that is. I can read the document. I've got a fair bit of experience. I can bring my experience to the document. But I just wanted to make that point. I'm not sure exactly what the intention was. I wasn't there. So, I'm reading the document as everybody in this room. It's

So, what does it mean? We don't know. It's not been applied. We don't see any treaties based on it. We don't see, you know, the treaties to date have been based on the existing framework. So, we don't know. And I was thinking about how to bring the document, this tripartite policy that you're looking at, how to give it some context or how to measure it or think about it because we don't know. And I thought, you know, going back to 1992 when the original BC Task Force Report was accepted and put into play with the BC Treaty Commission. Right from the beginning, there were some challenges, some core challenges. And many First Nations raised concerns from the outset. And I thought I'd identify for the purpose of this discussion four challenges that were at the outset of the BCTC process.

The first challenge was the statement of intent. There was really no principled or legal foundation built in for negotiating a treaty. It was filing your intention with the map attached.

The second challenge was shared territories and overlaps that there was no requirement to respect the rights and title of neighbouring nations that treaties could be concluded without that being resolved.

A third challenge was Crown mandates and approaches that the BCTC process, the Crown was proceeding on its historical and commitment to denial of Indigenous rights, and those were the mandates that the Crown was moving forward with in the BCTC process.

A fourth challenge at the outset of the treaty process was the expected outcome that at the end of the day, the title and rights would be extinguished or surrendered. And it was these kinds of challenges, principally, I think these four as I think about it, that people raised First Nations raised concerns about, I think they are at the core of why we've seen so few treaties concluded in the last number of decades. Since 92, we've had three treaties concluded.

I think these are the reasons why we see so much litigation engaging treaties that have been concluded and treaties that are proposed to be concluded. A lot of litigation, which I know you're all familiar with. And of course, over the decades there's been a lot of effort I think within the BCTC framework and certainly outside of that to realize some substantive change on these points and others, but just sticking with these but that hasn't happened. That has not happened to date. There really has been no substantive change. So now looking at this new tripartite policy and thinking about these original challenges, what can we see in the words of the policy?

So, starting then with the fourth challenge, which I mentioned, which is extinguishment and surrender, and this I think may be somewhat addressed under the new policy, there certainly is a statement to the effect that that is not on, extinguishment and surrender is not on and new approaches will be needed.

So, we may see something there. Again, we don't know everything. We don't know what releases may be required. What other legal techniques may be needed by the Crown to achieve what the certainty they seek. But there certainly is language about moving away from, at least on the face, from extinguishment and surrender. The challenge of the Crown mandates and what has been the case to date. Again, here we may see improvements. We certainly at least see the language of recognition of rights, implementation of title that negotiations would proceed from that framework. So, we may see improvements, but we don't know. We don't know how that will translate. We don't know. For example, will we see a completely changed approach to economic issues, fiscal matters based on title. We don't know.

The second challenge I mentioned was shared territory and overlap issues. And here we see again, some process perhaps to begin to try to resolve these issues. But on this issue, when I read the policy, I would say it's the status quo in the sense that the Crown could today under this policy, ratify a treaty knowing that neighbouring nations have title and rights in the areas they're dealing with.

And on the statement of intent, again, we don't see any change. And I think as I know many of us have discussed and thought over the years that, you know, how can a, especially if we're talking about recognition of rights or recognition of rights-based approach, how can a treaty be concluded with any body other than the proper title and rights holder. So again, we don't see in the language of this policy a change on that point.

So, when I walked in, I heard the time was being pressed and I wanted to put forward my remarks in a brief way and I really want to move on to putting aside what this policy says. I really would like to move on to what negotiations should look like in this age of UNDRIP and the work that the Union has begun to do in that regard. So, I guess I'm looking to you if I should move on or if people have questions in mind about the policy we're just talking about and we should deal with those and I'll look to the chair to provide me with some direction.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Is there any, anything urgent coming to mind with respect to the updates so far? Mike 15.

GEORGE SADDLEMAN: George Saddleman, proxy for Upper Nicola. Thank you for a very principle statement and the documents that received before us. I'd like to take us back to November 1858 when the Crown or the British colonial government brought over British common law to British Columbia. You can see those same principles in play today only it's in more detail, more, more detail. The cabinet ministers of the day asked themselves a question, what's the impact of our British common law going to happen in British Columbia? And we seen the impact right from 1858 to today. It's still impacting us. Canada principally can print money as it needs it. We can see that Trans Mountain bought it for $60 million.

They also have the obligation to manage unemployment, which is the big, big part of the economic process that we're in. So somewhere along the line that impact or trying to figure out how we're going to get around these First Nations people because they're in the way they were in their way in 1858 2019 we're still in a way, so we're in a constitutional battle.

One of the things I've learned in the last little while is that when we get received documents, either from the province or Canada, basically they're described as pre-emptive consultation. In other words, they put up their barrier right off the bat. This is their stance and we sit back, and we wonder, well, what can we say next? They've already laid their line out. So, we are always on an uphill battle. And I looked at some of the sections that you talk about, it's fairly clear how they're going to crowd us in, or not crowd us in a corner. Just move our tables aside, conquer and divide big time. And that's another principle that they have. Conquer and divide. And we've been doing that for a long time.

So, it intrigues me that the description that you give kind of fits some of my own personal research in some of the work that we do, like one of the things I always talk about, I said our laws that stood up in October 1858 are still here. What they did was just pushed to decide. So somehow, we have to stand them up.

And we've been kept busy then. So that's my comment. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, George. Andrew reminded me that in February we're dedicated an entire day to this discussion. So, we're going to go to two more speakers and, and allow CLO to move on with her update. Microphone 2.

JUDY WILSON: Chief Judy Wilson. I just wanted to agree that the policy is still based on that doctrine of discovery. And then the issue of the overlaps that the we have to also take note of the Supreme court of BC case on the modern treaties taking precedence over unproven Aboriginal title and rights. And I think we'd mentioned it yesterday in one of the presentations.

And the other one is, you know, when we're looking at the UN Declaration, we have to, you know, look at the full declaration rather than, you know, how the province and the feds always try to water that down. And also, with comprehensive claims and you know, the inherent right to self-government policies. You know, the government's decided who that will affect and who that will not affect. So that puts those outside the processes, you know, at a real challenge there.

And the other last point would be the co-development, the co-development of, you know, what does that mean in, in co-development when they're sitting on these tables in regards to drafting all the co-development. I think that's going to be in negotiation mandates means the federal government and BC negotiators have essentially over… a veto over those matters that affect, you know, our jurisdiction, their jurisdiction under the Canada's constitution.

So that's what I wanted to point out in co-development. I know at the AFN we didn't have a good full discussion on co-development, but it is happening at a lot of tables and I think we have to be really watchful of that. But this does have a lot of impact on our nations outside of treaty. In our, in our particular area, we have half in treaty and the other half with an agreement with the province. So how do we look at how we're going to protect our inherent Thailand rights and the proper title holders?

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. If anybody ever sees me going like this, that means you're halfway between two microphones. So, pick one and I'll call it. Mic 9.

STUART ALEC: Chief Stuart Alec for Nasco. Will we be having a forum or further discussions at another UBCIC meeting around shared territory or overlap and how we would address that, especially with the new policy that's been developed and agreements that have already been signed that are negotiating titles and rights without resolving any issues with the neighbours on addressing the titles and rights with the neighbours nations. So, I wouldn’t mind further discussions on that at either another forum or a meeting

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. And lastly, Mike 20.

JOE PIERRE: Chief Joe Pierre. I'm going to for a moment and proxy to former Chief Cheryl Casmer.

CHERYL CASIMER: Okay. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak. I know that time is tight, but I felt that I needed to share some information with you given that I'm a political executive with the First Nations Summit and so I in fact was in the room when the policy was being developed.

I believe that there are good things in this policy. It has come a long way from the extinguishment cede, release and surrender type language and notion that Canada had put forward. And I just wanted to provide an invitation to any of you who are interested in having an overview, a detailed overview of the policy itself from myself or my colleagues or anybody from the First Nations Summit. We are more than happy to do so. I'm also going to extend to you an invitation to join us when we discuss this matter at our meeting October 16, 17 and 18 to come in and witness the discussion. It was the chief negotiators who had played the lead role in, in developing this policy. So, they will be discussing it in further detail as well.

In terms of the shared territory overlap, the Leadership Council is actually working on a proposal. Will the proposal is completed? We're looking at confirming dates and I believe it's March 2020 that we will be having a two-day session to discuss share territory overlap. At that time, we're expecting and we're hoping that we will come away with actually some solutions or models. In terms of addressing it, we've had numerous gatherings and forums on shared territory overlap over the years, but at the end of the day, we've never really walked away with any kind of a solution and we know that it's time to do that. So, we're expecting that, sorry, that's the objective of that session coming up in March. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Great. Thank you. Cheryl, and thank you for keeping that short. So, we'll go back to Clo to carry on with her update at mike 4,

CLO OSTROVE: Thank you. So, I wanted to, you know, just putting the policy aside for a moment and as I said before, just looking at what negotiations might look like in the age of UNDRIP and what kind of principles for negotiation we might put forward and as you know, the Union has commenced this work. And there is a report on the symposium that was held last May this is at also in tab 3 at page 164 is where the report begins.

It begins by an, I believe the chief's council has looked at this, but just to review it, it begins by discussing a number of themes that emerged at the symposium. It was a two-day symposium that included sharing of information and also as to what was going on with negotiations and agreement making. And then breakout session sessions focused on a series of topics and then coming back to the assembly and reporting back. And out of that two days of work and sharing came this reports.

So it begins with a discussion of themes that emerged over the two days and then sets out what is it 11 that's, I think it's 11 suggested principles to help move forward with negotiations and the principles have been endorsed by chief's council and further work is needed that which has been identified by the council.

But I just did want to look quickly at a few of the principles to see the direction that we're heading in and to identify the kinds of issues that we really need to go deeper into. I mean, as, as George Saddleman indicated it's been a long time and 1858 was a long time ago.

And as Chief Judy mentioned we've been operating under not only the doctrine of discovery, but also the notion that these lands were terra nullius for a long, long time. And so, these principles as I read them, this is work that you know, each of these principles we need to look deeper and there are deeper processes to discuss and articulate and move forward with. And if you are looking at those principles in the report the first one I wanted to mention and again thank you, George, for your comment on this and that is standing up Indigenous laws and that you know we need negotiations and agreements to create, to level that field where we prioritize Indigenous laws, Indigenous governments, Indigenous processes so that we're not just hearing what the Crown's perspective is, what the Crown's laws are, why we can't do this and why we can't do that because the Crown's legislation says this and that we really do have to stand up Indigenous jurisdiction, Indigenous laws.

So, we can write that out. And we have, and a lot came out at the symposium on that. But what I'm suggesting is that we really need to have an opportunity to dialogue and go further and deeper into what, how we bring that alive. How do we make that real? How do we bring it forward in a concrete way?

So, I mean I think each of these are important and stand up to the standards of UNDRIP and start to reflect them. They're all, many of them refer to various articles of UNDRIP. If you look at, I think number four nation and government rebuilding and number five, unity. These principles to my mind really go together and they are talking about the importance, not only of dealing with shared territory and overlap issues and proper title and rights holders, but that all of this kind of work has to be First Nation led. The answers are with you. They're not with the Crown. This kind of work has to, you know, is initiated by you. The solutions are with you.

Number six talks about redress and this is the language of UNDRIP. And in my mind, redress is different than talking about - we've talked for a long time about past infringements and a compensation for past infringements and redress is a little bit different. And how is it different? We need to explore that and bring it alive and give it again, concrete on the ground, meaning.

You know, number seven, flexible and adaptable. You know, we talk about the diversity of First Nations, different languages, different peoples, and we can't have one way. We have to have approaches that reflect that, that respect, that, that accept that, that make that meaningful on the ground.

So, from my point of view, these principles are really, really important to dig into, to dig deeper. And I think not only amongst ourselves but also dialogue with the Crown and I think in the materials, there's the letter from Minister Fraser who wrote the day before the assembly began to say that his government is open to that discussion, wanting that discussion, wanting that dialogue. So that is something to consider.

And in that dialogue, you know, the Crown will really need to be pressed. Why? Because 1858 was a long time ago and there has been a very embedded, entrenched approach for a long, long time. And though we're seeing change and people talk about it as transformative, we have a moment in time, and I am a believer in that for sure. But it isn't change. It's, it's, it's really moving it is really moving a long-entrenched system.

So, there's work to be done, a lot of work to be done. Work has begun and I'm, I'm going to end my comments there but…. Yeah, I'll end my comments there.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Mike 10.

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Kukpis Christian. Thanks, Clo. The first one that talks about a self-determination and I'm trying to get a sense of what do you think their interpretation of article three of UNDRIP is because it says the right of self-determination. Now is that evolving to where there are looking at Indian bands as that unit? Because it seems to be the language in the policy we're talking about here is there's a right of self-determination and what does that, how is that going to roll out in terms of how we're sort of moving forward with the implementation and the harmonization of UNDRIP in relation to this specific policy?

The other thing is the principle number 13 Kukpis Fred highlighted it for me that I'm concerned that we're looking if you're this policy, I know it was a symposium, you're talking about a third party assistance and an almost I thought that if we're talking about Indigenous law and Indigenous jurisdiction and our own Indigenous knowledge, we should be using our own rather than looking at third party assistance because seeped in all our histories is oral history that goes back thousands of years with each other.

That the boundaries that are defined are through our stories and through how intermarriages we wage war against each other. You know, the Secwepemc Nation, I think we had something like in our boundaries, we engaged in war probably six to eight times with the different tribes around us. And out of those Wars emerge peace and emerged sort of the ability to make peace by creating situations of family [Native language]. And so, I just wonder about that principle, but I really wonder about for the first one was self-determination. What does that, the overlay of UNDRIP on this policy and how that's going to unfold? Because that's the -- the divisive part of what's going on with the BCTC process. We saw it and I hope that the discussion we started in Fredericton around you know, there, we had an issue that almost went to the assembly at the AFN nationally.

And I think we talked about we need to bring out discussion back home and I hope we can have that discussion. And I think, Cheryl, where are you? I think that I think I hope that's what's going to happen in March because I think that's what we need. And I would hope we actually do a four-day process rather than two because I think we're going to need four days. If we really put everything on the table with each other, let's deal with it. You know, let's start really having a hard discussion. Cause that's what we said in Fredericton. Because it almost spilled onto the assembly floor there and we said, look, let's bring it home. Let's deal with it so we're home. So, let's deal with it. I think it's really, really important because if we don't, it's what keeps BC in control.

It's what keeps our jurisdiction in control is our inability to work together. Even though we have oral history that goes back thousands of years with each other and how things are done. Because the BCTC process, it has really laid out a process of the statement of intent and the maps. Everybody does it. Let's get real and it's a 150% of British Columbia's claimed by maps. So that gives you an indication of what we're dealing with here. So, we have to get in the room and do without issue. And I think a two-day session is not enough. I think we need four. But I think it really goes really to the article three of UNDRIP, that article of self-determination is your sense whether the federal or provincial government are interpreting that as Indian Act bands, because if they are, that's an issue.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Clo.

CLO OSTROVE: I haven't on the self-determination, I don't know the answer to what the federal and provincial governments are, how they're approaching it. I certainly know that's not my understanding. I know it's not yours. I know it's not anybody here.

You know, we saw what happened with statements of intent under the BCTC. So, you know, the Crown in 1992 was accepting Indian Act bands for treaty purposes. But you know, what does it mean other than what's, you know, it, it means you, your, your, it means what is -- it's First Nations visions and priorities. It's not the Crowns. It's not the lawyers. It's not the consultants. It's the First Nations vision for themselves. And that's what I think. But maybe I'm wrong. That's my understanding.

On the third-party assistance. If it's not useful, it won't be a principle. I mean this is, this isn't a policy what I've just been referring you to in the report. These were ideas that came forward as a result of this symposium and they had some structure put to them and their principals to, as I said a couple of times now, that we have to dig deeper into them. If that isn't a good principle or if it needs to be reworked and reworded to make clear that this is calling on experts within Indigenous communities only or primarily or however it works best, then that can be done. So, these aren't, these are starting to identify how to move forward with negotiations and agreements that are consistent with UNDRIP consistent with the whole of UNDRIP as chief Judy identified.

DON TOM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don Tom, executive UBCIC. I just wanted to share that we are still awaiting confirmation of funding from the province and the feds on the shared territory's meeting that would be an up and coming in March. And I just want to encourage each of you to come to our February session that we'll be having a one-day session the first day. And I think it's important for each of us to come because it's I think looking at the process of how this policy was developed, it wasn't with the inclusion of Tsartlip First Nation and I don't think it was inclusive of many First Nations around the table here. And I think we deserve the same opportunity to have dialogue amongst ourselves, to look at a strategy or to have a way forward and to hear each other's concerns.

And I think we should be afforded the same opportunity as this policy was developed in privacy. I think we need to have our own private discussions and to be able to share our concerns. And I'm, I am sure you're maybe your chief, like myself and there are other neighbouring nations who have statements of claim that come directly either over my reserve or over the community. And I think we need to have a discussion as to how do we want to move forward and to be able to share our concerns and to… so I would encourage you to come in February for the first day or to bring whomever you think that would be helpful in, in how we have that dialogue. But I just wanted to share that information with everyone. Huychqa.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mike 12,

JORDAN MULDOE: Jordan Muldoe, proxy for Kispiox Band.

I wanted to share a little bit with you guys about the Delgamuukw decision. The Delgamuukw decision was a lands and title and everything like that. The other thing too was that was my late father and I think that there's a lot of clouded water in between the fact that BCTC and the Delgamuukw decision. Like when you put BCTC into the question you have to follow a lot of things. I found, I'm very young. This is my first time here. I'm going to explain, the thing is, is that a lot of people are misinformed when it comes to that BCTC information does not always go back to all the communities and stuff like that. So, moving forward, it'd be nice if there was a lot of transparency in regards to this kind of information because that information is not always shared with everybody within communities and stuff like that though the whole body of people in hereditary chiefs and everything like that. And what kind of people have unique, different, different systems. It's important that everybody is included in those decisions and what's going to happen and moving forward. But I watched a lot of people come together and it wasn't ever a monetary, any monetary value and nothing like that. They fought for something that they believed in. I remember sitting on the back of the snow mobile for five hours at a time, bouncing up and down a trap line. And knowing that those are my grassroots. Hunting. I still do that today. Fishing. I still do that today. Those are important to me and land claims and stuff like that. But the thing is that we can't get convoluted with all the government bureaucracy and stuff like that. They have to understand that if you guys are going to come and talk to you, they have to talk to everybody as a whole in every community because every community is unique and which way, they -- how they do it. So, it can't be just one model that's going to be built for the whole province. It has to be a specific model that's built to each community that you go to. Because everybody's different.

So, but for me, it's a, it hits me in the heart because I've sat there, I watched a man diminish because of that. He fought hard for that title.

I seen that myself. And to this day I still see it like it's strong with me when I go out of my territory, that's where I belong. You know what to have economic development or anything like that happens on my territory without the consent of me. Like I know that I should have consent, but it still doesn't happen. That should be happening when people go onto territory's and stuff like that. It doesn't happen. You know, I even after a big court case like that.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any other questions or comments? Like 17

CHAD ENEAS: I guess some of my thoughts go or lead me towards the connecting factors and we've been engaged in some significant research around the establishment, the reserves and you know, the allied tribes in around 1875 and you know, all of the progression alluding to the Sir Wilfred Laurier Memorial. And there is a number of things that stand out for me and one of them are pre-existing agreements. I think it's alluded to in one of the more recent cases with Williams Lake Indian Band in their specific claim in terms of how the relationship was established prior to Confederacy with the British colony and Canada's agreement to uphold and honour those agreements. So, in my mind it would be, I guess the connecting factor there would be the obligation of the land settlement in BC, much like in other parts of Canada would be then a federal obligation.

So, I guess some of my comments, I definitely appreciate the information and you know, I do and will continue to participate in a respectful dialogue around our intertribal and Intercommunity protocols. We have a word in Okanagan and it's [Native language]. And what that says is by respecting myself I can respect you and we see in the litigation that the strength in the victory and the success of the advancement of title and rights is that the people are saying the same things, all the witnesses from the communities, all the language speakers, the knowledge keepers, they're saying the same things. And that's going to be equally weighted I think in terms of any kind of boundary discussion or resolution is that if we're saying the same things on those boundaries, then that is our strength. And that's how we collectively approach addressing the colonial government – BC/Canada, who in my mind right now, and this might be a little bit outdated, but there's Seamus O'Regan is bragging about giving the Indians and Canada $21 billion a year in programs and services. Well, three years ago, the partnerships that our communities across the country have generated over $32 billion a year. The 2% and the 3% agreements of the natural resources within our territories is grossly inaccessible. So, the access to the resources and the control and the decision making over the resources based on title in this province equates to billions of dollars and we're getting pennies.

So, I think it's time for us to really stand together and to start saying the same things and, and pursue that so that the legacy of colonization can come to an end

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, Chief. We will go to the concluding remarks from CLO and then we'll go to some resolutions immediately after like four.

CLO OSTROVE: Well there's a lot of work to be done and a lot that's been done and who better to do it than you?

Those are my concluding comments.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Great. Thank you, Clo. So, I'm sure we'll will be having more discussion on this in February as well. I draw your attention to the resolutions package.

(Track 27)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Option of the 50th AGA minutes.

Therefore be it resolved UBCIC Chiefs assembly adopt the minutes of the 50th annual general assembly, October 2018 as presented in the 51st annual general assembly kit.

Looking for a mover and seconder Mic 17.

CHAD ENEAS: Chief of the Penticton Indian band, Chad Eneas, I will move.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Chief. Seconder. Mic 8.

KEITH CROW: Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any discussion? Hearing no discussion. We'll go to question. Any objections to the resolution? Any abstentions? Let's see. Neither does carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2019-40 regarding adoption of the 2018\19 audited financial statements.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly hereby adopt the 2018\2019 audited financial statements as presented at UBCIC 51St Annual General Assembly Meeting October 1st to 3rd, 2019.

Mic 10.

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: So moved. Kukpis Christian.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc. Seconder?

CORA ANTHONY: Cora Anthony proxy for Neskonlith.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc. Any discussion? Any opposition to the resolution? Any abstentions? Seeing it is carried.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Now we have some committees to fill and our typical practice is I read out to resolution, we backfill with names and then we move to adopt resolution. So, 2019-41 regarding appointment UBCIC elections appeal committee.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly hereby appoint the following persons as Elections Appeal Committee of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs upcoming three-year term ending at the Annual General Assembly in October 2022.

Any volunteers. We need three in total -volunteers for the appeal committee. Voluntolds, keep in mind this is a hard requirement of our bylaws. There must be such a committee in place. There's actually three committees that must be in place, so we'll be going through them. There has got to be some interest in helping us out on being on the appeals committee. You're rarely… I think rarely if ever called upon yet, it's a committee that we need to populate.

Pardon me?

STUART ALEC: Chief Stewart for Nasco. Ii will sit on this board or committee.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Mic 18.

JANET WEBSTER: Chief Janet Webster, I’ll volunteer and Christine Minivariat [ph]. Nominate her.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc. Mic 19.

CORA ANTHONY: Cora Anthony, proxy for Neskonlith.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukpis Webster, was your nominee - is she present? Oh, so now we have four going for three positions. Good. Do we want to go to a competition or does somebody want to step down and support us in one of the other committees? Mic 19.

CORA ANTHONY: Cora Anthony, Neskonlith.

TYRONE MCNEIL: You'll help us in one of the other committees. Sorry, Kukpis, that was Christie? Could this repeat the name again please?

CORA ANTHONY: Chief Christine Minivariat.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So Chief Stewart, Chief Webster, Chief Minivariat. Are we ready for question? Thank you. Any opposition? Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

Oh, sorry we didn't do a mover and seconder. Okay, let's back up to that resolution. I need a mover and seconder to place the Elections Appeal Committee. Sorry. Mic 10

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Kukpis Christian.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Mic 8.

KEITH CROW: Chief Crow, Lower Similkameen.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any discussion? Any opposition? Any abstentions. Seeing none the resolution is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2019-42, regarding appointment of the UBCIC Credentials Committee.

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly hereby appoint the following persons as the credentials committee of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs with upcoming three-year term ending at the annual general assembly, October 2022.

Looking for a mover and a seconder. You're only moving and seconding. You're not volunteering unless you want to chief or proxy Cora moving. Thank you. Seconder? Mic 9.

STUART ALEC: Chief Stuart second.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you.

So proxy Cora, you're a volunteering for this committee? Yes. Thank you. Two more volunteers. Again, this is one of those mandate committees that we must populate, but you're rarely if ever called upon

Mic 18.

CORA ANTHONY: I nominate Lee Spahan.

TYRONE MCNEIL: I don't know if Kukpis is here is he? That's okay she says. Mic 11.

ROSANNE CASIMIR: Kukpis Rosanne Casimer.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. One quick check for any other interest. Seeing none, we have proxy Cora, Kukpis Spahan, Kukpis Casmir. Any discussion? Ready for question? Any opposition? Any abstentions? See neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: A resolution 2019-43, regarding amendments to the UBCIC conflict of interest and ethics policy.

Therefore resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly hereby endorse the updated conflict of interest in ethics policy.

Attached to the resolution, was presented on yesterday. Looking for a mover and seconder

Mic 10.

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Kukpis Christian, so move.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Seconder?

JOE PIERRE: Joe Pierre, Aqam.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Chief. Any discussion? Ready for question? Any opposition? Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: 2019-44, regarding addressing the incarceration or the over-criminalization of Indigenous women and girls.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call upon Canada and British Columbia to address the over incarceration and criminalization of Indigenous women and girls through wholly reforming the federal and provincial justice systems in partnership with First Nations, including but not limited to the development of further of alternatives to incarceration, recognition and resourcing for Indigenous justice models and courts and the development of more healing lodges for Indigenous women under section 84 Corrections and Conditional Release Act, CCRA; and

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call upon the Correction Service of Canada to ensure that Gladue reports are not being used to determine custodial risk in the federal prison system, to ensure that the writing of Gladue reports is consistently funded and resourced across all provinces and undertake a review of their applications by the judiciary; and

Therefore further be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call upon Canada to amend the criminal code to allow judicial discretion in mandatory minimum sentences and determine a sentence that is based upon the specific circumstances of the offence and the individual in order to address the disproportionate number of Indigenous women serving life sentences; and

Therefore further be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive to work with BC Assembly First Nations, the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council and First Nations Justice Council to develop a strategy for addressing the over-incarceration and criminalization of Indigenous women and girls and ensure the strategies included in the BC First Nations justice strategy; and

Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive to work with First Nations Justice Council to provide an update on the progress made to address the over-incarceration and criminalization of Indigenous women and girls at the UBCIC Annual General Assembly in 2020.

Looking for a mover and a seconder. Mic 15 Mic 14

JAMES HOBART: Chief James Hobart. S

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Seconder.

ED HALL: Chief Ed Hall, Coquitlam,

TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Any discussion? Any discussion? Are you ready for question? Any opposition to the resolution? Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: A quick time check. We got time for a couple more at least

Resolution 2019-45, regarding support for the Penticton Indian bands seeking justice for its valid South Okanagan common edge specific claim.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCUC Chiefs in Assembly fully support the Penticton Indian band and its efforts to reach a fair, just and timely resolution of its South Okanagan commonage specific claim by moving beyond the current outdated, unfair specific claims process; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly support the PIB’s request to meet with the Assembly of First Nations chiefs committee on lands, territories and resources; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly urge the federal government to return to its 2018 commitment to forgive negotiations loans and immediately implement a system of providing funding in the form of grants to Indigenous nations, ensure equality and justice as Indigenous nations should not have to pay for the rightful restitution of their lands and territories or increase their financial debt while negotiating specific claims; and

Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call upon Canada to take immediate steps to develop, with full participation of Indigenous nations, to truly independent specific claims process that makes equal space for the inclusion of Indigenous legal orders and is aligned to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

I don't see chief Lewis or chief McCloud here. Mic 15.

GEORGE SADDLEMAN: Yeah, George Saddleman, proxy for Upper Nicola, I move.

TYRONE MCNEIL: And so sorry to the chiefs over here. Your conversations carrying across the table.

Thank you. Seconder? Mic 9.

CINDY BREWER: Cindy Brewer, proxy for Chief Louis Okanagan Indian band.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Any discussion? Mic 17

CHAD ENEAS: Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band. I think the intent of the resolution also is to express that the claims process is unique in BC as opposed to a national scope. So, I think that's a little bit of the request for the support for PIB’s participation in the national engagement session with the AFN.

So that - I just wanted to clarify that therefore is because the terms of the Union and how reserves were established back in the day. There's definitely a uniqueness about how those resolutions move forward in British Columbia as opposed to other parts of the country.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Do you have a specific amendment in the resolution, Chief?

CHAD ENEAS: I think you could add it to the just to the therefore that the resolution to any of the outstanding CLAIMS in BC are unique to BC in the second Therefore.

TYRONE MCNEIL: In the second therefore you catch that.

Could you repeat that one more time? That the resolution of claims in BC are unique because of the terms of THE Union and how it differs from the rest of the country.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Got it. Thank you. Chief

Mover and seconder are fine with that? Thank you. Any other discussion? Don't be shy to call the question. Questions been called, any opposition to the resolution. Any abstentions? Seeing neither is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2019-46, regarding Big Bar landslide.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call for the immediate and effective implementation and circulation of the recently signed tripartite MOU on emergency management and the addition of an emergency response protocol that is inclusive of Indigenous nations and organizations and is founded upon transparent communications; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the federal and provincial governments to work with impacted Indigenous nations and partner Indigenous organizations to do a review of the response to the Big Bar landslide and examined the long lasting and severe repercussions of the landslide will have on future salmon runs locally, economies, community livelihoods, tourism, recreational commercial fishing, and the survival of vulnerable salmon species and to develop plans to address these impacts and ensure better travel for the salmon, as well as build a better response if and when this happens again; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive to work with other likeminded organizations to ensure that the DFO and associated provincial ministries honour their commitments to conserve and protect wild salmon and uphold the Cohen Commission's recommendations; and

Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the DFO to adopt an approach that addresses both the short term and long-term effects of the slide, considers and incorporates traditional Indigenous knowledge and takes climate change and the future cycles of salmon stocks into account. We also requested to DFO take note of the low returns in salmon and provide UBCIC chiefs in Assembly with a clearer review of the exact numbers of fish that were unable to pass through the obstruction caused by the slide.

Looking for a mover, mic 12.

JORDAN MULDOE: Jordan Muldoe, proxy for Kispiox.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Mic 17.

RALPH LEON: Chief Ralph Leon, Chehalis.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Any need discussion? Questions been called, any opposition to the resolution. Oh, sorry. Mic six

JASMINE THOMAS: Jasmine Thomas, Saikuz proxy. Just wanted to add in the second therefore, language around food security after community livelihoods.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Good catch. That's okay with the mover and seconder. Thank you. Thank you, mic. 22

MELINDA SWAN: My name is Melinda Swan proxy for Ahousaht. On the second therefore it says “as well as build a better response if slash when this happens again.” I would like for our response to be develop like now a plan now instead of instead of waiting for it to happen again.

TYRONE MCNEIL: That's the intent of that therefore to develop the plan now for when it happens again. Any other discussion? Question has been called, any opposition to the resolution. Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: I think we're just a little bit past 3:30 and the candidates have a very tight time frame so we'll come back to resolutions as soon as we can. Whether that's after the candidate session or alternatively, I think we're going to get to the rest of the resolutions no later than mid-morning, tomorrow morning. So, with that we'll come back out of camera and just a note to our technicians. If I call for in camera again turn off the speakers that are in the foyer, because we kicked everybody out and they could still hear what we were saying for the first couple of minutes. So, in camera means only those inside this room can see and hear us for our technicians but with that the webcast can we turned back on again? It is on. Thank you.

So, if somebody invites our candidates back in, we will carry on with that piece of business.

# FEDERAL ELECTION 2019

(TRACK 28)

DON TOM: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. And thank our candidates for taking the time to be here today. Well, some of us are still getting seated, I just want to remind the delegation about the opportunity for tomorrow to hear about the UN legislation from the province. And if you haven't signed or gone back to our back table and you're interested, please take the time to go to the back table for the information.

So, I would like to welcome the candidates and thank them once again for taking the time to be here. We would like to welcome Elizabeth May, the leader of the Green Party. Joan Philip who's running for NDP, Jenny Kwan, who's also running for NDP, Jody Wilson-Raybould running as an independent. Joyce, you are here, right? Joyce Marie running for the Liberals and is Mavis here? Mavis, thank you, Mavis, Mavis Erickson as well and Breen Ouellette.

I would like to welcome you all and thank you for taking the time to be here. I know we are excited to hear from you. I think we all took part in the coin toss and I'm not sure who won to go first. Elizabeth.

So, we will have Elizabeth May to go first. I was left without instructions as to how much time you get, but I know that you I know an hour. I know Elizabeth has to leave, she has to go back to my riding and going to high school there. But I turn it over to Elizabeth and I will update to as to how much time you have. Microphone 4.

ELIZABETH MAY: Thank you. I want to start by thanking Musqueam Nation for the hospitality once again to be in this space with you. I have to do this to raise my hands to all of you huychqa siem, it's an honour to be here again. And last time I was here was of course British Columbia, gathering of Assembly First Nations, BC Union of Indian Chiefs. And the leadership here I regard as on most issues my leadership Grand Chief Stewart, Phillip, I've always unofficially my leader so that I don't wrong. It's an honor to be with my colleagues from parliament.

I don't want to rush through things. Chief Don Tom, of course, I'm honoured to live on that territory of [Native language] nation and I've learned a lot from Chief Don Tom and I'm honoured to be here at the same table with all of you.

I want to say hello honour to all the elders who are present and all the observers and of course the chiefs in the BC Council of Indian Chiefs. We're in the middle of a federal election, as you know, as the leader of the Green Party of Canada, I get pulled to all parts of this country. I left Montreal this morning and I'm doing my very, very best to take a truthful and honest message of the climate emergency everywhere I go.

I'm very grateful that the Assembly of First Nations meeting in July in Fredericton prioritized the climate emergency as a major message. The challenge I see before me in the campaign is to ensure that the message of truth, justice and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is clearly the foundational course of our response to the climate crisis. It goes together, not separately, so does social justice go together, not separately, and that's, in an election campaign, hard because there are many, many things that pop up that I don't think are really important.

I would add to that this is not my mug and it's not photo shopped. Never mind. I find myself moved to tears more often than not by recognizing the leadership being shown by our children. So earlier today in your proceedings when Chief Michell referred to the words of Greta Thunberg, our ecosystems are dying. People are dying. How dare you? That strikes right to our heart because all of us who understand a climate emergency is not a political issue recognize that we shouldn't be in an election campaign playing politics with the survival of mother earth. We should not be scoring points off each other. We should be trying to talk seriously about the climate emergency and how essential it is. There's, there's no question that it's do or die that we go off fossil fuels as quickly as possible, that we move to a society that can ensure that our children and their children and their children are in a hospitable biosphere, that mother earth continues to sustain us.

But we know that we're in crisis as Chief Michell was quoting Chief Dan George from decades ago. He's right. You continue to beat up on mother earth and expect that we can have life that continues and is sustainable.

So, I will ensure that I commit publicly again, that should we win enough Green seats that I become prime minister, at the point that all of you pick yourself up off the floor from shock. But if that were to happen and no matter what kind of clout we have in parliament, we will make sure that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples doesn't die in the Senate again, but becomes the law of the land and that we adjust all of our laws and all of our processes to meet the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People that we act on the calls to action that reflected federal government responsibilities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and that we move to implement the recommendations of the Inquiry of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It's essential. It's not going to be accomplished overnight, but on these issues I will be immovable. It is critical that this country emerge from 150 years of oppression and colonialism and recognize that our survival depends on changing our worldview. Our survival depends on recognizing that the earth is our mother and we will stand up and protect the life of all peoples, species and our planet. Thank you for your time.

DON TOM: Thank you. Yes, thank you, Elizabeth. I did find out we have five minutes each and then we'll take some questions afterwards. If we are okay to continue down the line. JodY.

JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD: Well, thank you for thank you for welcoming all of us here To the UBCIC, the 51st Annual General Assembly. I am always grateful to be back home.

And first of all I want to also acknowledge the territory that we're on and thank the Musqueam people for allowing us to conduct our business here. And I want to acknowledge all of the fellow candidates that are running in this federal election. And thank them for putting their names forward. Thank you to the UBCIC executive for the continued work that you do and to all of the chiefs and matriarchs and community members that are here.

Again, I am incredibly pleased to be back here around this table. Many of us were able to be here and I know the regional chief is here at the BCAFN Assembly around this table as well to engage in discussions as candidates about issues with respect to reconciliation and issues around sustainability and climate change.

My name of course is Jody. My traditional name is Puglaas. I am very grateful to have been able to have been the regional chief in British Columbia for just over six years. And I want to acknowledge all the leadership around this table for the work that you have done for generations, for many years that have brought us to this place where we are moving forward, where we as Indigenous peoples across the country are having success as we rebuild our nations.

The reason why the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is where it is and why the Government of Canada has endorsed it is because of the work of each and every one of you. The United Nations Declaration speaks as you know, to 46 articles that are the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples.

And we Indigenous people from across the country have been advocating for our rights for title, for the recognition of treaty rights since prior to I was born and leadership that brought us section 35 of the Constitution. As regional chief and as the member of parliament for Vancouver Granville for the past four years, three of those years being the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada. We have sought to work hard to create the space where section 35 is recognized as it should be a full box of rights of inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and sought to create - and this is our ongoing challenge - a framework for the recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights in this country. This is what report after report has been asking for. This is the work of our communities back home as we seek to ensure we finish the unfinished business of Confederation.

I have been very honoured to be in the position that I've been as MP and as Minister of Justice and I've learned a lot over the last four years. And one of the lessons that I've learned is that it is very hard to create real change. But even learning that I am still incredibly optimistic about the opportunities that we have as Indigenous peoples, yes, but as a country to ensure that we can move forward, that we can create the space for our communities to move beyond the Indian Act, for our communities to be self-determining, including self-governing. This is the challenge that we have been embracing and overcoming for many years. And I know that it is the work of the people around this table that will continue to advocate for that to ensure that we can achieve real change. And I firmly know that real change will only come when we work together, when we move beyond partisan lines and actually do the real work that is required as a country.

No one political party, however well-intentioned has all the answers. But we need to work together on Indigenous rights and recognition. And also, as my friend talks about on climate change. This is the biggest issue facing our time and Indigenous peoples have everything to… every role to play in ensuring that we have a sustainable world and ensuring that we tackle climate change and meet our emissions targets. Again, if we approach this in a collaborative way, in a way that builds consensus, which are the teachings of my ancestors, we will be able to tackle these big issues.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Sorry, Puglaas, you re out of time.

JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD: Thank you. I could go on, but I look forward to the questions and I have a gift that I wanted to give to Stewart later. Gilakas’la.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Five minutes does go too fast. Joan starting five minutes.

JOAN PHILLIP: I tend to want to speak quickly but this is on right. [Native language]. I want to thank my Coast Salish relatives or Musqueam, Squamish and particularly the Tsleil Waututh for allowing us the opportunity to speak within the territory and do this business.

I was reading that little booklet, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and quite simply that was written by Indigenous peoples from around the world. But they're simply affirming what we knew we already had the minimum standards of what we understand. And it's those rights that we've been fighting for ever since we were colonized. 152 years ago.

For the last 152 years we've had Conservatives and we've had Liberals and throughout that time, the wealthy have gotten wealthier off our resources and our territories and the poor have gotten poorer. And just a few days ago, there was a statement that the 1% was the fastest growing revenues and they're paying less taxes. And what a surprise.

We are in a critical stage in our history where we need to choose differently and people say, Oh, we have to we have to vote strategically, strategically vote with your heart, vote for those that are going to fight for you, that are going to put working people first, that are going to tax the top 1%. It was suggested that 1%, take taxing that 1% of those super wealthy, those that are worth over $20 million could generate $70 billion over 10 years.

In 1949 and I've said this before, people shared the tax burden with corporations, 50/50, in 1985 it stretched from 79% to 21% and I bet you today that divide is even larger. We've got to stop voting for people that are not working in our interest.

I'm really committed to climate change. I have five children and 15 grandchildren and the things that we do today will impact on them. With my husband's genealogy, he can go back to 1672 and I tell you that's how far we have to look forward to our future generations. And we might not make it there the way we're going we have to start choosing differently. We have to choose ourselves, our future generations, the elders, our health is getting worse. Education is going down. The car fentanyl drugs is taking our children. We lost a son last year to car fentanyl and we've got to get off our little hennies and do something different.

I really liked what Jody Wilson-Raybould said because we do have to cross party lines. When it comes to our survival it's going to depend on us working together. We have to look at the principle that we stand for and do the right thing together because otherwise we will not survive.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Time is up. Thank you.

JOAN PHILLIP: Thank you very much. Limt lim.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Just before moving on, acknowledging Elizabeth does have to run, she's got something happening in her riding that's unavoidable. So, she's leaving in the middle but doesn't have any choice. And to the candidates on a thank you right now for allowing me to be a stopwatch and cutting you off whenever, it's something I must do. Jenny, you've got five minutes.

JENNY KWAN: Well thank you very much and good afternoon. My name is Jenny Kwan and I'm running for re-election in Vancouver East for the NDP. Let me first acknowledge the lands in which I stand today the Musqueam people for allowing me to be here as a settler in your territory. I want to say a very big thank you as well to the UBCIC leadership, to all the chief, the matriarchs, the elders that are here for your incredible leadership over the years and the many, many lessons that you have taught me. I have learned so much from you and one of the most important things that I always take away is this. I will never forget these words and that is that we United with one heart and one mind, that we're all connected as peoples and that if we put our hearts to it, we can do and make the difference that is so very necessary for humanity.

That is what Indigenous peoples have taught me that were connected, and it is about humanity. And that to me is what this election is all about.

I look at Canada's history and you know what I have to say, I hang my head in shame, colonialism, the impacts that is being felt for generations. It continues to be felt today and yet decade after decade after decade, there are excuses that are being made. How is it possible that there is mercury poisoning right now in Indigenous communities taking place? How is it possible that Indigenous children have to take the government to court to have equal funding as non-Indigenous children for education? How is it possible that our child welfare system actually taken more children away from Indigenous families than when there were residential schools? I could go on. And this cannot be accepted. This cannot be the future, and that's what we need to do to stand together and to say, no more.

I come from the downtown East side back some 26 years ago when I was an advocating there doing the work there and I still remember the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls issue. When we raised the issue that we thought that there was a serial killer in the community and that we wanted an inquiry a national inquiry into this issue. The police and others call us, people in the community as somehow, we were obstructing justice in that call. Right. And then of course what we now know that they was a serial killer. We finally got that national inquiry and the calls for justice is sitting there on the shelf, the government before the adjournment of the house, right? I call on the Mr. Trudeau to actually commit to implementing all of those recommendations with a timeline, with resources and to ensure that there's accountability back to the community because that cannot be tolerated and be allowed anymore. And I didn't get an answer for that.

So, my friends, we have a climate emergency, Indigenous peoples have taken care of mother earth for thousands of years and for me for the NDP it is not about consultation anymore, it's about you being at the decision-making table. You have done this for thousands of years and we need to respect you and you know what, as we say with the pipeline on Kinder Morgan on Trans Mountain, no consent, no pipeline.

This is where we are at the UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is the minimum, the minimum to which we need to make that into law. That's the work that I'm so proud of MP Romeo Saganash in bringing that private member's bill forward. And that has to be the way forward. Inheritant rights needs to be recognized and this is how we need to move forward in this country.

So I am very humble to be here today to learn from you and to say to you with my greatest gratitude as well for the ancestors before you who also took care of my ancestors, the Chinese people who came to this land, who suffered discrimination, who helped build this railway to build this country. And you know what? It was the Indigenous people who helped them to provide support to them when they couldn't get adequate food or housing. You know what and in the face of the discrimination that you were faced with. And that is the essence of Indigenous people that I've always seen and have always learned. You take care each other; you take care of humanity no matter how tough it is and the hardships that you are faced with. Your hearts are so generous and so big that even in the face of those hardships, you are there to support the people who face hardships themselves. And for that, I am forever grateful. Thank you so much.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Five minutes starts now.

BREEN OULLETTE: Hello, my name is Breene Oullette. I'm a 42-year-old Métis man originally from Saskatchewan. I'm a lawyer. Thanks for having me here to speak. I was a lawyer with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. I've been a director at the Métis nation, Saskatchewan, and I've been involved in the Union movement. I want to take a moment to introduce myself formally by talking about my ancestors. My third great grandfather, Joseph Ouellette, Jr. was a combatant against the Canadian military at Patosh in 1885. We were fighting against them because they were pushing us off our land as they had done again and again and again. And on the last day of the last hour of that battle, Joseph was on a Hill with some other Métis combatants, including Gabriel Dumont. And Gabriel could see that the Canadian military were slowly surrounding them, and they were going to be overrun. And he went to old Ouellette and he said, father, the Canadians are surrounding us. We need to retreat. And old Ouellette wanting to ensure that the men had strength and so he said to them, you men go on without me. I need to kill a few more Englishman.

Now my family knows that that moment of bravado was done because he knew he had to stay behind and sacrifice himself so that the other men could retreat. He had his community, his Kith and kin on that battlefield. And so, in that last hour of that battle, he took a bayonet in the stomach and he died at 93 years of age. And I remember him, and I honour him.

I also want to talk about my third great grandmother Margarite Madeline Trachet [ph] five minutes is nowhere near enough time to talk about this amazing woman. So, I just want to give you the broad strokes. At 17 years of age as a Métis woman she was one of the earliest victims of the enforcement of patriarchy on our women, and she was put in danger and as a result of that hubris, she was scalped at 17 years of age and she didn't die. She survived and she went on to have two children and her son became the richest man in North Dakota and he actually was a benefactor of Louis Riel. He helped to fund the first Riel resistance at Red River, which resulted in the formation of Manitoba. And when Riel had to flee Canada to avoid being hung it was that third great uncle of mine who kept him safe. Margaret Madeline lived to be 85 years old and I am proud to say that her blood flows through my veins.

Thank you for listening to that introduction. Now, as a lawyer on the national inquiry, I saw a lot of things, a lot of things I didn't like. I know that we can change them in this country, but to change them, we have to change this country at a fundamental level.

One of the things that I appreciate about the NDP plan is that we are saying there must be free, prior, informed consent of every Indigenous nation that's affected by any decision of the government to bring forward a project. The nation, you know, whichever nation, not the AFN, not the UBCIC, all due respect, but the individual nations should have that. Right? And as a Métis person, I appreciate that stance because the Van Der Peet decision set us on a course that gave us duty to consult, which isn't good enough. And I think everybody in this room knows that duty to consult is too low a bar. We need to change that.

And the other thing that I want to say, this is my personal belief. This is not NDP policy, but I'm hoping that we can all work together to see it. I believe that our institutions, our system of justice in this country has failed to address the genocide and the crimes against humanity that have happened and continue to happen in this country. And I believe that the way we fix that is we bring in the international criminal court and the international court of justice and we get an independent group to investigate, prosecute, and judge the criminals who are still alive today. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Time. Five minutes starts now.

MAVIS ERICKSON: Thank you. My name is Mavis Erickson and I have been at this table as a tribal chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council in the pas. I would like to start by thanking the Musqueam for having us on their territory today. And I would like to thank the people of Musqueam for hosting us today.

I think the word that comes to mind is the song by Susan Aglukark au siem, it means we are all family in Musqueam, so au siem. I'm a Dakelh woman from the Nakazleh territory. My parents were the late Sally and Louis Erickson. I am a member of the frog clan. I come from a matriarchal group and I come from a society where women have always been respected and women have always played leadership roles within their communities. And I've been a part of the Dakelh all my life and will be until the day that I die.

My purpose in running for the Liberal party is, it was a couple of things. It took a long time to decide to run, but in our my riding and Prince George Peace River North, we have the Conservative sitting MP who said in the 2015 debate that one of the major drivers of missing and murdered Aboriginal women is the lack of economic activity or simply put the lack of a job. Ultimately, when people have a job, they're not in despair, they can stay on reserve and that's where we want them to be. Bob Zimmer said that. And so, if the Conservatives get back in that is the kind of government that we're going to be facing, we'll be back - setback squarely into the 1920s. As an Indigenous woman, I have long advocated on behalf of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. And one of the things that I was deeply impressed with about the Liberal government was the fact that they were able to strike a commission on the missing and murdered women and girls. And they also were able to get that work completed within their last four-year term.

And there are many recommendations in that report that have yet to be implemented. It was an inquiry that we had been advocating for for many, many years. Some of the women in the Prince George area that were named were missing from early as 1969. So the missing and murdered women issue had been going on for decades and we'd never been heard.

And in addition to this work that the Liberal government has done is the work on truth and reconciliation. And then the last four years, I would say that the Liberal government has done more with truth and reconciliation with First Nations than any other government to date. The work has been ongoing and long and hard work and work like Jody said that everybody at this table fought for. Some of the things that we wanted and some of the things that our ancestors fought for and some of the things that our ancestors died for.

And we really need to be able to work with a government that is open to that right now. If the Conservative to get back into power, we won't have any of that.

The other things that the Liberal government has done in its term is they have worked on the drinking water and made drinking water more accessible for First Nations and taken the water advisories off in at least 87 communities and they've also been able to give a child benefit, that's lifted over 800 families out of poverty. I think that that 800,000 is probably a lot of our families. Our Indigenous families were always at the bottom of the totem pole we are always the poorest. Our women are suffering. They have nothing to rely on but themselves. And it's a tough, tough row to hoe as an Indigenous woman. And I think that time is up. Thank you. I'd really like to thank you all for coming here to listen to us and I wish everyone at the table the best of luck. I think that everybody at this table needs to be commended for running and putting their name forward.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. And your five minutes starts. No,

JOYCE MURPHY: Thank you. I'm Joyce Murray. I'm the member of parliament for the area in which we are seated, and I want to pay my respect to the Musqueam nation for the fact that you're hosting this. It's been a privilege to be representing a territory where you are situated. Thank you to everyone who's attending this and all the hard work that you've done that other candidates have pointed out in this voyage of bringing Canada to where we are today, which is a long way from where we were a few decades ago.

So, I was here just four years ago actually speaking to this very group. It was a privilege then. I talked about our Liberal commitment to a new relationship with Indigenous peoples based on reconciliation, based on respect, based on partnership. And so much progress has been made, but there is still so, so much work to be done.

And so, I'm going to be making a pitch for supporting us in moving forward with you together to make more progress. So, I'll just tell you a bit about myself. I was an immigrant who came to Vancouver at age seven. My parents left South Africa because of the racism and division in South Africa at the time and inequality. After graduating from Lord Bing and traveling, I became a tree planter to make my way through university and met my husband doing that. And we built a tree planting business that took me to places all throughout British Columbia and Alberta over the years of building that. I'm a mum of three children and an environmentalist. So, I did my thesis on climate change in 1992 and I did an MBA and I have been pushing for strong environmental policy ever since. I had the privilege of being the Minister of Environment for the Province of British Columbia for three years.

And I just wanted to share with you a story of the highlight of my time as environment minister was up in Bella Bella with the Heiltsuk community where we were negotiating parks co-management with the Heiltsuk for the Kitasoo/Xaixais haze conservation area. And we were sitting in a hall signing the documents. I was signing with the chief. The elders were there, there was a ceremonial drumming. It was a very, very charged moment for me and for the community. And a small boy came running into the hall where the families were all sitting around tables and there was a food and celebration. I was sitting with a pen in my hand. The boy told the elders that the whales were circling in the Bay. And so, everyone got up, went down the to the Wharf and there were literally dozens and dozens of transient killer whales circling. And the elders said, our ancestors approve of this co-management agreement.

It was - the hair was on the back of my neck standing straight up. I tell that story because I've had a voyage of learning about the importance of reconciliation, respect and Indigenous traditional knowledge. I think that has been ignored and dismissed for decades for generations here in our country. And it's time that we see that Indigenous knowledge collected over thousands of years for the real import importance that it has for us moving forward in our country, on our land as peoples together.

So, I am honoured to be a running in a party that has Mavis Erickson, we will be working in a very focused way to work with Indigenous peoples to protect the environment for future generations. Our Liberal value is to move forward on this new relationship that we have commenced with you in so many ways in all of your communities. Financially, from policy perspective, legislation, process, commitment. And so, we do risk having Andrew Scheer with his buddies, Kenny and Ford, bringing back Harper politics and Harper cuts. So, I ask you to think very deeply about that. A Liberal government will move forward with you. Please support us. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, we have no time for one question. Just before going to question, I said that teasingly. I think I'm going to limit you. The most candidates that you can ask a question to is two, so ask a question to a specific candidate or two of them. We're not going through the whole line. We don't have time like 17.

# QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

JEROME JACK: [Native language]. Thank you all for being here once again. I just have six things. No, just kidding. I don't have six things. My question is we did ceremony here today for a beautiful man that we all love and cherish. Will you ensure that the Indigenous people have the access to high quality, culturally relevant health care and mental health services as needed? You know, cause very important to us. We… and how will you? So, you know, that's very important to our people.

We're in a position where we have to eat pressed around food. So, you know, our health is decreasing obesity's diabetes, you know, heart attacks. It's all happening. It's real. We want to see it. And will you fully implement the United Nations Declaration on Rights and Indigenous Peoples, which is a high priority, very high. And I want to keep moving forward as Chehalis. We had Liberal riding and our riding for the last four years. And you know, as I said before, first time federal government has ever come to our community and 152 years. So, we're very grateful for that. And we just want to keep moving forward, keep moving forward on everything that we're doing. Au siem.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So who are you asking that to? So, one or two candidates?

JEROME JACK: Two.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Which two? Be specific.

JEROME JACK: Liberal And one NDP.

TYRONE MCNEIL: One Liberal, one NDP. Who would like that?

JEROME JACK: And one independent and one independent.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Oh, too late. Two minutes. Yup. Otherwise we only have one question. What happened to the portable mic?

JOYCE MURRAY: Okay, thanks. Could we start again because my mic was off.

So yes, absolutely. We're committed to, we're, we're committed to UNDRIP and we supported that when it was - when a private member's bill came forward by Liberal a member, Tina keeper in 2008. We supported the bill when it came forward in 2018 by Romeo Saganash. We have committed to, as a government, introduce a bill supporting the commitment to UNDRIP and so we will do that. And we'll do it by the end of 2020. So, it's very, we have said, we believe, and we support these commitments and we are acting on that.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Under two minutes. Impressive. Mic 4.

Mic 4, where you really don't have time.

JOAN PHILLIP: Thank you. Excellent questions. Yes, of course we will implement UNDRIP and all 46 articles. With respect to healthcare we do have a plan for healthcare and an includes PharmaCare, which is, I guess health from head to toe. But more importantly, we're taking a holistic approach because there needs to be affordable housing. We plan on building 500,000 affordable homes for people.

I recall back in the day when a lot of single people were cut off well welfare and we want to ensure that care for everyone is reinstated. Everyone gets a cheque because we can't sustain our health if you're living on the street. Limt lim.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. A quick check in with the candidates. You are on until 4:30. Does it matter much if we run a few minutes past it running off? No, one hour's a crazy amount of time. Mic 24.

PATRICK MICHELL: Chief Patrick Michell Kanaka Band. A question for Joyce and Judy.

June 17th, Canada adopted a climate emergency and in June 18th, Canada approved TMX. So, for Joyce, Judy, yes, build it or no, don't build it.

JOYCE MURRAY: Could you repeat that? Sorry, I didn't catch what you're referring to.

PATRICK MICHELL: June 17th Canada approved a Canada climate emergency plan. Then on June 18th, Canada approved the TMX pipeline. I'm asking you build it or not build it. That was Joyce and Jody and

JOYCE MURRAY: Well, thank you for the question. And our prime minister and our government committed to build it. At the same time, we were able to negotiate with the Alberta Government historic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Alberta is the most emissions intensive province. And without their partnership, we would not be able to meet the targets that we will meet that we have set internationally. Alberta agreed to put a ceiling on oil sands growth for the very first time, and we all know that they have the jurisdiction to manage their oil sands. So, putting a cap was important, agreeing to phase out coal fired electricity five years earlier than the rest of the country was important to us. Agreeing to reductions of 40% in methane releases from oil sands was hugely important. So, our climate plan was enriched by Alberta's voluntary coming onboard with a national plan.

And yes, there is a pipeline that they demanded as a way to diversify fly their markets. So, their oil isn't all going to the Koch brothers cartel in the United States. We understand that there are people that feel strongly for that pipeline and strongly against the pipeline. And many other Liberals were able to bring to our government the importance of the Marine environment. And so, the government has made historic investments in the ocean protection plan with hundreds of millions of dollars of co-management of the ecosystems and its restoration and whale protection programs, co-management with Indigenous peoples in this region.

So, we will protect the region, we will regulate the shipping so that there is less impact on the environment and we will be reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting our timing. It's thank you for the question.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mic 4, Puglaas.

JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD: Thank you. Thank you for the question. And I mean this is an incredibly polarized issue. I'm running as an independent candidate in Vancouver Granville and this comes up fairly regularly.

I was a part of a government that approved a pipeline November of 2016. I will say that the conditions, from my perspective, have changed since November of 2016. I do not believe that the conditions are in place in order to proceed with the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. And I will say that for a number of reasons.

We need to move towards a green economy towards renewables right now, not wait for the proceeds from a pipeline to invest in renewables. I believe that we are, I don't believe we are in a climate emergency and there's somewhat of an inconsistency with moving forward with the pipeline in that regard. I'm not certain as to the economic case for the pipeline and there is great uncertainty as to the impacts on the environment and even recognizing the investments that have been made and appropriately and to ocean's protection.

Bottom line for Indigenous peoples, for communities around this table, there are still six cases that are in court with respect to consultation. And we missed an opportunity that government missed an opportunity, and this is related to UNDRIP. We should have had a framework in place for the recognition of rights of Indigenous peoples and the ability to engage in discussions with Indigenous peoples who are the proper title holders of the land. I agree with Breen that goes beyond consultation and accommodation, which infers that one government has dominion over the other, but we had this government had an opportunity to put in place a rights recognition framework and delayed that.

We need to do that now. The recognition of Indigenous rights in this country cannot wait. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Kukpis Fred, do you want mic 10 or 11? Mic 10.

FRED ROBBINS: Okay. I'd like to ask Jenny and Joyce this question around the education and the future of our youth and children as First Nations people. What are the plans around the day scholars, along with their residential schools? Orange shirt days recognized but the day scholars still hasn't been brought forward. I'm wondering, is there a role to play in the politics around how they're going to handle that? The day scholars and the education for our youth.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc. He said Jenny first, so we'll start with Jenny. Mic 5. Just don't start the timer yet. Wait till she grabs some mic. Mic five.

JENNY KWAN: Well thank you very much for that question. You know, education is going to be fundamental, I think in terms of the futures for us and the NDP. A, the government needs to actually fully fund education for Indigenous children. They should not have to go to court to make this happen. Dr Cindy Blackstock has been leading this fight with a spirit bear plan and we will fully implement that with and in consultation and in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

We also think that, for example, in the Province of British Columbia Melanie Mark, Minister Melanie Mark has brought in supporting Indigenous people to be able to get postsecondary education without having to pay for it. We should actually use that as a template across the country. And we should be working with the provinces to allow for that to happen so that everybody has the opportunity to succeed and who should be supporting Indigenous people in terms of their success in that regard.

I come from a place where education is paramount for my family. My mom has a grade six level of education. My dad has a great 10 level of education. I'm the first girl in our family to have postsecondary education. So really, we need to ensure that that opportunity, those opportunities are available to all peoples and most particularly to the Indigenous youth as well.

I would also say that culture saves lives and we need to actually ensure that the work that we do is led by Indigenous people. So not to say that I know what is the best plan, but rather to say, you know, what's the best plan and how to implement that. Government's job is to ensure that we facilitate this work to provide the resources and supports to you so that we can see the successes that can be realized in our communities. And that goes for education. That goes for healthcare. That goes for the delivery of every aspect. Self-Governance was what you had before white people came and took this land. We need to go back to….

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Time is up. Sorry. Joyce, two minutes.

JOYCE MURRAY: Well thanks for that question. And we are utterly committed to the success of all Canadians and Indigenous Canadians especially. And education is critical to that. And so, I was just looking at my binder of what we have done. I think the -- and there is a lot of items that I could list in terms of create… supporting the creation of Canada's first First Nation run school board in Manitoba, building 13 new schools for 2300 students. A new co-developed policy and funding approach for First Nations kindergarten to grade 12 education on reserve, providing First Nation schools with $1,500 per student per year to support language and culture programs. So, it has been a very big part of our program because we know that when children get a good start and when children can go on to university if they want to and succeed, we have successful… we have success successful communities.

So, I think what is really important is that we're moving to distinctions-based approach where we are really looking at what are the needs in the Indigenous communities that are different perhaps from non-Indigenous peoples and we are… in healthcare as well, we are tailoring programs and co-developing them with Indigenous communities. So that is why sometimes things take a little longer because we want to work with you hand in hand in co-developing and co-managing these programs for your community’s success because your community's success means all of our community’s success and our country is stronger for that. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: We've got two more speakers. We'll go through them and then come back to the candidates one at a time for a concluding remarks after these. Mic 17.

CHAD ENEAS: This is for all of you. My question is around the 2016 Auditor General's report in Canada's unreasonable obstruction of Just and fair settlements to outstanding claims. My question would be I think I want to ask Jody and one of the other parties. I really want to hear what Jody has to say in terms of how you will bring forward the voice of underlying title interests in BC in relation to the resolution of those claims and the implementation of the Auditor General's report of 2016.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim. We haven't heard from Breen, so he's going to be the second responder Puglaas first, mic 4.

JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD: Is this our final comments or comments afterwards?

Well thank you for the question and referencing Auditor's General's reports. In terms of just and fair settlements and claims we need to and we have as Indigenous peoples to… and governments need to change the words that we use. Indigenous peoples are not making claims for land. They are, as you have said, the underlying title holders and have rights with respect to the land.

The challenge that we have as Indigenous peoples and the challenge that we have working with other orders of government is to find the space for Indigenous nations to rebuild within Canada, to move away from the Indian Act, which is an impoverished notion of government that has guided improperly our governing institutions for far too long. How we create the space and the mechanisms for Indigenous communities to move away from the Indian Act and rebuild their institutions of government to determine who their citizens are, how they elect their governing bodies, what their constitution is, and to decide for ourselves based on our inherent rights of self-government to draw down various jurisdictions, whether it be around child welfare, whether it be around criminal justice.

These are the inherent rights that we have. And it's the responsibility when an Indigenous nation is ready for the government to move out of the way and allow and enable them to rebuild. This includes having lands in order to build and expand our communities. This is what talking about the recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights means and it is essentially a third order of government functioning within evolving cooperative Federation. That's the opportunity that we have. That's the opportunity that we had way back when.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So just for clarity for the candidates, we're going go to Breen for a two-minute response here. Got another question over here that'll be aimed at a couple of candidates. And then after that we'll go through each of you probably given you three, maybe four minutes for final remarks at the end.

So, Breen, you have two minutes. So, at the top on drip has

BREEN OUELLETTE: At the top UNDRIP has to be implemented. Our party believes you have to have free, prior informed consent that has to be at the heart of everything.

Jody mentioned the Indian Act. I was recently at the NACA meeting here in Vancouver. And I told the delegates there when they asked about the Indian Act and abolishing it. And what I thought about it, I said, it's apartheid legislation in 2019 and it's an ugly stain on our country that needs to be removed. But at the same time as a lawyer, I cautioned them that we need to ensure that we don't undermine the sovereign rights to property of Indigenous nations by removing that, that piece of legislation does protect from a situation where an outside force might expropriate land. So, we need to make sure that the sovereignty of that land is protected the same way the sovereignty of Saskatchewan is protected. Nobody would expropriate the province of Saskatchewan. And so, nobody should be expropriating Indigenous land.

You know, in conclusion, we need to recognize inherent rights. We need to, I know there's an appetite to get things done quickly, but as a lawyer, I believe we also have to get them done right because we've had them… mistakes have been made because we rush into things. So, let's get it right as well.

Oh, and third order of government better not mean municipalities. It better mean real governance.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Time was up Mic 10.

WAYNE CHRISTIANSON: [Native language]. Chief Wayne Christian this question is for Joyce and Jenny Regardless of who forms government, whether it's the Liberals, NDP, Green or God forbid the Conservatives bill C-92 comes into force into and effect on January 1st, 2020. What will your parties, the NDP or the Liberal parties do in relation to the budgeting and ensuring statutory funding so that the nations have stepped forward with the inherent jurisdiction, our resource to look after their children. What would you do in terms of statutory funding for our children? Kukstemc.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Starting with Joyce first because that's what the Kukpis mentioned two minutes.

JOYCE MURRAY: Well, thank you for that question. And firstly, I want to say how important it is that we do a better job for Indigenous children and families than has happened before. Bill C- 92 is the expression of our utter commitment to that and it was created hand in hand with the Indigenous people. So, thank you. If you were part of that. We've actually invested over $2 billion in new funding for First Nation Child and Family Services to address the short falls. These are long term tragedies that have been going on for too long. And I can, I can guarantee you having sat through eight of the Harper Conservative years when the when the $50 billion deficit was spent by Mr. Harper, it was not on focusing on Indigenous needs and their and family's needs. And when he cut his budget by 10%, it did cut services. So, one of the things that we did is to invest massively in the needs of Indigenous communities and families.

Another thing that we did was to create two ministries so that we can pay attention to things like the previous question or the specific claims process and we can improve those processes around the transition away from the Indian Act and the kinds of rights and title that need to be recognized and an Indigenous services ministry to focus purely on the services that the communities need.

So, we are utterly committed, and we don't want to see a Conservative government undo this hardware that we have done together.

JENNY KWAN: Thank you very much for that very important question. I think Bill C-92, while it's a good step in the right direction, but it does not fully embrace, in my view, what needs to be done, that legislation still falls short. And what needs to happen is in fact for the government to provide that leadership to actually go all the way. We've been talking about inheritance rights; we've been talking about the impact of colonialism. We've been talking about children not having adequate funding and education opportunities and so on. Right? So, government needs to take that leadership. We can keep on saying Harper is so scary and we cannot let the Conservatives back in all we want, but the fact is the Liberals and the Conservatives had years and years and decades to do this work and they still haven't done it. It doesn't have to be this way.

We can choose a different choice. The NDP is committed to say that we will recognize Indigenous people, your inherent rights and title. We will end those court cases. We will not take you to court for you to fight for your rights, but what is, what's inherently your right. We need to move forward to say that the power for the future is something different, that the opportunities are to exist for all of us and for so long we talk about reconciliation. Reconciliation means that we need to end the poverty. It means that there needs to be proper housing, that the Indigenous people shouldn't be living in moldy housing, that this shouldn't be still trying to deal with boil advisories for goodness sake. We shouldn't be having to deal with mercury poisoning and for the government to say, I'll give you a bottle of water, what is wrong with this picture? So, for us, the NDP, we need to move beyond that legislation. And you know what it is time for Indigenous peoples to be at the decision-making table so that together that we can see a different future and a different path. We can't talk about it anymore cause too many lives and too many generations have already paid that price.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Just before going to final comments, we're going have a quick interlude with our 50/50 draw by our hosts here that we'll do very quickly. Dakota wins. How much? $220.

So, as I announced at the onset, our locals here are fundraising for canoes for their youth to get them back in the water and they had just been presented a cheque by the Chief Ernie Campbell Memorial foundation for $5,000 to go to that end as well.

So, I think when we started the candidates, we started from the microphone out so, we'll reverse that this time and start on the far end working this way, say three minutes each. He'll get us 20 minutes through the panel. Is that okay? Three minutes. You'll have a time. Everybody will have a time or here you'll be watching three minutes. Joyce.

JOYCE MURRAY: Thank you. It's been a really great opportunity to hear from you and know that around the table there are leaders from communities right across British Columbia who've been working on these very important and complex issues over so many years. It just - the question about Bill C-92 and the Child and Family Services legislation, you know, being the president of the Treasury Board, I see many things come past my desk and it's very moving to see that there is legislation that requires us to walk together hand in hand. In fact, Indigenous led in this particular case, Indigenous communities -- First Nations can decide that you want to assert your -- under this bill, that you want to assert your prerogative under the under the bill to take over in children and youth services in your community. And our government will work with you on that. So, it's just one example of so many, so much change that's happened.

I mean, of course Jenny is right. There's more, still more to do, but there is so much progress made and it's not just what we're doing. It's how we're doing it. How we're doing it is step by step with you. We're listening, we're acting, we're consulting, we're including, and that's the way it has to be.

So, I'm very honoured to be part of a government that has taken this as one of our very top mandates. In fact, the prime minister has said many, many times that no relationship is as important to him and our government than the relationship with Indigenous peoples and he's acted on that. He's pushed that agenda as much or more than anyone else in his team.

So, we may dream that someday there will be a Green government running Canada or an NDP government running Canada. But the reality is at the end of this election on October 21st there will be either a Conservative prime minister or a Liberal prime minister and government and it may just be up to you. It may just be up to Indigenous communities, First Nations and your people, which it is because it's a big gamble to say, I'm going to protest the two big parties and cast a vote for another party. It's a gamble and it could be dangerous. You could end up with Andrew Scheer as your prime minister. So, I hope that you will support us and Mr. Trudeau. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: The timer is right in front of everybody. This is a respectful reminder. Mavis, three minutes.

MAVIS ERICKSON: Well thank you au siem. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for attending. I'd also like to remind everyone that one of the things that Mr. Trudeau, Prime Minister Trudeau has said is that he recognizes the word genocide in the missing and murdered Indigenous woman inquiry report and Andrew Sheer said he doesn't. I just want you to remember that when you go to the polls.

I have great concerns about the Conservative government getting back in and setting us back into the 1920s. The other thing mentioned earlier, that I didn't get the opportunity to talk… address was we will move forward with introducing co-develop legislation to implement UNDRIP the United Nations Declaration as government legislation by the end of 2020 and this work we will ensure that this legislation fully respects the intent of the declaration and establishes Bills 262 on the floor rather than the ceiling when it comes to drafting this new legislation.

So basically, the government would be embracing the international law with regard to free, prior and informed consent. As an Indigenous woman, as I said, I've advocated for many years on missing and murdered Indigenous women. I've also done a lot of advocating for Indigenous people in this country.

And with regard to the last four years of the Liberal government, I've seen more done by them, than any other government in my lifetime and probably in the history of Canada. And Justin Trudeau's committed to this relationship with Indigenous people and working towards making a better life for us and for our children. And I really have not seen the kind of work from any other governments.

I'd like to thank you again for attending and listening to all of us here today.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Reset the clock please.

Green three minutes.

BREEN OUELLETTE: Thank you for sticking around to listen to the closing remarks. Better than any other government so far is a pretty low bar. I'm thinking about a baby taken from its mother 90 minutes after it's born. I'm thinking about a woman who's alleging that in December of 2018 she was sterilized at the hospital after giving birth to her second child. Where are the criminal charges against these doctors that are doing this to Indigenous peoples? Why is there a double standard? I don't like it.

In my riding, the race is between the Liberals and the NDP, the Conservatives have absolutely nothing to do with it. If it actually comes down to Indigenous peoples deciding who is going to win, then that's a good thing in my riding because I know that the Indigenous population in my riding is going to vote for NDP. I'd ask you all to consider that in your own ridings and if you bring in the NDP, you're not helping the Conservatives, you're helping push forward a progressive voice that speaks for everyone. We've got real principles about people, about ensuring that everyone in this country has an opportunity to thrive. Thank you.

Thank you.

JENNY KWAN: Thank you all so much for allowing me to speak today. I want to acknowledge and just say my deepest heartfelt thank you for allowing us to have this opportunity.

You know what? This is a very important election. I don't come from a place of privilege and I actually don't think that we should just make the assumption that somehow this election is just either going to be the Liberals or the Conservatives. Anything could happen. In the last election, in fact, the Liberals were actually behind the NDP and they formed government. Anything could happen. It is up to you. You can make that change. And you know what? There's also a possibility where there is a minority government and, in that instance, you're going to get a very strong voice to hold the government to account, to push the government to account and to get these things done.

It is not good enough, honest to goodness, to keep on saying that you know, we've done so much and there's more to do and yet we've had decades upon decades and decades to get that work done and we're still not there, right? There's still boil advisories like how is that even possible? How can we tolerate that? And that just simply has to end. You don't get to say that this is the most important relationship and then carry on the way that we have been carrying on and it's just not acceptable. I feel this urgency to the to make that change. Why? Because climate emergency is upon us. Why? Because I see people dying in my community every day. I see people were homeless at Oppenheim park. I see youth, teen suicide, youth suicide, and we have those motions in the house that we all say that we need to take action and what has the government done? Nothing. And this is not acceptable.

So, you know what? I don't accept this idea that in order to keep Sheer and the Conservatives away, you got to do it this way. I do not accept that I'm a fighter from East Van and I fought all of my life. It is because I don't accept the status quo because I always colour outside of the box because I always charge through no matter what because why, as I learned from Indigenous people, your strength, your resiliency, your incredible, your incredible ability to say and to have that optimism and hope. That's why we're still here talking today and for me it is about that it is about for me and the NDP being allies with you to lead that charge and to say no more. We do not accept that as status quo. Government needs to stop taking Indigenous people to court and we need to address the core of the issue with accountability, with timeline and with resources.

Make it happen. The UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous People should have been law long ago. Not now, but we're still talking about it. Why didn't we get it passed in the House of Commons? Mr. Trudeau could have said, you know what, Senate, we're not going to adjourn this house. We're not going to go to an election until that becomes law. They could have done that, but they didn't.

We keep on talking about it and promises are made and you know what, and generations are losing hope and that's not good enough. Not for the NDP.

JOAN PHILLIP: How done 52 years? Conservatives and Liberals, like I said, we have to choose differently.

When we talk about the Trans Mountain pipeline, it's a line and from one end to the other, it goes through many territories and it requires a hundred percent approval. In my view. Without that approval, it should stop. It's going to increase tanker traffic by 700% and not just that, we're talking about cruise ships that have increased this year by 21% and that's an accident waiting to happen. And it's not just coastal, you know Fraser River Sockeye, that race by these in those areas, we're talking about Okanagan interior salmon that come up the Columbia River system that will be at risk too.

So, no to the pipeline.

And number two with respect to children and families. My mom was a social worker and she said the only thing that's going to fix this is a federal children and family welfare act and cut the province out completely because we're big business. Every child that gets apprehended federal money goes whizzing over into the provincial coffers. And I'd say no more to that. We need to take control and we talk about colonization as if it ended. It still exists. We're still controlled, our lands are still controlled. It still requires her Majesty's signature and consent on all contractual documents. And that is absolutely ridiculous. UNDRIP needs to be implemented today, not tomorrow. And same with everything else. What are we waiting for? And this scare tactic is just that. It's just a way so that things don't change, and we need change and we need it now. Wyet.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Three minutes.

JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD: Well thank you. Gilakas’la. Thank you, everyone and I'm going to watch the clock this time.

Thank you for having us here to talk about important issues, to talk about the upcoming elections. I'll say a number of things.

Elections are incredibly important, and you've heard from parties, you've heard from independent candidates. I say your voice matters. Your vote matters. Vote for the person that will best represent the issues that are important to you and that will help in the case of Indigenous communities, help advance the space for self-determination.

I have been incredibly honoured to have been a member of parliament to have been a minister, but I know that there's so much more work to do and it's going to require all of us. As Indigenous peoples, as Indigenous leaders right across the country, we have the solutions we need to put in place members of parliament, a government that will stop making excuses.

Stop saying it's too hard or it's too complicated but do what must be done taking the solutions that Indigenous peoples know that we have had since time lost in memory. There is no reason to delay the implementation of UNDRIP to create the space for self-determination in this country. That is how we are going to improve the country when Indigenous peoples are finally self-governing on their own territories, in an evolving system of cooperative federalism. That's the opportunity we have.

Vote for the person that will not make excuses that will challenge the leaders to move this forward. I went to Ottawa thinking that I could contribute something to creating this space for Indigenous self-determination in this country. And what I realize is that Ottawa has a significant amount to learn from our nations who have been here since time immemorial in terms of how to engage with each other, in terms of how to cooperate, in terms of how to build strong nations.

So, I'm going to continue to go back with vigor and to do my part based on the teachings of my ancestors, the teachings of my matriarchs, to know when Indigenous nations are thriving, the country will thrive.

And I'm going to say a couple of more brief things. I don't know if my friend David Dennis is here, but I just wanted to say, I love you and I know that you're acknowledging David here, but I want to take this opportunity to talk about my pal, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, and I know you've honorued him. And rightfully so.

I think it's 21 years GC that you've been here. Eight elections. And Joan said, yeah, three more years. And I know that's 17 minutes, but maybe you just forgive me. I came to know Stewart prior to the election my first time as regional chief. And we formed at that time, I believe, a significant bond. And I look up to you. You are my friend. You are an extraordinary leader in the Indigenous community here in British Columbia and across the country. So, I want to say gilakas’la to you for the work that you've done and for always being that person who will tell me the straight goods and I appreciate it. I have a small gift for you. Thank you, Stewart, I love you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Gilakas’la. So, to the candidates, thank you for being here. We are an hour and a half into an hour-long agenda, so thank you for allowing me to be a stopwatch to manage your way through it.

To the chiefs and delegates, just to give you a heads up for tomorrow as I invite forward Auntie Jewel to close us off in a good way. For tomorrow's agenda at nine o'clock, we're starting with resolutions. At 10 o'clock we've got the provincial implementation update, which we'll go to that at 10 o'clock and then afterward, if we need to conclude any resolutions, we'll do that immediately after that presentation and then I'll manage the rest of the agenda to the best of my ability. But signaling to you that resolution's 9:00 AM tomorrow morning. Microphone one please.

(CLOSING PRAYER)

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, may you all return to your destination safely and have a good evening and I'll see you tomorrow. Okay. Thank you. So 9:00 AM sharp.

(MEETING ADJOURNED)