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(MEETING COMMENCED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to day three and the final day of your 51st Annual General Assembly. As we begin, we'll invite elder Jewel Thomas to start us off in a good way on the portable mic.

(OPENING PRAYER)

TYRONE MCNEIL: HUYCHQA. Thank you, Auntie. So, a few housekeeping things before diving into the resolutions. Just a reminder at the end of the day yesterday I announced that our first order of business this morning is to go to the resolutions, which may take the first hour. At 10 o'clock we have a hard stop for a panel discussion on the declaration and then once that's completed, I'll manage the rest of the agenda at the best of my ability.

So just a friendly reminder to Chiefs and delegates, if you haven't signed in yet, please ensure that you do so this morning. A reminder that there's going to be a private viewing consultation of the provincial legislation on the declaration at 11:30 this morning. Apparently, only three people have pre signed up for that. So, encouraging if you're interested in that to sign up because the 10 o'clock agenda items going to be informing what that 11:30 presentation is going to be about.

Also, a reminder, the Assembly First Nations session on specific claims. The forms are available. Drop them in a box out by the sign-in table out in front. And reminder some of you heard me announce this this morning already that there is an issue with some of the busing this morning. The staffing and we're looking into that to make sure that there is no issues at the next chief's council meeting. But in the meantime, if you had to pay your own taxi to come here because the buses weren't available, bring your receipt out to Arnold out front and he'll give you an immediate reimbursement for that taxi fare.

And the final housekeeping one is on the table directly out of the doors on my left here, the glass doors, you'll see some Union mugs like this. They're available for you to pick up just grab one or two on your way out. It's been noted that they are lefthanded if you drink with your left hand, the logo was out. If you drink the right hand, the logo is facing you so you get a choice of a right-handed or another right-handed mug.

So, with that asking the when we are going in camera any non-First Nations, First Nations or organizations, please exit the hall. I'll make sure the speaker is turned off outside this time. We got a thumbs up there. And finally, we'll turn the webcast off for now but if you are online please note that we will be turning the webcast back on later this morning. Confirm. Thank you.

# RESOLUTIONS, continued

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, I'm going to draw your attention to the resolution package and starting with resolution 2019-47, Regarding Interim Appointment To Wild Salmon Summit Committee.

And again, I'll read the entire resolution out, we’ll move it and second it then look at populating the resolution as it calls for.

Therefore be it resolved that the Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive working with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council to work to secure funds to support the political steering committee on wild salmon and to work with First Nations Fisheries Council to provide staff support for this committee.

Therefore be it further resolved that the Chiefs in Assembly appoint the following political representative to the political steering committee on the wild salmon on an interim basis until the next UBCIC Chief's Council meeting.

So, one is a political rep, two was a technical rep.

Therefore be it finally resolved that the Chiefs in Assembly call on UBCIC interim representatives to the political steering committee and wild salmon to provide regular upgrades to the UBCIC executive and to the UBCIC Chief's Council.

Looking for a mover and seconder, please looking for a mover and seconder. Mic 19 chief.

DONNA ALJAM: Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen Indian Band.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Mic 10.

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Second. Kukpis Christian.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Any volunteers to be the representatives or suggested volunteers?

The way fisheries was a lively discussion yesterday. I thought chiefs would be jumping to be participating in this. Do we need to go to voluntold? Anybody interested in helping us out? Sorry, Mic 16.

JERRY JACK: So good morning. [Native language]. Chief Jerry Jack from Mowachaht/Muchalaht.

TYRONE MCNEIL: You're volunteering chief?

JERRY JACK: Yes. That's correct.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any volunteer or recommendation for the technical rep? Andrea and I were chatting earlier that Jordan Point's been appointed the technical rep from the BCAFN that brings in the fish council and the fish council is referenced here anyway. So, should there be two chiefs interested in this? Certainly, the door is open for that, as well.

JORDAN MULDOE: Jordan Muldoe, I will volunteer, Kispiox.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Sorry, could you repeat your name please?

JORDAN MULDOE: Jordan Muldoe.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Councillor. Thank you.

One more check for any volunteers. If not, we're adding Chief Jack and Jordan Muldoe to the political and technical rep slots there. It's been moved and seconded. Any further discussion? Are we ready for question? Any opposition to the resolution? Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay.

Next resolution 2019-48, Regarding Sport, Fishing, Monitoring and Catch and Release. I'm going to draw your attention to the fourth Whereas first on the very last line where currently it says, “the doctrine of priorities defined in Sparrow three Jacks and Gladstone”, we're replacing three Jacks with -- the case properly referenced is with regards to Jack, John and John. So, it's typically referred to as Jack, John and John or triple J. Noting that the Jack involved there is actually Chief Jack's father and we've heard him speak to that a few times here at the assemblies. So, a correction whereas is there.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the federal and provincial governments to prohibit the practice of catch and release fishing and to work with impacted Indigenous nations, partner Indigenous organizations and sports fishing associations to improve sport fishing monitoring systems and mode of conservation first, food, social, cultural second approach.

Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call him Department of Fisheries and Oceans to adopt an approach to the monitoring of sports fishing that will upholds their commitments to conserve and protect wild salmon and to respect the primacy of First Nations food, social and ceremonial uses above the practice of sport fishing.

Moved by Chief Silver who I haven't seen this morning. So, looking for a mover and seconder

TRAVIS HALL: [Native language]. Travis Hall proxy for Maryland Slett.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Seconder?

RICHARD THOMAS: Richard Thomas, Lyackson First Nation.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any discussion?

GEORGE SADDLEMAN: Yes, George Saddleman, proxy for Upper Nicola. I guess one of the things in my research or on uncle Google, oh, about 10 years ago there's a conservation policy statement made by the East and the West and the Northern coast fisheries, which includes recreational groups. So, I was just wondering if our astute technical people can go to uncle Google and see if they can retrieve that statement, that statement and I think it was made about 1993/94 or something like that. But there is a conservation statement by those groups I've mentioned. Wyet.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim. And if that's not captured, we will follow up with you directly on that. Any other discussion question's been called any opposition to the resolution. Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Next we have 2019-49, regarding First Nations Operator Water Net for BC and Yukon Territories.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly fully support First Nation operators in water, wastewater community systems, FNOWN, efforts in providing support to BC and Yukon First Nation operators; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly urge the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to endorse and advance FNOWN’s efforts to support First Nations operators in BC and the Yukon; and

Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBC executive to assist and support the FNOWN board to ensure First Nation operators are fairly treated, trained and certified to the level of their infrastructure and needs and we made self-sufficient in training and assisting their peers.

Looking for a mover in seconder. Moved by mic 20.

JOE PIERRE: Yeah Joe Pierre, Aqam.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Chief. Seconder? Mic 12.

JORDAN MULDOE: Jordan Muldoe, proxy Kispiox.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any discussion and need discussion. Question has been called any opposition to the resolution. Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Next resolution 2019-50, regarding Call to Action to Cease the Removal of Newborns from Hospital.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly fully support the First Nations in the exercise of their inherent rights, a self-determination and self-government and their inherent right to care for the children, youth and families.

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive working with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nation Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council to advocate for a comprehensive strategy to immediately address and cease the practice of removing newborns from their parents as First Nations transition to the resumption of the full and inherent jurisdiction over children and family services.

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive, working with the BC Assembly First Nations and the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council to call upon British Columbia to take concrete and immediate action to address the cultural and systemic bias towards Indigenous mothers and their families, including in increased accountability measures for social workers and health care professionals; and

Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive, working with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit as the First Nations Leadership Council to call upon Canada and BC to develop and implement a strategic funding strategy with a focus on prenatal and prevention services for new and expectant Indigenous mothers.

Looking for a mover in secondary.

DONNA ALJAM: Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen Band

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mic 6.

JASMINE THOMAS: Jasmine Thomas Saikuz Proxy.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you.

Any discussion? Any discussion? Are we ready for question? Mic 17.

RALPH LEON: [Native language]. My question is does this also empower groups like FRAFCA who work in our urban settings for our Indigenous people.

TYRONE MCNEIL: The way I'm going to understand the resolution is for all hospitals. So, it's not just any specific locality.

Any other discussion? Are we ready for question? Thank you. Any opposition to the resolution? Any abstensions? See neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2019-51, regarding support for the First Nations Leadership Council, a Memorandum of Understanding with Representative Children and Youth of British Columbia.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UNBCIC executive to support the attached draft memorandum of understanding between the BC Assembly of First Nations understanding between the BC Assembly First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs working collectively as a First Nations Leadership Council and your representative of children and youth and direct UBCIC executive to sign on behalf of the UBCIC; and

Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive working with the First Nations Summit, BC Assembly of First Nations as the First Nations Leadership Council and the representative children or youth to provide regular reports to the UBCIC executive on the ongoing collaborative objectives and efforts as identified in the attached memorandum of understanding.

Looking for a mover and seconder. Mic 19.

JOE PIERRE: Yeah. Joe Pierre, Aqam.

CORA ANTHONY: Cora Anthony, proxy Neskonlith.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Any discussion? Question has been called, any opposition to the resolution. Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2019-52, regarding call for transparency and accountability, the First Nations Health Council and First Nations Health Authority.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the First Nations Health Council [FNHC] to provide a full and transparent written and verbal reports that accounts for the decision to undergo a leadership transition, including the legal opinion provided to the FNHC; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the FNHC to respond to all the questions and issues set out in the correspondence from the Splatsin, Sto:lo Tribal Council, and the Okanagan Nation Alliance at the First Nations regional health caucuses in the fall of 2019; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the FNHA to provide a full transparent written and verbal accounting on all their past, current and future actions to address and resolve the issues of conflict of interest, nepotism and workplace safety at the First Nations regional health caucuses in the fall of 2019; and

Therefore be it finally resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly urge the FNHC and the First Nations Health Authority to ensure that the agenda of the fall 2019 regional caucuses provide ample time for reporting and for chiefs and leaders to provide advice and give direction to achieve good governance standards, uphold reciprocal accountability, and to resolve the issues of conflict of interest, nepotism and workplace safety.

Moved by Kukpis Christian who is here, seconded by chief Byron Louis, who is present. Thank you. Opening up the discussion.

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Wayne Christian. I guess Charlene is still here. What I'm really looking for is in the actual letter we sent to the First Nations Health Council, it's identified in a package 401there is a series of questions. I would really request from the Health Council a written response even -- because this has been since July. It has been about three months now, almost 90 days. And all we received was an acknowledgement that they received the letter and nothing more.

I want a written response to the six questions. Because in my tenure at the First Nations Health Council, I know there's processes and I'm just asking clarification on some of the due processes around how decisions were arrived at. And the lawyers have had ample time to take a look at the letter. And I think under legal advice I can respond to it. I have no problem with that. So that's what I'm looking for is a written response to that letter and that's really the reason for the resolution. Because we don't seem to be getting anywhere.

The other part of it is I wanted to know who do I direct a freedom of information request to in the organization, whether it's the Health Council or the First Nations Health Authority. So, I just need to, those two questions answered.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Perhaps we can do that as a follow-up. Is that okay?

Any other discussion?

BYRON LOUIS: Byron Louis, Chief of the Okanagan band and proxy holder for WFN.

One of the reasons why, you know, I seconded the motion was this is a continuation of when we first opposed the creation of the First Nations Health First Nations Health Council and the Health Authority. And it was based on, you know, our premise at the time is wanting to make sure that there is transparency and accountability through the entire process. And that was outstanding since that creation. And if people in the room remember it was a held up for that very same reason until we did get those clauses put in there that we thought were basically covered off those issues for us.

And I think it's still important till this day and it's still relevant to this day that no matter what it is that these First Nations or a authority or something that purports to actually to represent First Nations in this province, which is 204 bands, then accountability and transparency is paramount. We need that and we need that in all of our systems, regardless of what they are. And I think that is just a, you know why I actually didn't have a problem in seconding this motion.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay. Thank you, chief. Any other discussion?

JUDY WILSON: [Native language], good morning. Thank you for being here this morning and also the business we're doing on the unceded territory and Musqueam lands.

I just wanted to say when the auditor General's report came out, I think three, two or three years ago and issues started hitting our table they were around structure and governance even way back then, superseding Charlene's time. And when we inquired on behalf of the chiefs the information and the review all we got back was a letter from the board saying that they were a separate society. They're governed under the Society Act and that they would review it and do policy changes that were necessary, et cetera. But I think we still have that letter on file from a how ever many years ago, and the Auditor General's report on First Nations health or Health Council, I can't remember which one it was now, but there were questions about how the structure, and everything was.

So, I just wanted to remind the chiefs that it is not the first time we're dealing with this issue. It's a past issue that had hit our floor. And we did our best as the review committee to pull together what we could. We ended up having -- just cause there is lack of a lack of policy for safety of individuals and practices. So, we did put together a toolkit, if you will, that resulted out of that Auditor Generals and the issues that hit our floor.

So, it's I guess our second time round trying to address this issue. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Any other discussion? The second call for any other discussion question has been called any opposition to the resolution. Any abstentions? One abstention. The resolution is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

DON TOM: Moving to resolution 2019-53, Full Implementation of Interim First Nations Health Authority Consensus Paper 2012. Moving to the Therefore be it resolved.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the First Nations Health Authority and the First Nations Health Council to report on the achievements to date on the planning, development and creation of regional offices at the 2019 fall caucus meeting.

Therefore be it further resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the First Nations Health Authority, FNHA and FNHC to ensure that the regional caucus agendas provide adequate time for chiefs, leaders to provide clear direction for the full implementation of regional offices to meet local and regional priorities for health and social determinants of health and to facilitate service delivery within the regions.

The regional office must comply with the seven directives:

1. Community driven nation based.

2. increase First Nations decision-making. 3. Improve services.

4. Foster meaningful collaboration and partnership.

5. Develop human and economic capacity.

6. Be without prejudice to First Nations interest.

7. Function at a high operational standard with developing planning and carrying out regional directives; and

Therefore be it finally resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the FNHA to review the current development of staff funding and resources to regional offices to develop an action plan to achieve regionalization and envisioned in 2012 and directed by chiefs and leaders during the fall 2019 regional engagement and to provide a full report on this engagement in provide a detailed action plan for regional offices at gathering wisdom 2020.

Who's the mover hospital.

Can I have a mover please for the motion? Mic 21

STEVEN PRESTBAKMO: Stephen Prestbakmo, proxy Gitwangak.

DON TOM: Thank you. A seconder for the motion? Or resolution? Pardon me. Oh, sorry. Byron Louis. Sorry. My apologies. I missed that Kukpis Wayne Christian is listed as the mover. Apologies. Kukpis is here. Thank you. And Byron is here as well. Is there any discussion on the resolution? Seeing microphone. 20 or sorry. 10 please.

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: All right, thank you. Mr. Chair. The whole regionalization process. I think in the interior we have a different process where we have a seven-member interior nation regional executive which really does with the 52 or 54 chiefs of the interior. So, this is really important because what we did in the interior to come together, we actually signed a unity declaration before this work began where we would support each other. All of the chiefs came on board. We had a difficult time bringing the Okanagan on board, but they came along.

So, it was a, it's a process, right? And so, for us in the interior, when we talk about community-driven, nation-based, it really is about the seven nations and the 52 communities in the Interior. So, this is really important to us as nations in terms of how we organize. Because under our unity declaration we talked about supporting each other in this process. So, we really see there's been lots of pushback from the process, but not really responding because they want a status quo. We want to do things differently. So, that's really the intent of this resolution is to say, look at the, it's right there in the actual directives. We're saying we want to move along in this process. So, in the Interior it may be different than it is in the rest of British Columbia, but that's the reason for this resolution. Thank you.

DON TOM: Thank you.

Any further questions or dialogue on the resolution? Seeing none, are there any opposition to the resolution?

Thank you. Questions been called?

Any abstentions on the resolution? Seeing nothing. The resolution has passed. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thanks, Don. I don't know if you notice I was struggling with my eye, a piece of lint or eyelash fell under my eye and was really irritating me, So, thanks for covering, Don.

Resolution 2019-54 regarding Call for Trauma Informed Approaches and Practices to be Adopted by British Columbia.

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly condemns policies and procedures such as BC transplant, former abstinence policy that discount the trauma inflicted upon Indigenous peoples by colonialism, including the residential school system and therefore discriminate discriminatory; and

Therefore be it finally resolved the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls for Canada, BC and service providers across Turtle Island adopt trauma informed, culturally sensitive practices and policies that are rooted in the compassion and attuned to the cultural and spiritual needs of Indigenous peoples.

Looking for a mover and seconder.

CHAD ENEAS: Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Seconder?

ED HALL: Ed Hall, Coquitlam.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Any discussion?

JASMINE THOMAS: Jasmine Thomas Saikuz proxy speaking in support of the resolution. It just seems pretty broad of what the resolution is entailing. It's more looking at health service providers in terms of the health issue, but if we're talking about trauma informed approaches and practices to be adopted by -- sees that in all areas or is it mainly a health focus? Just clarification

TYRONE MCNEIL: And who might be able to clarify that. The first therefore speaks specifically to BCS transplant policies, but the second therefore is more broad.

ANDREA GLICKMAN: Yeah. This is the resolution that we worked on with David Dennis in follow up to his, sorry, in follow-up to his current issue where he was denied access to being on the liver transplant wait list. So, the first therefore be it resolved is specific with respect to the former abstinence policy. And then the second one is a broader one where he wants to, he suggested that that UBCIC makes a broader call for trauma-informed, culturally sensitive practices and policies.

So, that's -- if you want we could put in a part making it more specific to health but he, he does actually feel that it's, he's not able to be here today So, I can't speak obviously on his behalf but in the discussion he was hoping that this would go across to for example, like education as well. So, that's why it's not specific right now but it's, it's of course up to the chiefs to see what you want to do with it.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mike 6. You're fine. Keep it near the discussion. Are we ready for question? Question has been called any opposition to the resolution. Any abstentions? See neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2019-55, regarding Call for the Immediate Meaningful and Substantive Engagement of First Nations on BC Hydro’s Phase 2 Review.

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct UCBIC executive working with the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit as a First Nations Leadership Council and with support of the First Nations Energy and Mining council to: 1. call on the Government of British Columbia to immediately overhaul the terms of reference of phase two of the comprehensive review of BC Hydro currently underway such that there is meaningful and substantive engagement by First Nations and by representative First Nation organizations at all levels of the review and that phase two review recognizes and upholds our inherent and constitutionally protected Indigenous title rights and treaty rights.

2. engage BC Hydro in the phase two comprehensive review under the revisions of the terms of reference and with the understanding that the FNLC is not an Aboriginal, title and rights or treaty rights holder and cannot engage in processes that establish and provide free, prior and informed consent on behalf of individual First Nations.

Looking for a mover and seconder looking for a mover and seconder, mic 19.

DONNA ALJAM: Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen Band

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mic 10.

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: Kukpis Christian with an amendment.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, just to be clear, you're moving it, Kukpis, and now you have a friendly amendment>

WAYNE CHRISTIAN: That is correct.

What I would propose is item number three and that would state notwithstanding current government-to-government processes that First Nations and BC are involved with with BC Hydro. Because I think it covers off the fact that yes, the Leadership Council is not a title and rights treaty holder, but there are nations that are engaged with BC Hydro on a government-to-government basis and that needs to be recognized.

It's not for standing up.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, if I caught that correctly, Kukpis, adding number three, “not withstanding current government-to-government processes First Nations are involved with BC Hydro on.” Thank you. Kukpis Aljam, thank you. Any other discussion? Mic 17.

CHAD ENEAS: Just to the amendment. I would suggest that BC Hydro not be referenced as a government, but a third-party interest.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay.

Thank you. Chief. Andrea, any suggestions?

ANDREA GLICKMAN: Sorry, Chief Eneas, is there a specific part that you're seeing where it's referenced as a government?

CHAD ENEAS: Just in the additional bullet that Kukpis Wayne suggested? Well if the resolution is to the review of the phase two for BC Hydro, any reference to BC Hydro should not be as a government, but a third party.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Can we make a small modification to your amendment and could be Christian to read some like “withstanding current processes First Nations are involved with and satisfied with regarding BC Hydro” cause that takes the government-to-government out but if you're not hearing that.

Good. Thank you. Kukpis Aljam? Thank you.

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: Quick time check. We've got about 20 more minutes. Resolution 2019-56, regarding UBCIC's appointment to the Tripartite First Nations Labour Market Skills Steering Committee.

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly appoint X to the First Nations Tripartite Labour Market Skills Steering Committee for a three year term beginning October 1, 2019 ending October 1, 2022; and

Therefore finally be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly call on the UBCIC representative of the First Nations Tripartite Labour Market Skills Steering Committee to provide regular updates to the UBCIC Chiefs Council and the executive.

Looking for a mover and seconder looking for a mover and seconder

CORA ANTHONY: Cora Anthony, Neskonlith proxy.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Seconder?. Looking for a seconder.

BYRON LOUIS: Byron Louis, Chief of the Okanagan band, proxy holder for WFM.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, Chief. Any volunteers for that single position? A lot of whispering going around. How about some pointing? Mic 17.

RALPH LEON: Chief Ralph Leon, Chehalis.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Yeah. Just to confirm you in any other interest seeing none. We'll add chief Leon's name to the blank there. So, it was moved seconded. Any other discussion? Question two called any opposition. Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2019-57, Regarding Support for Protocol on Cooperation and Communication on Fiscal Discussions.

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive to enter into the protocol and cooperation and communication with the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and First Nations Tax Commission, First Nations Financial Management Board, First Nations Finance Authority, First Nations Lands Advisory Board, Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of BC, New Relationship Trust and First Nations Public Service Secretariat, which is designed to coordinate political and technical strengths to:

a) support First Nations to drive fiscal discussions to develop capacity in a manner that supports the work of their respective First Nations governments.

b) to advance the recognition, respect and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights.

c) improve the socioeconomic conditions of BC First Nations.

Looking for a mover and seconder.

STEVEN PRESTBAKMO: Steven Prestbakmo, proxy Gitwangak.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Seconder?

ANDREW TOM: Andrew Tom, proxy Witset First Nation.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any discussion? Any discussion questions have called any opposition to the resolution? Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Resolution 2019-58, regarding Support for Co-Developing Provincial Indigenous Languages Legislation.

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly support the critical nature of protecting, revitalizing or Indigenous languages and recognize that the 34 languages spoken in British Columbia have fewer than a thousand speakers each with many having fewer than 100 speakers each.

Therefore be it further resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly support a vision for Indigenous language vitality in British Columbia wherein all Indigenous peoples from BC have access to the opportunity to learn their Indigenous Homeland language regardless of place of residence and where all Indigenous children have the opportunity to be educated from preschool to grade 12 in their mother tongue.

Therefore be it further resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct UBCIC executive and UBCIC staff to advance work with the Province of British Columbia to co-develop provincial Indigenous languages legislation in partnership with the First Nations Summit, the BC Assembly of First Nations and First Peoples' Cultural Council; and

Therefore be it further resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly support the creation of a BC language legislation working group to facilitate this work, which will be comprised of both political and technical leads and will be accountable to the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly and other bodies comprising its membership. The working group will develop terms of reference and will be mandated to:

a) work with partners to co-develop parishional Indigenous languages legislation.

b) engage and seek input from First Nations in BC on the draft discussion paper and ensure engagement and communications with First Nations throughout the process of development; and

Therefore be it further resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct the UBCIC executive to work with the First Nations Summit and BC Assembly First Nations as the BC First Nations Leadership Council to call on the Government of BC to partner on and fully fund co-development and implementation of legislation to support the revitalization and protection of Indigenous languages in BC, working with BC languages legislation working group; and

Therefore be it finally resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct to BC languages legislation working group to provide an update to the UBCIC Chiefs Council at the February, 2020 chiefs council meeting.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Move by Khelsilem, but I don't think he's here. Oh he is here. Walked in late. Good to see you. It's looking for a secondary

TRAVIS HALL: [Native language]. Proxy for Marilyn Slett, Heiltsuk Tribal Council.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Opening up the discussion.

FRED ROBBINS: They've got a question around the resolution itself when it comes to intellectual property as the languages for First Nations across BC are all distinct societies. Another question that I have is around curriculum development is FNESC going be a part and parcel of this resolution.

TYRONE MCNEIL: I appreciate they Kukpis. That's the same thing I raised at the BCAFN because FNESC is working on K to 12 curriculum right now, but Khelisilem, mic 6.

KHELISILEM: Good morning everybody. Yeah, I think both are good questions. I'll be presenting a little bit on the discussion paper. We'll outline some of the answers I think are on the opportunities for input on what the legislation should and shouldn't cover with regard to like things like intellectual property, but also I think in the working group there's opportunities to invite FNESC to be a part of that work. And I think that they're integral partner in this work given their involvement to date as well as their advocacy on this. Over the years

TYRONE MCNEIL: I appreciate that Khelisilem. The BCAFN resolution was amended in such a way where it's stated working group including FNESC. So, could we make that amendment here? Yeah, I'm kind of biased here a little bit.

KHELISILEM: Yeah, I'd support that amendment.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay, thank you. Mic 10.

FRED ROBBINS: I think if that's the case, you also need to be looking at the LEA’s for each of the school districts too that this be wrapped up in that as well.

TYRONE MCNEIL: It's already in the works, Kukpis. Any other discussion? Question has been called any opposition to the resolution? Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: I guess I should slow down a little bit because I probably shouldn't have stepped into my FNESC role so quickly. So, I apologize to the chiefs for that. I'll try to do better in the future. Recognizing I'm here as your chair, not as one of the other hats I'm wearing.

Resolution 2019-59, regarding Protecting Fraser River Salmon Habitat.

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly immediately call on the BC Government to engage in deep meaningful consultation with all upstream nations whose rights to salmon or other aquatic species could be impacted by a diluted bitumen spill in the Fraser watershed, including tributaries, estuary ecosystems, and the Salish Sea as the appropriate environmental conditions for receipt attached to the proposed Trans Mountain expansion project in order to protect the coast, the Fraser watershed and salmon habitat.

Moved by Khelisilem, who is here. Looking for a seconder.

JASMINE THOMAS: Jasmine Thomas, Saikuz proxy.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Any discussion?

KHELISILEM: Good morning everybody. Again, I helped craft this resolution a little bit in response to the recent provincial appeal court decision that came out and that the City of Vancouver and the Squamish Nation filed in response to a BC Supreme court challenge over the provincial government's approval of the environmental certificate under the Christy Clark government. We then challenged it back then on a failure to their duty to consult and accommodate the Squamish when they granted approval of the environmental certificate for the Trans Mountain expansion project. As a result of our litigation we just recently won a partial victory within our BC appeal court challenge where the judges found it a bit in favor of Vancouver and in the Squamish nation sending the decision to apply conditions to the project back to the province. So, previously the provincial government had more or less waived a lot of their responsibility on the project and use the national energy board's report to form the basis for their environmental conditions, but then when we won in the federal appeals court, which found that the, that report was inadequate, we were then able to argue that the province shouldn't use an inadequate report to base its recommendations or its conditions of the project.

The BC Appeals court has now sent it back to the province for a new cabinet approval to apply -- to revisit the conditions that they had applied originally under the previous government. So, now this government has an opportunity to apply new conditions to the Trans Mountain project within the jurisdiction of the province which there they've been clear about. So, the opportunity here is that now that it's back in the province’s court Squamish wants to support all of our brothers and sisters and our sibling First Nations across the province who may be affected by an oil spill, including all of those along the Fraser river and the whole upstream impacts to our salmon that would impact a lot of our communities.

And So, this is calling on the province to engage in meaningful engagement with all First Nations that could be impacted by the Trans Mountain expansion project, not just Squamish. Even though Squamish was the one that won that court victory, they now have a responsibility to engage all First Nations on this issue. And to engage in a process that each First Nation identifies on their own terms.

So, it's an opportunity for the province to apply new conditions. It's an opportunity to strengthen the protections. We still have the federal court challenges happening with Squamish Tsleil Waututh and a few other First Nations. But this is just another step to ensure that the highest levels of protection are included if this project is to proceed. And there obviously there is a lot of uncertainty at this point on it. But I think our hope today is to get the support from chief's council to call on the province to engage in all First Nations on this issue and not just the Squamish nation like eight.

BONNIE JACOBSEN: I think it's good to protect the watershed obviously. But how many First Nations in this room are in the process of trying to be part of the solution buying it and their natural resources are saying, Hey, we can handle this and we'll do it in a good way. Cause I don't want to alienate any of our brothers and sisters that are out there. And can it be done in a sustainable way that the impacts can be mitigated. Cause there are First Nations out there, bands that are buying in, they're collectively getting together and buying into this project. So, then it doesn't become we're against the government we are against own brothers and sisters. So, we need to think about that before we, but the water said needs to be protected.

KHELISILEM: I think that's a good question. And I would say that the way that the resolution is worded and the principle that's trying to be applied here is that it's really up to the title holders to decide for themselves within their territory, but how they would engage in a process. But that regardless of that, the Crown, in this case, the provincial government has a responsibility to uphold their duty to consult and accommodate. So, this is just kind of furthering that call on this specific issue that they need to consult and accommodate. If they choose to consult and accommodate First Nations who say, we think it's okay, we think mitigation is possible, here's where we're comfortable with that. Then there's the opportunity to do that. But also for First Nations who might have other issues, depending on the circumstances because we're talking about different rivers, lakes, aquifers, et cetera, ocean coast it would impact different communities differently and thus they might feel differently about the project. But this is just calling on the province to engage all of those that might be impacted.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Mike 14.

BYRON LOUIS: Byron Louis, Chief of the Okanagan Band and proxy for WFN. You know, we're getting through this motion and you know, I really don't have a problem with supporting this because when you actually start considering what the alternative is and what's happening today, where they're shipping over a hundred, a hundred tanker cars per day, 365 days a year, going down, down through the North Thompson, the South Thompson then going into the Frazier river. And now they've actually increased that traffic and now they're putting - from what I understand - is a engines in between these to actually push that because of the added weight of these -- of that freight being hauled, which is basically bitumen.

And when you think about you know, just basically physics and the actual weight of that being pushed on the outside of those rails as they're going around corners. It doesn't take long to actually for rocket science to say that could actually cause some problems and a derailment.

And when you think about you know what they listed in here, the Fraser and the North Thompson are not are not the Kalamazoo river. When you look at that from that standpoint and you look at the high water, there is no more dirt or soils or anything on the bottom of the Fraser in certain areas, what you do have is bedrock. And if that weight of these cars ever hits the bottom of those rivers those cars are going to be torn apart and that Bitumen is going to flow through the entire system. And if it happens higher up in the North Thompson, then it's going destroy everything downriver from that. So, we really need to thinking about what is the alternatives, but we also need to recognize of what you know, the coastal First Nations are saying that sure they might have a, might be safe going through you know, they're not -- well, they're not saying it's safe going through the pipelines, but you know, look what's, you know, even if they did actually ensure that there is safety going through the lines all the way to the, to the Tidewater's it's the Tidewater said have not been adequately protected.

Canada does not have a, you know, the means of guaranteeing that they're able to clean up Bitumen if that spill happens in the magnitude of having a tanker that can hold above 300,000 liters anywhere along that system. And I think that's something that needs guarantees. And I think that's one of the things that's missing in this recommendation is identifying two court decisions. One that was the Clyde River Supreme court decision that talked about this very issue and also in Trans Mountain that more or less supported what will actually come from Clyde River. That they must not only identify the environmental impacts, but possibly to look at what are the impacts to Aboriginal rights. And when you think of something along this magnitude, they cannot afford to either pay us out. And I'm talking about every First Nation from the mouth, including coastal, then also going all the way up for the Fraser for loss of salmon. They cannot afford that, but we cannot allow them to continue on gambling with our, our Aboriginal right. This should be something that we should all deem as being at the level of deep consultation. And we must be the ones who determine what that deep consultation is. And that's why I don't have a problem supporting this resolution.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim. Just cognizant, we're up against time here. Any other discussion?

Well, we do have one more resolution after this. Like seven

TRAVIS HALL: Travis Hall Heiltsuk Nation. I just wanted to say that we need this type of consultation for all projects going on. The, the past excuse, these types of projects, you know, kind of willy nilly before without any consultation with First Nations at all. So, this type of, this type of resolution is very important to get going to support the nations. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Again, thank you for being cognizant. I haven't heard any opposition to the resolution, mic 17 and just a friendly reminder that we are in camera and I have noticed a provincial rep walking in the door. Matter of order.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Oh Scott, would you mind stepping out in the hallway just for a few more minutes, please?

I haven't heard any opposition to the motion. Are we ready for question? Question has been called, any opposition? Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

TYRONE MCNEIL: The resolution regarding the elder abuse and neglect project passed yesterday so our final resolution is regarding appointment. Sorry, 2019-61, regarding UBCIC appoint UBCIC constitution committee.

Therefore be it resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly strike the UBCIC constitution committee and appoint the following full members of the UBCIC to be ready to consider potential amendments to the UBCIC constitution and bylaws that may be proposed by the UBCIC Chiefs Council.

And they list five spaces.

Therefore be it finally resolved the UBCIC Chiefs in Assembly direct UBCIC constitution committee to work with UBCIC legal counsel Ardith Walkem to consider any potential bylaw amendments that may be suggested by the UBCIC Chiefs Council and bring forward the UBCIC Chiefs Council for discussion and review.

Looking for a mover and seconder. Last resolution. Looking for a mover and seconder,

DONNA ALJAM: Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen Band.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Seconder?

CHAD ENEAS: Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton, second.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, Chief. Any volunteers? These do have to be full members. It can't be -- Andrea, correct me if wrong. You can't be a proxy and you can't appoint anybody that isn't the official representative of your community. As well, because you are full members, your elders and youth and women's rep aren't eligible either. Technically.

Any volunteers.

MELINDA SWAN: Good morning. My name is Melinda Swan. I'm proxy for Ahousaht. And Chief Greg Louie is interested in being on this.

TYRONE MCNEIL: We'll put Greg, Chief, Greg Louie in the first space. I think we need at least three that the bylaws call for five. But if we can get three at a minimum, we can populate the other two whenever we can. Two more volunteers who were voluntold. Sorry, Mike. 21.

COURTENAY ADOLPJ JONES: Kukpis Courtney Adolf Jones. Take it. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. One more volunteer. Mic 18. Sory 19

DONNA ALJAM: Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kukstemc, Kukpis. Quick check for any other volunteers. No. If you become interested over time, please let Andrea know. So, we'll put those three, two Kukpis and chief in the first three slots. We'll leave the other two empty for now. It's been moved and seconded. Any other discussion?

Question has been called, any opposition? Any abstentions? Seeing neither it is carried. Thank you.

(RESOLUTION PASSED)

(track 30)

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, those are all of our resolutions. So, can somebody invite the minister back in and also turn the webcast back on please?

Confirmed shuttle bus will be here at 1:30 and should there be any issues with the shuttle we'll have a number of prepaid taxis on standby.

No. You just got that text again? There's been an issue with the speaker out in the hallway being turned on when we're in camera, but just checked with the techies. He actually went out there and physically unplugged the speakers so nobody could accidentally turn it back on again. So, don't worry about that. But inviting forward Minister Scott Fraser, Kukpis Judy, Cheryl Casimer, Regional Chief Teegee and Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond to my right please.

Okay. So, just a reminder, this is a prelude to the closed session has taken place at 11:30 this morning as well. Good to see you.

So, chiefs and delegates, as we begin with this panel Mary Ellen's going to take us through a PowerPoint after which we'll have comments from each of the Leadership Council Representatives. And then comments by Minister Fraser after those. Sure okay. Mic 2.

# PROVINCIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF UN DECLARATION

MARY ELLEN TURPEL-LAFOND: Good morning everyone. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond. I'd like to first off start by thanking Musqueam people and acknowledging the territory and thanking the elder this morning for the prayer. I'm going to walk through a bit of an overview on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People framework, in terms of the project that's been underway to have Legislation on the United Nations Declaration.

First of all, just to remind everybody or people are pretty familiar with the United Nations Declaration, but the United Nations Declaration sets out the minimum requirements, minimum standards, human rights standards for the survival and dignity of Indigenous peoples. And as we know, in the declaration, it talks about respecting those human rights as they evolve and grow over time.

And although we have the declaration, it also references and reaches out to all of the human rights standards that are very significant. The past positions of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the past mandates of course, are very strong with respect to identifying that Indigenous Rights needs to be understood is Human Rights. And that self-determination is the foundation for First Nations people's development and recognition in British Columbia.

With respect to this process, you'll see a point on the screen, that the position for UBCIC in terms of the technical work that's been done, is that its title and rights holders in British Columbia, the First Nations that are the decision makers. And that has been the position that has been put forward in terms of preparing this work, and also discussing it and making decisions in the near future about whether or not it meets your expectations or not.

Obviously one of the opening positions that's important to note, is unwinding the idea of UNDRIP Legislation in the Province of British Columbia, is important because Bill 262, which was the federal Bill that Romeo Saganash introduced and went through actually two Parliament's and it died on the order paper when the writ was dropped. So, it'll always be known as Bill 262-2019.

That federal Bill was extremely important and widely supported in British Columbia but ended. The idea of Legislation in British Columbia comes from a number of calls to action and mandates, and I'm just going to review them very quickly.

First of all, the TRC calls to action, specifically the TRC call 43, that called on the provincial government to fully adopt the declaration as the framework for reconciliation.

And you remember TRC and all of its reports from the outset refers to the UN Declaration as the framework for reconciliation. And often when that word reconciliation is bandied about people forget that it's about UNDRIP as the framework. Meaning it's got depth; it's got meaning and it reflects fundamental Human Rights and self-determination issues. In terms of the mandates, the dialogues that have happened at AGAs and for the UBCIC, there's a whole variety of mandates and resolutions that you're well familiar with.

The commitment document and other actions in terms of the most important action has consistently been to have UNDRIP as the foundation of the work, including in British Columbia. There's a whole number of other recent developments and Legislation that we've been talking about the last two days, that recognize the United Nations Declaration. Yesterday, I know I spoke at length about the Child Welfare piece, where we put it in the Federal Child Welfare Bill.

It's in the Federal Education Bill, Languages Bill in the Environment and Fisheries Legislation. And it did come into the Provincial Environment Bill. So, we have different places where it's referenced in other Bills, but not the overarching complete framework of UNDRIP. So, in terms of the process that we've been in, based on the mandate, the commitment document the resolutions, the First Nations Leadership Council will speak to the strong political position that's been brought forward.

We've had a technical group consisting of First Nations lawyers, So, a group of us. All First Nations lawyers who have been working on this and consulting extensively with a lot of other advisors, and First Nations lawyers and experts during the process. So, we've had ongoing meetings with MIRR, Minister Fraser who is here and his staff, but particularly at the technical level with the staff about how would we develop Legislation in British Columbia, that would honour those mandates from the UBCIC side and the First Nation side, but actually, makes sense in a province. Because 262 is federal, but what makes sense in a province so that that framework for reconciliation can be positive and be meaningful.

So, what can Legislation like UNDRIP Legislation do? What does it bring to the table in terms of change? Well, as we all know, despite the fact that there are some very good reconciliation agreements coming out, there are some very important agreements that have been entered into recently.

There's progress for some on treaty issues, others are not as comfortable with that and are taking sector-based approaches. One of the things that this initiative can do, is just confirm that UNDRIP has the full application to the laws of British Columbia. So, you may already have a provision like that in agreement or you may not, So, you don't have to negotiate it into an agreement. It is the basis of the work that will be done.

It also allows us to confirm that the recognition and respect for First Nations Rights, is the foundation of the shift that needs to happen. So, from denial, meaning you have to prove you have rights, you have to prove your people, you have to prove and defend it at every step of the way before anyone on government side accepts it. It moves into more of a recognition based, which is to respectfully recognize their rights, and work on a common path together for a coherent and transparent process to understand what that means in British Columbia with different roles for different people to play.

A very significant part of this Legislation is… and when I talk about unwinding 150 years of colonialism, you'll know this well from your experience. We talked about this. On the one hand, there's a legal status of Indian Bands because of the Indian Act as archaic and awful as it is. Then when people want to do things in British Columbia, you have to either incorporate a business, and the legal person that you have as your business. Or you have to create a society or charity.

So, the actual recognition of your government as a government, not as an Indian Act Band, but as a nation, the nation to nation work is where in the laws of British Columbia you are not recognized. And we know that's a deep flaw. And that's an issue that we push back on. So, in the treaty process if there's a treaty agreement and Legislation has passed, the province then thinks it creates that body.

So, that is inconsistent with Inherent Rights and affirming. So, one of the goals of this Legislation for BC, is to create that space for First Nations Governments to be recognized as governments, and for First Nations governments to be the government's selected by the rights and title holders, and to allow for a process of transition over time with dealing with all of the colonial problems that we have stemming from the Indian act and so, forth.

It also serves the purpose the third point as you'll see on the screen across, it serves a purpose of supporting economic reconciliation. And what that means is some predictability to get out of the process of conflict where First Nations are pitted. Government and First Nations and industry are often pitted because there isn't that consent based process, that collaborative process around economic projects and development.

So, that's another extremely important value of UNDRIP Legislation. Finally, it's the ability to have a very clear pathway for accountability for government on implementing UNDRIP, having an action plan and having accountability, but also for everyone to be engaged, whether there are Municipal Governments that need to be informed, and they're already joining on the journey in many places, but to me more explicitly informed. And for good work to be done, engaging the entire province, the entire society.

So, what are some of the things UNDRIP Legislation can do? It can provide recognition of UNDRIP in the laws of British Columbia, it can provide for an action plan and reporting. Meaning that the province, Minister Fraser and his colleagues would work collaboratively and in cooperation with First Nations, and UBCIC to have an action plan. That would come into the BC Legislature, that would have a reporting requirement, and annual report on whether that progress is made. Have the opportunity for it to be debated, considered, and for First Nations to appear ideally before a committee. To be heard and have that all in the public sphere on the record properly as a matter of the governance of British Columbia.

One of the values of UNDRIP Legislation is it can affirm that nothing derogates from the inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights and title of First Nations. It also can provide for respect for the diversity of First Nations peoples, So, different rights and territories.

It's not the pan Indian sort of thing that we often see that is really flawed on the ground. It can ensure that the provincial laws are aligned with United Nations Declaration. Importantly, it can require the province to take all necessary measures, to bring its laws and policies into alignment with the declaration. And obviously as you all know, in the various tables and work you're doing, that's a big task that sometimes First Nations are doing alone pushing.

Whether it's Forestry or Wildlife or Child Welfare or what have you. This changes it to their obligation, and therefore a more collaborative positive space to do that work. It confirms the need to cooperate and consult, that's article 38 of the declaration, So, that nobody does unilateral action. They don't just do something and forget to inform you and work with you appropriately as peoples and as nations.

What are the next steps? So, the next steps you're going to hear from the political leadership in a minute, but I just want to talk about the technical next steps. Like today. Sharing information, making sure the title and rights holders are at the forefront of all the work, which means title and rights holders and chiefs are informed, that the mandates are reflected in the work. So, we want to have ongoing discussion on that.

Report reporting to chiefs, making sure chiefs have the space and experts and title and rights holders have the space to give feedback, and have that feedback considered. Leadership dialogue like we're having today, there will be an ongoing outreach to business, public, civil society groups. So, more broadly, there has been a huge effort to inform the public about the United Nations Declaration, Grand Chief Ed John is here. He's done that tirelessly for years with other chiefs and leaders across Canada, but in British Columbia. To see the passage of the Bill. The Bill to be introduced and passed, and then the last two steps, which will be where the real work begins, is rolling up the sleeves, doing an action plan, setting priorities, seeing that that action plan has that critical concept which is action with it. So, that gives you a bit of a technical overview.

I'm just going to remind everyone that there will be sessions today, where with the provincial officials present. You can enter into a nondisclosure agreement and see a consultation draft and have that opportunity. There's sessions today and over the next number of weeks in different places. So, be sure if you want to do that.

I also want to let that at the Crown-First Nations gathering in November, we are going to host a technical dialogue in one of the parallel rooms there. Where if you have lawyers, advisors, negotiators, chiefs, whomever might want to come and just really dig into it, we're hoping by then we might have enough people have seen something that we can have a dialogue. So, we are going to have a deeper discussion. So, today is just one information sharing, but there's lots of opportunity for feedback. So, those are some contacts for further feedback.

But I do encourage you to please reach out to us if you need anything further, and if you can participate to see it and give your feedback do So, because it is your right, as representatives of rights, and title holders, to play that role. So, UBCIC has been extremely active in the process as directed by you, as Chiefs, through the First Nations reps at UBCIC and with the province.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, opening it up to the Leadership Council starting with mike four.

CHERYL CASIMER: [Native language] Good morning, everyone. Cheryl Casimer, one of the one of the Leadership Council leads on this file. Thank you, Mary Ellen, for providing the technical overview. I'd also like to welcome Minister Fraser and Jessica for joining us on the panel this morning. I know that you're very busy and also a little bit under the weather. So, thank you for being here. And acknowledgments to my colleagues Kukpis Wilson and Regional Chief Terry Teegee.

Basically, I just want to give a quick overview, I guess a little bit of the background that led us up today. You have information in your kit, starting on tab three, page 263. It starts off with a couple of resolutions that were passed here, providing support for the work that is underway for the development of the Legislation, and it goes into the commitment document from 2015. You'll note that that is an older version of the commitment document.

Following that starting on page… Let me find it. Page 278 you'll see the updated version of the commitment document. And this is the version that we've been working with the existing government, the previous version was work that we did with the Liberals. And we really didn't get very far. Under that regime, there was a lot of push and pull in terms of some of the language that they were not prepared to accept.

And I just want to say that with the NDP government, that we've actually made some huge strides in terms of making advancements on the commitment document and the recognition of our rights and our title. And so, I urge you to do another review of the commitment document on 278 and on, because it's updated, and it includes language that we have been pushing for a long time. It makes reference to a lot of the documents that are guiding principles and the foundation for the work that we do.

For example, the four principles if you remember we did that work when Regional Chief, Jody Wilson Raybould guided us through that exercise. We tried to have it accepted and presented at one of those Crown-First Nation gatherings and minister… Sorry, Premier Clark and her Cabinet could not accept it at that time. But we continue to push it. And as a result of that, it's now reflected in the new commitment documents.

Also, the principles around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the 10 guiding principles that the Provincial Government and the Federal Government both developed, Tsilhqot'in, the Constitution, so, a lot of the work that we've been building and working on, a lot of those principles makeup what this Legislation looks like today. And I know that because we're under a nondisclosure, we're not able to go into detail and specifics about the Legislation.

But I think that Mary Ellen's report did a pretty good overview of it. And you're also invited to contact the province and ask for your own viewing. And you would have to, of course sign a nondisclosure agreement as well. Just for your information at the Summit meeting, not next week, but the week after we will be providing a side room for those that are interested in having a review of the Legislation, but again under an undertaking.

I believe that October 24th, and I'm sure Minister Fraser will speak more to that, is the deadline for tabling of the Legislation. So, that really doesn't leave us a lot of time. And I know that sometimes we always feel like that we're under pressure to get things done. It just seems to be the way it is. I would really encourage you to become familiar with all of the opportunities available to view the Legislation, so, that we can get full support to have it passed.

I think this is the first time in our collective history that we've actually had an opportunity like this. Bill 262 as you know didn't make it, it died. The Liberal Government's platform is that they will, if re-elected, that will be one of their first things is to bring that back and work towards developing Legislation on the United Nations Declaration. And that in fact, this is what they're saying is that 262 will in fact, be the floor, not the ceiling.

So, they're proposing that it's going to be much more than what was being presented in Romeo's Bill. But we've yet to see that we still have an election ahead of us. So, we do have engagement sessions, as was mentioned, with Mary Ellen and there are two of them that are happening today. One with the BC Federation of Labour and one with the BC Trucking and Gravel Association, I believe.

Okay, well. So, I will be participating with Minister in that session with the Federation of Labor for sure. Because we want to make sure that when we're going out to the public, that they are aware that this is a partnership. And we also want to be in the room to be able to hear what some of the issues, and concerns may be from some of these interest groups, because they do have a lot of influence.

So, we want to be able to prepare some kind of a response, to be able to address some of those issues and concerns. And we just don't want the province to be standing there on their own when they're doing this because this is a big part of who we are, and what we want to see happen in the future for ourselves. So, that's why we've really been pushing to make sure that we do this in partnership.

As was mentioned, there are a number of other engagement sessions that will be taking place between now and October 24. And we will try our best to make sure that we can participate in as many of them as possible. But again, in my closing, just to urge you to take the opportunity to participate in having a look at it yourself. And keeping in mind that this Legislation is about allowing the province to be able to do certain things.

They need it to be able to give them the mandate and the authority to enter into agreements, where we can talk about shared decision making. We can talk about free, prior and informed consent. We can talk about all of those things, but they don't have anything that allows them to do that. So, this Legislation is what's going to provide it, it's a tool for them.

I also just want to acknowledge Grand Chief Ed John, he's in the back room and to acknowledge the many years of dedication and commitment that he has put into making sure that we are fully aware of what the United Nations Declaration, on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was all about.

And I know that in the beginning over 15 years ago, when he would be talking about it at the Summit meetings or wherever he had an opportunity to, people would say, "What the heck does this have to do with anything? Why are we even having to listen to this? Why does he even go to those meetings at the UN?" And now we know why. So, it was through his perseverance and making sure that he came here and reported to us on what was happening, that we are here today to be able to develop this Legislation on the declaration.

So, my acknowledgments to Grand Chief Ed John for that. Thank you very much.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Cheryl. Mic five.

JUDY WILSON: Kukstemc, Cheryl. Thank you. Kukpis Judy Wilson, as part of the First Nations Leadership Council, one of the leads on the work for the Union BC Indian Chiefs. And just want to thank again, the Musqueam for hosting us here. And also, the wonderful prayer this morning by our elder who has been taken care of us the last few days. The United Nations Declaration it's being interpreted in accordance with the Constitution.

We seen Minister Bennett make that statement when she said she fully endorsed it without qualification, but again in second line made a qualification under these existing processes. So, the 10 principles, including the United Nations Declaration is to be interpreted with the constitutional framework, and constitutional arrangements, meaning Federal and Provincial Divisions of power. So, those are the things we're still constantly dealing with.

Section 35 is now defined through case law for the past 39 years, including the Chilcotin case, the decision that ruled that radical or underlying title belongs to the crown, and many of the Chiefs who understand that actually went to Ottawa, and heard that whole case there and was thankful the Chilcotin were able to support them in that case. So, this is because the courts continuing to rely on the Doctrine of Discovery basis, and that's what we're always pushing back.

And that's where these new BC Treaty Negotiations are based on. So, that's why we still have a lot of these fundamental issues we have to deal with. At the Union we've had many resolutions on the United Nations Declaration, directing the work to the executive, and to the Leadership Council. But the whole thing that we work on at our table, and Minister Scott Fraser can attest to that and same with ADM Doug Cole, is we always ensure that it's the proper title holders, that the Federal Government and the Provincial Government understand that it's the nations, it's the proper title holders that hold that title to make any decision in regard to their nation. And they're the ones to define it. So, Mary Ellen as she was going over the presentation, that's very clear in there. But I'm not saying it's already done it we still have to keep pushing that.

In November. I think a year ago, we released the paper called True Lasting Reconciliation Implementation, implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in British Columbia laws, policies and practices. And that was done with the… Sorry, I lost track of what's done with I think it's BC Center for Policy Alternatives. So, I think it's important with that document, because we were looking at what describes the implementation approach.

So, actually it was on our radar last year already. And to help us move out of this historic Crown Indigenous Conflict and advance redress of these historical wrongs and build a stronger, shared future. And we outlined a multi prong implementation strategy, meaningful, workable and bring along those needed changes. So, among some of those recommendations, I think the chiefs got that paper last year, So, I won't elaborate too much on it just that BC needs a framework Legislation.

And that basically on the Human Rights, because I just want to note one note that was interesting. I've been doing So, much research on this, it's just tons of reading all the time. But I finished one book about a month ago and it talked about the history of the UN Indigenous Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and it was from treaty group in the States. And it was actually the Indigenous People around the world that first drafted the first Declaration of Rights.

And then the Human Rights Council, because they weren't states. Obviously, we're not part of the UN States. So, the Human Rights Council rewrote it and, in their version, they changed quite a bit. A lot wasn't intact. So, if you ever want to read more history on it. The book I read had the actual declaration the way our Indigenous People wrote it, then it had the changes the Human Rights Council, UN Human Rights Council changed it to. And then it had the final version of what the UN Declaration looks like.

And I think we have to keep that in mind as we're moving through our things to understand the resulting Legislation. So, we do need mechanisms for the ongoing Independent Oversight and Accountability to ensure the implementation of the action plan. And that will result from this Legislation, and the implementation requires a focus on our Indigenous self-determination. This means the implementation will look different in different places.

Efforts of governments could… We have to define and determine Indigenous People's own priorities, that's the nations. And the governments must be prepared to appropriately resource our Indigenous Peoples and their self-determining initiatives. So, we need to turn that around and make it into action. We do need something as a foundation moving forward. And then one thing I think that's going on in the next four weeks too, is the outreach and education of what the UN Declaration is, that means within public service, the school system and the general public.

But I understand there's a lot of other undertakings with third parties, BC Business Council, I can't remember all the names. That's happening as well, because I remember when we talked about it in Victoria, we said if other third parties are getting a chance to review it, our chiefs better have a chance. So, we do have a chance now this week and next week, however the dates are rolling out, and I really encourage all the chiefs to take the time to read the Legislation draft.

It's a key critical turning point for all of us across BC, and we need to focus on it, find time to take the time, get your comments on it. And we really need to have them come in to support this transformative change that's occurring. And one thing we're saying is we need to get it right. And Minister Fraser knows those discussions we've had with him several times on this Legislation. This is one of the key Legislations we need to focus our attention on. Kukstemc and thank you.

TERRY TEEGEE: Thank you Kukpis. I just want to acknowledge first of all the Musqueam people, The unceded unsurrendered territory of the Coast Salish people and my fellow colleagues from the Union BC Indian Chiefs, and First Nations Summit, Kukpis Judy Wilson and Cheryl that have been on this file with myself and really bringing this Legislation to life. I also want to acknowledge Akile Ch'oh Grand Chief Edward John, for his many years of work as a Dalkelh chief from Tl'azt'en Nation.

And also, Wilton Littlechild who was at the table, there was many years as well and James Anaya, those Indigenous Representatives that have really represented our Indigenous peoples from around the world, at the United Nations to bring this declaration to life. As you recall 12 years ago in 2007. And we've seen many levels of government support the declaration, but we haven't seen a government develop Legislation and fully bring life to the Legislation.

And I think that's always a difficult journey that we need to take, to really, I think, recognize what the declaration means. And with our support, and working with the coalition, I want to acknowledge the NDP Government, and also the Coalition Government, I should say with the Green Party in taking that step, because we certainly didn't hear it from the previous provincial government, the Liberal Government supporting this Legislation.

I think it does have wide implications, everybody's watching. I know at my executive table at the AFN, everybody's asking questions what's going on in British Columbia, and they want to be here, like you sitting here. Wanting their provincial governments to develop Legislation on the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous People.

Now, I think it's always difficult to go down this breaking trail, if you will. It's a new trail that we have to take together and creating this Legislation. And just in terms of timing, it will be introduced by the end of session. And the Legislature, which means I believe by the end of November, in the Legislature, but I think if I'm just reflecting back a year ago. A year ago, we were talking about Environmental Assessment Legislation and our co-development of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Legislation.

And year ago, our organizations, with the direction from you the chiefs, really wanted to push this Legislation forward a year ago. It got delayed to the spring. There are further delays and now we're here.

But nevertheless, it's been a topic of discussion as Cheryl stated since 2015, when the commitment document was first signed. So, I think this discussion about this whole process. I know it isn't perfect.

In the co-development of the Environmental Assessment Legislation, we had a lot of time to discuss what potentially would be in the Legislation a year ago, well over a year ago last summer. We had several regional sessions. But this time it's quite different because of the timing. It is a short timeline. And I also want to reflect on what we heard so far. We brought this up at my BCAFN, AGM in this building here two weeks ago.

And the questions that we received was why didn't we hear about this? When are you going to communicate what's within the Legislation? We are under a nondisclosure agreement. And it was the first time that… And I want to acknowledge Scott Fraser for being there as well, to bring this forward. To let the chiefs know where we are at. And it became abundantly clear. I also presented to the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council AGM last week.

And the question came up there again. And so, it's quite clear that there needs to be more opportunities for communication. And this is the reason why there were sessions I believe yesterday. And also, furthermore in the First Nations Summit next week or in two weeks, and also in the regional sessions to sign a nondisclosure agreement and have a look at the Legislation itself. One of the things that was intriguing at the Nuu-chah-nulth AGM was, one of the projects that they were doing was called… They called it the Reconciliation Project.

And what Shana Thomas was doing was going around the community into the leadership into the people and was asking, what does reconciliation mean to you? And really what they were trying to do as Nuu-chah-nulth people was come up with a definition of what reconciliation means. And at the meeting itself, there was a general comment that what reconciliation means was… Had to be defined by the Nuu-chah-nulth.

And part of it too was support for things such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and support for the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous people. And also, sovereignty and self-determination. And I think this is why it's so important that things like this Legislation really would support many of the agreements that we do, or either have signed or are going to sign.

I think in some of the treaties, historical treaties, the Douglas Treaties, the Modern Treaties. I think the declaration itself would really support any agreements you have to bring it really to the next level, if you will. And I think that's quite important to recognize.

So, I just want to leave it at that and thank my fellow colleagues here, it's been a long time coming. It's been 12 years since it was signed in 2007 at the United Nations, and I believe back in 2007, we were all wondering, what does this mean?

What does it mean to my people? The Dakelh what does it mean to the Gitxsan? What does it mean to the Coast Salish? And I think we're really trying to find that place. And I really believe this as part of it, is to have these Colonial Governments recognize that our people are self-determining. We need to be allowed to have that space to make our own decisions, and also really govern ourselves and the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous peoples is doing that.

It's a tool, it's a catalyst to change that relationship between our Indigenous People and Colonial Government and allow us best to truly govern ourselves. So, I think it's an exciting time. But I certainly know there will be questions and cautionary step forward. But at the same time, you're at this table. We're all here together. We're breaking new ground, and everybody is watching.

Different provinces and different states in the United States are asking questions. And knowing full well that in many respects, with all the court cases that come out of British Columbia, with all the agreements that British Columbia once again is leading the way. So, I just want to acknowledge all of your leadership in this room today, and for your leadership in the past to bring us to this point, So, thank you Mussi cho.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Appreciating, we've got about 25 minutes left. And we do want to hear from the Chiefs assembled here. A quick comment from Cheryl before going to the Minister on mike four.

CHERYL CASIMER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, I just wanted to make a correction, I failed to acknowledge the Musqueam people, and allowing me to be here to do this work on their territory. So, acknowledgments to the Musqueam thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Cheryl. Minister.

HON. SCOTT FRASER: Thanks, Tyrone, and thanks for the introduction. And I too want to acknowledge that this assembly we're gathered here today, territory of the Musqueam people and I want to thank them for allowing us to do our business here today. And I wanted to be here. I also want to offer congratulations to Grand Chief Stewart Philip acclamation. It's eighth term?

It's 21 years. I think it's my fourth term in Government. I want to learn how to do the acclamation thing. So, any tips you got I want to learn from you. You've been an inspiring and visionary leader Stewart. So, thank you so much. I also want to thank the UBCIC for hosting this important event, the assembly and to everyone present for allowing me to speak. I also, pass on warm greetings from the Premier, Premier John Horgan.

Cheryl mentioned I had a cold, it reminded me a couple years ago the federal forum many of you are here chiefs meeting with Federal Government. And we'd been all the Leadership Council. We're all up at the front. I was at the front too. I was honoured to be there, and leaders had all spoke and I had a very bad cold then, and I was told by the moderator when Minister Bennett was up she said, "She's really going on a long time. Can you change your speech and cut it right down, the agenda is not going to work?"

And I was really sick, and I had a 12 page thing written and I was like, "Oh, what am I gonna do?" And then was called up to the podium and I ad lib. I said, "The Province of British Columbia recognizes the Inherent Rights of Indigenous People." And you could hear like a pin drop. So, I said it again. And then I said, "We were told you never heard that from a Minister before, because we were told by the lawyers not say that."

And then I said, "So, screw them." I remember the place when wild and I couldn't believe I said that. I called it the NyQuil effect because I had this cold, I had some medication. So, I have a cold again, and I have some medication in me, so you don't know what's going to come out of me today. But I do want to qualify this so, screw them part. It isn't the lawyers. They're just doing their job.

It's up to governments to create laws and change laws. And that's what we're doing. That's what we're doing. That's what we're going to be talking about here today. The group of chiefs here and leaders I'm so honoured to be here with you. And I'm pleased to have the opportunity to talk to you about the declaration, which is about upholding the Inherent Rights of Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia and upholding Human Rights.

Because Indigenous Rights are Human Rights. Since day one, our Government has been very clear, reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in BC is a priority. This work requires building a fundamentally different relationship with First Nations between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples, one that acknowledges title and rights, so that First Nations and government can work together to find a good path together.

This commitment applies to every minister, every ministry and public servant in the Province of British Columbia. Reconciliation must be cross government and it is truly a cross government responsibility. To this end over the past two years, my Cabinet colleagues and I have been working with you in many areas. As you know, environmental assessment, as Terry mentioned, Child Welfare Legislation, language revitalization, affordable housing, record amount of affordable housing for Indigenous People off reserve and on reserve, never done before.

And of course, sharing revenue from gaming activities, that I first heard about when I got elected in 2005. And that went nowhere. That's happening now. In August, we transferred a historic… It was $194 million to the First Nations gaming revenue sharing limited partnership. I wanted to have the big cheque thing like they do on Wheel of Fortune, but they wouldn't let me do that. But I've never seen a cheque for $194 million.

But revenue that will make an important difference on the ground in communities, in all communities in the provinces. Not a transactional thing, it's needed. Those are just a few examples. And we know there's so much more to do since my appointment as Minister. That's just over two years ago, I have heard from chiefs and community members, from the title and rights holders about the need to implement the declaration.

And we have seen many resolutions passed, as has been mentioned here by assemblies like this one over the years now. I remember in 2007, when Canada wasn't signing and one of four nations I think at the time, in the world out of 150 odd, that would not sign. And I was urging my counterpart then I was the critic. The ministry was Minister De Jong and they both minister and urging him like, "We need to get this signed, we need to get Harper to sign it." And he said, "It's not our issue. It's a federal issue."

So, there's been a lot of discussion on the need to implement the declaration since then, and these gatherings have been a forum to actually push this forward. At this point in time I'd also like to acknowledge Grand Chief Ed John for the work he did. We wouldn't be here talking about this important piece of fundamental change to the Crown Indigenous relationship if it wasn't for people like Grand Chief Ed John.

And now today I think we have the right conditions. I think we have the right momentum and the shared political will to do it. Our government is responding to your call. The Legislation, which we expect to be introduced in a month or so, will be a crucial step to upholding Human Rights and Indigenous Rights in BC. I know there is expectation to get this done in the spring. I apologize for that. I am committed this is happening this fall, to moving forward with meaningful and principal reconciliation.

And I know there'll be an opportunity as already mentioned for you to take a look at the Legislation either later today or at some of the upcoming forums. The Leadership Council made it clear that nation leadership expects to see this draft, I know Kukpis Christian mentioned that at the assembly, the other. So, did Judith Sayers and the government is listening. It is right that proper title and rights holders are consulted directly.

And we cannot succeed in doing this, it's not being done anywhere else, if not for you, and not with you. Your support will be critical as we introduce and try to get this Legislation passed within… Legislature only sits in October and November, so it's happening now.

Now I humbly ask for all of your support on this. And please know this, that when we introduce the Legislation, it will be an important step. But it won't be the end of the shared work.

As you heard the Legislation will require us to develop an action plan together. I emphasize together. We will ensure opportunities for consultation and collaboration with you the proper holders of the rights in British Columbia, because our government knows the importance of relationships in achieving meaningful reconciliation. That is why I make sure to come to assemblies like these. I have been doing that for almost 15 years.

Relationships have to be ongoing. My leaders John Horgan, the Premier. When he was not the Premier, before that, Adrian Dix before that Carole James, agreed that they would not switch portfolios that this was different. This was not just a portfolio, it was about building relationship trust, and all the things we need to do to work together. And I think over the years, I'm hoping over the years, you have seen my commitment to that, while I was opposition critic and now as a member of Cabinet.

So, many have called for many years for this declaration to be implemented and we are responding to your efforts. Today we are finally going to make this a reality. Bringing all provincial laws in harmony with the UN Declaration. We're going to do that, it won't happen overnight. We all know that. But the commitment is there. It will be a process that will happen over time in collaboration and in consultation, as the declaration itself calls for.

But this Legislation will create a fundamental shift towards relations grounded in sections 35 of the Constitution Rights, that the courts have constantly upheld and told governments to uphold - Inherent Rights, fundamental Human Rights. What is proposed in the Legislation will not be a magic bullet, but it is a necessary step in the direction that we need to go. This Legislation has been a long time coming.

It is a monumental piece of Legislation and absolutely essential. I was told early on in the interior with meetings with the Carrier Sekani, that I needed to do constructive damage to the status quo. And I consider this doing constructive damage to the status quo and getting us away from things, as Kukpis Wilson said earlier, the things like the Doctrine of Discovery.

And I will say again that your support is crucial and critical for us to make this work. Thanks for taking the time to listen to me. Kleco kleco.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Minister. Opening to questions and comments starting mike 11.

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

TERRY DORWARD: [Native language]. Thank the Musqueam people for allowing us here to do this important business, and I also like to thank the Union for all your support towards my cousin [Native language] David Dennis in his recovery.

My question is directed towards Scott Fraser, Tla-o-qui-aht of course is in your home riding. And you're probably quite aware of our Meares Island Tribal Park and the War of the woods that happened in the 90s, where over 900 people were arrested.

Since then tourism has flourished in the rain forest. And that is directly from our efforts in protecting the rain forest, and in UNDRIP it mentions the economic activity within a traditional homeland, and we as Tla-o-qui-aht have really been cut out of that. I'm wondering will the province be committed to establish Indigenous protected areas within Clayoquot Sound, with the principles of UNDRIP? We haven't been getting much success with the province or the feds on creating solutions.

But what we have created was a local Trouble Parks Allies Program, where we're collecting a fee from businesses an ecosystem service fee, those who benefit from a healthy ecosystem share in that, in those revenues. And I believe it's 230 million in Tofino that has been collected last year in tourism. I'm wondering if the province would also be committed to Legislating an ecosystem service fee, so that municipalities can share in those tourism dollars to local First Nations. Thank you Chu.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Kleco kleco. Mic 4.

HON. SCOTT FRASER: Thank you very much. And it's been too long since I've been at forums held by Tla-o-qui-aht on the tribal park issue, and our other nations that have raised the same similar issues in different parts of the province. I appreciate that. Also, my heart goes out to David Dennis I hope all is well. On that I missed out. I just heard yesterday that about his health issues, and with respect Iisaak, I offer my best wishes there too.

I will be pleased to work with you and Tla-o-qui-aht towards the initiatives. There's a lot of wealth being generated in your territory. I think the UN Declaration has articles that refer to the need for fairness and economic development and wealth sharing. I know it's not the same thing, I know that's part of the impetus for the revenue sharing with gaming for all nations. However, I have and will work with you on that.

I know Tla-o-qui-aht is working in great ways with the municipality, the district of Tofino, Mayor Osborne too. I know she supports the work being done. I'm not familiar with the details around the revenue sharing that's being discussed there. So, we need to set up a meeting, I would suggest sooner rather than later, so that I can come up to speed on that. But I'll be pleased to work with Tla-o-qui-aht on the great work that they're doing in their territory.

It's been inspiring to me. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you to the panel. I've got a bit of a speaker's list now. 6, 14. 7 and 17. so we'll hear from them, then have you respond. Mike six?

KHELSILEM: Thank you. Khelsilem, Squamish Nation spokesperson Proxy. I'll try to get my comments short; I know there's a big long speaking list. I'm very excited by the work that has gone on on this and I know that through numerous resolutions, here both for the Federal Legislation as well as the work towards this provincial Legislation, has been advancing quite consistently.

And although I was recently elected, and I know some of this work started before I was even on council, I'm going back many years. I think that this is a watershed moment for First Nations. And I'm really thinking about people like myself as a younger leader, with so many esteemed leaders in this room who have been on this fight for So, long. And that trailblaze. And I'm actually really thinking about my great-grandfather, Andy Paul and the work that he did with the Allied Tribes back in the early 20s, through the 30s, and 40s, with the Brotherhood. And how our leaders back then were arguing these things and fighting for these things. And this continuation of leadership by successive generations is getting us to this point. So, when I look at what's been presented to us and the wonderful presentation from Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, that I think I see it as similar to our version of a civil rights movement for Indigenous People.

Because we look at all the activism that went on leading into the Civil Rights in the US, to finally getting Legislation put on to law, and the opportunity for First Nations to have that UN Declaration put into law is something that I think, as mentioned may not be a bullet but it creates a new toolbox. And I'm excited as a leader of the Squamish Nation to be able to use that toolbox.

My other comments are just that I think something that this Chief's Council needs to be prepared for, is that what we seen at the federal level when this when the Bill 262 was being entertained, that we saw a fierce opposition from industry, because they deathly are afraid certain aspects of industry, capital, are deathly afraid of Indigenous Rights being recognized and upheld. And they lobbied quite fiercely against the Federal Government to kill that Bill.

The Federal Election is going to be over and then this will start, and we'll see, I suspect, a lot of that money that went into the opposition at the federal level, which is currently funding the Conservative Party in the election, will probably switch over to BC and we'll start seeing a lot of activism from right wing forces, a lot of lobbying, probably a lot of public relations campaign by groups like Resource Works, Allies of the BC Liberal Party.

And I think that what's going to be instrumental in this fight, and I do think we're going to be facing a fight here, as this gets introduced, is that it's going to be important for First Nations to be unified as much as we can. To speak strongly in support of this, because that's going to be the linchpin to it all. And I think that the opportunity here is to call on our allies. We had over 80,000 people walk for reconciliation a few years ago. Churches, environmental groups, municipalities, universities, all support this concept of reconciliation.

I think as it was outlined UNDRIP equals reconciliation. And this is an opportunity, I think, for all of us to try and lean on our allies, lean on groups that we have affiliation with, that we built relationship with to call on them and say, "Now is the time to support us. Now is the time to tell the Provincial Government, tell the public that this is needed and necessary and important."

And I think it's going to be an instrumental fight for all of us, but I'm looking forward to it.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Mic 14.

BYRON LOUIS: Byron Louis, Chief of the Okanagan Band and Proxy for WFN. It's good to hear and all the work of Grand Chief Ed John, and what he had actually accomplished and gotten through with this whole introduction of UNDRIP and also championing that for so many years. And in particular, when it starts moving towards free, prior and informed consent, is going to be a very interesting point, especially coming from the Province of British Columbia.

And you start looking at the majority of the court cases that happened right across Canada, I think there's over 202 now. And the majority of them that actually originate from this province, and you look at a majority of these court cases and some of them are quite good. When you look at the most recent ones that were mentioned earlier on about Clyde River and Clyde River is Supreme Court decision that came out of Nunavut, but also how it was actually upheld.

And another decision is Trans Mountain. And they talked about that. The governments just cannot look at environmental impacts but must determine what the actual impacts are to Aboriginal Rights. And what that court decision done is moved us through from the threshold of consultation and accommodation, to basically moving into the age of damages. And this is something that the provincial authorities need to really clearly understand.

And especially about the use of Section 92 powers, where a Section 92 power has been defined under those very same decisions as being a power that may infringe upon an Aboriginal Right, but that infringement must be justified, and no way does it allow for section 92 to be used for the extinguishment of an Aboriginal right. But when you actually look at the extinguishment and species across the Province of British Columbia and across Canada, the majority of the times when this extinguishment or I should say the extinctions that have happened, have been under the use of Section 92 powers, that provinces say that they have jurisdiction over resource development and management. So, when you look at it from that perspective, the provinces have been at the lead of extinguishing Aboriginal Rights when they do not have the constitutional authority to do so. And these questions are going to be coming up.

And when we start talking about free, prior and informed consent, I think these are some of the considerations that must be undertaken, and under the underpinnings of that support from the Supreme Court of Canada. And when we're talking about crossing the threshold of damages, I hope the Province of British Columbia is really listening to that point, because you look at what's happening now with Coho being listed in the Fraser, Mountain Cariboo being listed over in South Central regions of this province.

And this is just other examples of where the provinces have used or misused Section 94, that's led to basically the extinction of sub populations, which amounts to the extinguishment of an Aboriginal Right. So, these are some of the discussions that you're going to have to have with us in the near future. And I think that some of the things that we must come from an understanding, and we're not talking about a few hundred thousand dollars, what it amounts to is 10s of millions of dollars once you start to qualify and quantify those rights.

And there must be an understanding by the province that they must start looking at nature and as natural capital, it does have values that can be qualified and quantified. And this needs to be taken into consideration whenever there's negotiations for such things as resource development, or any other activity into the future. And this is something that must be clearly understood. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, Chief, mic 7.

TRAVIS HALL: [Native language]. Travis Hall, Heiltsuk Tribal Council. Also, I forgot to thank the Musqueam people for allowing us to do this work.

I had the fortune of being at the Union of BC Municipalities as a rep for the Director, Regional District Office for our area, and also witness the discussions and invite Grand Chief Stewart Phillip to a discussion there as well. And I had the fortune as well as of being a chair on a panel discussion with regards to reconciliation moving forward.

So, it's really an honour to witness the work that's being spread along the municipalities and regional districts about the message, about the need to work together on this and it was presented in a very, very respectful way to also recognize the diversity of BC and each of the nations have their different needs being assessed, and trying to work together to work on finding solutions for that.

So, I just wanted to share that and to say that I'm glad that you're taking this message forward in a positive way, with people who need to hear. [Native language].

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Mic 17.

CHAD ENEAS: [Native language]. I guess I want to raise an issue around the first time ever comments around the recognition of Aboriginal Rights. As we all know, British Columbia was not allowed to enter into the Confederacy of the colony called Canada until 1871. And that was because of the outstanding land and Indian title and rights issues that needed to be embedded in the way forward.

The British Columbia Colony or the residents had to agree to honour and recognize those pre-existing agreements of the Crown. So, I would just say that it's about time that the sum of those legal obligations are being considered, by those who are enjoying the benefits within our territories. So, I just want to make that comment that this is not the first time, that I think the work is good work. And I think that the discussion about reconciliation is not having that such a short-term memory.

All of the conversations that we've had, leading up to this point in time around trying to have our protocols or laws, our ways of survival to be considered in decision making within our territories. I spoke earlier about the state of the environment in our territories. You heard Chief Byron talk a little bit about that. But I think… And I mentioned this to Heyman yesterday. There is 10,000 years of knowledge, where we come from, where we've lived, where we've sustained a way of life, and our survival in 200 years.

We cannot drink the water in the Okanagan out of the lakes and the rivers, without being at risk for getting sick, or having even in some places irritations on our bodies from just swimming in the water. So, I really hope that the provincial government in your ministry can express the real true value of what our laws, and our ethics can provide in terms of long-term sustainable land management practices.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, Chief, just a quick cross check. I wasn't sure if there's one speaker at 17 or two.

RALPH LEON: [Native language]. First of all, thanking those that are taking part in the framework. I see a group of good people from the Union, from the BCAFN, great leaders in the group. So, it's awesome to see Mr. Fraser, you've come to my community a few times. We thank you for that. Now I know next time I'll assure that… Make sure you take your medicine before you come negotiate with us again.

So, we'll get a faster yeah out of you. Anyways thanking you for that. But I'm excited for the framework. I'm glad to hear that you guys have deadline, because we don't have deadlines we could be talking about this, when I'm close to retirement and I don't want my children to be talking about this in draft form, when they are our leaders because one day, all of our children, our grandchildren are going to be sitting at this table.

And we want to make sure that they have good foundation to follow along with the province, along with the federal. Right. Now I was reading a lot of the wording. I'm not too sure if the Province or the Federal Government is going to change our name again, but you see Indigenous on there. You hear us talking about Aboriginal and it also says Indian on there. I someday would like to see all of our titles aligned to just one name. Our titles have been changed so much.

And I don't want our children to wear that. Especially in these kinds of work. The wording should be straightforward so that our children don't run into red tape, what the future of the province, future the Federal Government. I heard nothing but good words. I know that if we help make it, then there's discrepancy down the road. We could fix it ourselves. So, we're not waiting for years and years.

Waiting for the Federal Government to respond to us, because we all know how long that takes. So, yeah huychqa siem.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem. Any responses and concluding remarks. Mic 4.

I think a lot of those are aimed at the Minister, so we'll start with the Minister and provide space for you guys. Mike four.

HON. SCOTT FRASER: Thank you. Thanks. I mean lots of great issues here. Khelsilem, you're not at the table right this second, but I very much agree we need help. There might be pushback from various sectors when we bring this into the Legislature, following the federal election that is going to free up other resources and voices that might be trying to stop this. That being said, I know we've all been working on that, trying to head that off.

I think one of the reasons I have a cold is I'm just doing the road trip. I've been to Calgary to the Petroleum Club, I've been to mining folk, forestry folk Business Council. I'm meeting with the chamber soon, we're doing the Federation of Labour of course the UBCM, the conference with all the local mayors and councillors. We heard the session, was actually great, good turnout. And there's support.

The message we're trying to deliver I think and we're trying to do it as one, is that this isn't just a good idea for Indigenous People in this province, and our relationship with government. This is good for the whole province. This is the status quo, as we talked about before, it has not worked for anybody. It has created poverty, inequality, and it has caused strife, conflict, court cases, wasted money, wasted resources when we could be working together.

And that message I think it's resonating in a way that hasn't happened before. And those business leaders that are thinking about the future, I think they get that, and they got some of their members, they have to bring along with them. That's fair enough. But we've been getting even some offers of support and even the ability maybe for some advocacy on this. So, I think we're in a better time now.

That being said, I don't want to take anything for granted. We all need to work on this. We need our op-eds in the paper, we need people talking about this in an exciting way. And I mean there is several comments I know around extinguishment and the loss of species, and wildlife and everything. We met with Minister Heyman; I know he was here. He's built into the Act that kicks in this fall, the environmental assessment revitalization.

It puts First Nations knowledge on the land, the traditional ecological knowledge right up there with Western science, and I say that to industry too, say that you doing a project build up a relationship before you build a project. Utilize the wisdom and the knowledge of the land that's been there for thousands of years, to make your project better. And involve it in partnership with nations. This is the way forward.

I think we recognize that as a government, again it's not going to happen overnight. Laws and protocol and decision making in the territory. This is all part of what we're trying to address through, not just the UNDRIP but through other things like the environmental assessment revitalization. And Indigenous Law, like we, Minister Mark, Melanie Mark, we've funded the first Indigenous Law Degree in the history of the province of the country, of the world at University of Victoria.

It's just the start. But it's an overflowing group of people, students, young, smart people that want to get in, that the first time in the next few years, we're going to have a cohort of lawyers coming out the one side disparage there a while ago, I apologize to them. But the lawyers that have not just British common law, they're going to have Indigenous Law under their belts too. It's going to start changing. You have to change things from within.

And it can't just be the government saying how to do it. So, we do that together. And we do it incrementally. It's been a few hundred years of a dark colonial past, and we're making the changes, we as in collectively. We are all making the changes that you know are going to be so important to the next generation. And I guess on that I will… On Indigenous names. I mean the name Indigenous Aboriginal Indian.

I just want to comment the Indigenous the name for my ministry was MARR, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation previously, it's now a Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. That was done anticipating the UN Declaration which again, trying to be consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, but I don't think anything needs to be etched in stone. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Can I just do a quick show of hands who's planning on attending the closed-door consultation session on Legislation? A few of you. That starts in a few minutes so on top of that, I want to make a little bit of space to the Leadership Council, but I need you to hear me when I say I've got five agenda items to get through in the next hour. So, as brief as possible please, mic 4.

CHERYL CASIMER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, very brief, just wanting to thank and acknowledge the support that we are receiving from around the table from leadership, it really does make it a little bit easier for us to carry on and continue to do this work knowing that we have your support. I really appreciate the comments about needing to call on our allies. And we do have a lot. We do have letters of support on file.

Albeit it's not for this, but we did have letters of support from BC Federation of Labour, the BC Teachers Association. And that's just a couple that I can remember off the top of my head for C-92. But I'm sure that if we approach them again, that they would be in full support of the work that we're doing here for Legislation in British Columbia. And I also urge each and every one of us in our respective community, in our territories to also reach out and talk to our allies in our own backyard. To make sure that we have support from them as well. So, thank you very much.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, mic 5.

JUDY WILSON: I just want to thank Mary Ellen, for the PowerPoint presentation, I thought she was going to get more questions than that. And I'd like to really encourage the Chiefs to please sign up for the non-disclosure, and to attend the draft presentation, things are going to move really quickly over the next two… Think it was four weeks we were given. So, it's really incumbent that you at least take one of those opportunities to find out where the schedule, is at for the different upcoming meetings to review that UN Declaration.

It's not like you can take a copy, go home and read it. You need to go to that session to get the full benefit of it. And then I believe, correct me if I'm wrong, Mary Ellen, you said if you had any questions, they could reach you or is that the last question? Or is that the last presentations? I get my presentation all mixed up. But anyway, if you have a burning question, I know you're going to need to reach out to somebody.

Mary Ellen and Cheryl offered up ourselves as well for any questions, but if it's technical or legal, I think Mary Ellen would have to be reached, it's got to be a process to it. So, please sign up and review it. This is our opportunity. And we need to take the responsibility and educating ourselves on what the draft looks like, and any points in that side. That's all wanted to say thank you.

TERRY TEEGEE: Thank you. I think all the good words heard today and in this session. I'm reminded of last winter at the Assembly First Nations executive took a lobbying effort, to get the federal Bills passed, and there was three. There was the Languages, Child Welfare, and Romeo Saganash Bill 262. And at the winter session, our AGM, our Special Chiefs Assembly I should say, myself Kukpis Wilson and Grand Chief Edward John presented to the Senate, the Federal Senate with the help from our Indigenous former judge, Senator Murray Sinclair, to actively support those three Bills to try to get them through. Two passed, and Bill 262 was actively voted against by the Conservatives.

Now the Federal implications is that if you all witnessed the debate, the Federal debate, you've seen Andrew Scheer from the Conservative Party, actively state that how can an interest group namely our communities, Indigenous communities, interest group have that much power to kill projects.

And I think you know that perspective from the Conservative Government really states where they're at. The other parties, Federal Parties, The Greens, the NDP and the Liberal Party, have stated they will all support Federal Legislation for the United Nations Declaration Rights of Indigenous People. And I think that that's really important to know that we are setting a new path, but also that from the chiefs and yesterday too, when we were honouring Stewart and Joan his wife was there.

And what she stated was that anything we don't do now, we leave for our next generation, we leave for our kids. And this is one thing I don't want to leave for our children to do. I think if we can take an active role and support this and get it through, it would really support our place, our rightful place as decision makers, as sovereign people and our ability to self-determination. So, thank you and look forward to hearing from you. Mussi cho.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you the panel. Two quick things as we segue into our next agenda items, the PowerPoint that Mary Ellen took us through, you can share that with your folks. There's a high level of closed doors and secrecy involved here. But this information is public to bring your membership a little bit more up to speed. Mary Ellen will be available for the rest of this session for any questions or comments, you might have with her directly.

And those of you that are attending the session, you should be in there now because it's starting.

So, once again, thank you to the panel.

(track 31)

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, as we return to the agenda, the First Nations Public Services just asked me to read out a piece here. They're realizing we're behind time, so they're not going to take up the agenda time, but the First Nations Public Service Secretariat, Breaking Barriers Creating Connections Conference November 6th and 7th with a pre-conference session November 5th. The Public Service can fund one rep per community, and there are flyers out on the registration desk outside if you're interested yourself or you need for anybody that you have at home for that.

I'm just wondering, a quick check in with the chiefs. We endorsed the Languages Resolution earlier. Khelsilem said he could speak to it if necessary, but is it necessary to have more languages or are you fine with the resolution at this point? I say that because that's the one of five agenda items we have got to get through in under an hour.

Would anybody like a presentation on languages? Not seeing any. Maybe if anybody has any questions, you can see Khelsilem directly. Thank you for that. The next piece is the TMX. Khelsilem is here, I haven't seen Ruben George yet, or you.

EUGENE KUNG: Eugene.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Eugene is here in as well, So, inviting you forward to my right. And we maybe only have about 15 minutes or so on this. Yap, Mic 4.

TMX

KHELSILEM: Good morning, everybody. I want to thank the opportunity to kind of give an update on Trans Mountain Expansion and some of the role that Squamish Nation has been playing as well as coordinating, collaborating with other First Nations, but overall just kind of where we're at. I also am grateful that Eugene Kung here is from West Coast Environmental Law, lawyer who can… He's going to speak after me more on some of the legal aspects of it. But, at this point, as most probably you are aware, we did win the Federal Court decision with the six that press forward on that and won last year. Those six have now been granted leave to continue the review of the Federal Court of Appeal's decision. However, a lot of the circumstances, I think Eugene will talk on this a little bit more than I can, but a lot of the scope of what can be entertained in that discussion or that review has been quite narrowed, which presents a challenge of course, because there's certain things that we won't be able to argue legally within this review, that we were able to last time.

And there's something I would say idiosyncrasies or inconsistencies of the courts on this matter. But, the other part that we're at is, as mentioned earlier, are now work begins to challenge the province to engage in a meaningful process. And we just heard from one of the ministers on these objectives around Indigenous Relations. I think George Heyman was here recently as well, who will be the minister responsible for any kind of review, the scope and scale of that review, determining that, talking to title holders around what kind of conditions might the province add to the project.

The only thing I didn't mention earlier is that that review and the conditions that they can add are also limited by the court decision. That they have to only be taking into consideration a couple of things. One is the new report that was tabled by the NEB, So, they have to base it off of that report, not the earlier report.

And then the second thing is that they can't do anything in terms of applying new conditions that could reasonably be considered as intentionally delaying or frustrating the process. So, there's a bit of a box now, where they can't put anything in a condition form that would then completely kill the project, and they also can only put conditions on that are relative to that newer environmental report that was done by the NEB and the consideration report that was tabled by cabinet. So, there's a window and we got a… We have an opportunity to press the province on what to put into that, through that window. But overall, I think that part of what's happening right now is that we're continuing to press the same issues that we pressed for a long time, around impact of diluted bitumen within the Salish Sea. The impact to… the cumulative impacts of the increased tanker traffic, as well as all of the other types of impacts and the threat and risk of those impacts.

We've been engaging with the Federal Government through the consultation process and what types of analysis and studies we want done on the tally of bitumen that they're proposing to be transported. And so there's been some conversations with the federal government on that. However, there's been some opposition from Trans Mountain, as well on providing samples to be analyzed.

Basically, Trans Mountain, which is owned by Canada Now, does not want to provide samples for us to test the impacts within the Burrard Inlet and the Salish Sea. So, we're getting… we're seeing some games happening there, at the federal level between the federal government and the now company of Trans Mountain. But I think that for a lot of First Nations, whether it's anything that comments earlier, whether it's to negotiate and try to apply some conditions to find a way forward, that they might tend to deeply support the project.

Things like that versus some First Nations who are taking a more combative stance and in opposition due to the risk threat level. Where we're at now is we're going to proceed with the court challenges and see where that leads us. Ultimately, it's going to be decided. There's the potential of the order being quashed again, but there's also the potential of it not. Which then brings us, I think, to the last part of this or a main part of the battle, which is that it becomes political again. We're engaging in legal battles right now, but if, depending on how the legal battles go, it returns to a political arena around what the federal government does with the pipeline that they've bought, as well as the proposed expansion. And I'll just kind of raise it as a point for all the delegates here to be aware of, that both The Green Party and The New Democratic Party at the federal level have talked about their opposition to the Trans Mountain Project. And have… both party leaders have talked about this being a condition of support in the scenario of a minority government.

And if the polls stay at the current levels, we might be looking at a minority government, in which case they would require NDP or possibly Green support in order to pass budgets and to form government. So, I think that, in that scenario, my only message is that there will be some political muscle needed by First Nations who are concerned about our coast, to be active in the event of a minority government on the Green Party and the NDP party, or the NDP, sorry. NDP party is a bit of a error, but a requirement that I think we're going to need to be able to lobby those leaders in those parties to hold fast to their commitments to First Nations, especially around this and many other commitments that they've made on Indigenous issues in the event of a minority government. So, there's a few kind of routes that are happening now with regard to Trans Mountain.

The last one I'll say is that just as we've seen recently with the Climate Strike where we had over a hundred thousand people come out in Vancouver, it was honestly the largest rally I've ever been to in Vancouver. So, many young people came out. And I think that the work of our young people who are really screaming now about the threat of climate change and the climate crisis is calling into action all of us in a different way. And I think that the last part of this conversation around Trans Mountain, is really going to be the economic viability of it. How much is the federal government willing to sink into a project that is not going to pay back? Is it going to be 9 billion? Is it going to be 12 billion? Is it going to be 20 billion, 40, 60. At what point are they going to actually stop and say, this is too much? And the longer the project takes to actually get completed, the more the oil prices fluctuate because of the changing landscape of the economy of renewable energies, things like that, this project starts to look less and less attainable.

And I think that that's the last part of this kind of conversation about even if the project happens, is just the economics of it. And whether the Canadian public actually will support a government taking out so much of their money to support their private kind of corporate interest here. So, I think that's… trying to summarize very quickly, because I want to be respectful of our limited time, but I hope that's helpful. And again, if anybody has any questions, I'll be happy to answer on this and happy to work with other First Nations who are supportive of the Squamish Nation and other Nations who are taking a stance to protect our coast.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mic 5.

EUGENE KUNG: Thank you. Thanks, Khelsilem as a… for the summary. I'm not going to add a whole lot more. I want to thank the Musqueam People for allowing us to be here and to do this important work.

Just very briefly, just to highlight some of the opportunities that are now on the forum. So, following the Squamish case and we heard from Minister Heyman, we've heard from other ministers that they are and will be consulting Nations on the conditions and how they can improve those conditions or strengthen those conditions to improve the protection of areas that are within provincial jurisdiction. I know that the motion was passed earlier today and the connection, for example, to salmon is very obvious. So, we're just really encouraging folks to think about that.

I can also say that there has been quite a lot of work on potential draft conditions, ways to improve the BC Certificate that are squarely within provincial jurisdiction, that fall within the constraints that Khelsilem mentioned around really the state that we're in currently, which is the inability to adequately deal with oil spills should they happen. And so I welcome any requests to kind of have to look at those, to share those, to talk through them.

There's a lot of work that's gone into making sure that those kind of fit within that window that Khelsilem mentioned. On the Federal Court of Appeal case, as I was already mentioned, six of the 12 applicants for leave were granted leave. They were the original Six Nations who were in the last round at the Federal Court of Appeal.

I won't go too deep into the procedural roller coaster that's happening right now, but just to know that it is moving forward, it is moving forward relatively quickly. The hearing has been scheduled for the last week in December and we will see how that moves forward. As Khelsilem mentioned that the ground... The judge took a very unprecedented or very rare move of issuing reasons with the leave application and also limiting what can be argued at the case but will also… it will be focused on consultation and consultation efforts between August 30th of last year and June 18th when it was approved.

There are still lots of fruitful grounds for appeal there and some quite shocking stories actually, that you'll be hearing about I'm sure in the media. In terms of construction, you're probably hearing a lot of rumblings around things getting started or stockpiles getting stocked. The reality is that most of the route still doesn't have a final route approval. The new NEB, the Canadian Energy Regulator is holding those specific route hearings. There have been almost a hundred statements of opposition from landowners and First Nations that require them to have specific route hearings. That's not about necessarily whether the project is going to be approved or not. That's already happened, but what is the specific route? So, there's a lot of process that goes with that and the potential that the route will actually change, which causes a further delay and uncertainty.

And then the last piece, Khelsilem mentioned that I just want to really put a point on, is this question of the project cost and project economics. We hear a lot from the governing party around using, for example, the revenues to plant trees. The reality is that the revenues are non-existence or fictional at best. The current pipeline, according to the government's own numbers, lost more than $200 million last year. The expansion is no guaranteed to pay off, especially since we don't even know the full number for construction. It's likely North of $10 billion. And if we are taking this climate crisis seriously, we don't have 50 years to pay off that $10 billion, and that changes fundamentally the entire economics. So, I think anyone who's looking at this from that perspective will quickly realize that, and that's the idea of revenues and profits funding anything in terms of transition or tree planting is really politics and politicking. Khelsilem mentioned that this might move into that arena.

It's always been very much political, much more than legal, but certainly the legal tools are being used and they will play out. Just in the interest of time, I'll stop there but happy to answer any questions.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Opening up any questions and comments. Mike 14.

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

BYRON LOUIS: Byron Louis, Chief, the Okanagan Band proxy for WFN. I think there's… Some of the things that what you guys were saying is it needs to be taken in consideration by all of us in this room. We talk about the pipeline, but one of the things we have never talked about or agreed to is how bitumen is currently being transported down through the… Again, through the North Thompson, along the Fraser and out to loading on onto ships in down in Burrard Inlet and those places. But one of the things has never been actually talked about is who's going to actually mitigate, if there's ever one of these rails, with over a hundred cars ends up going into the North Thompson, the South Thompson or the Fraser. Who's actually going to mitigate that and possibly who can actually afford to mitigate that.

We should be asking the CN if they are going to be the ones to take on the liability and if they're going to… Actually going to be putting out a bond that says this is how much we're going to be actually putting out there in case there's a spill, that will be compensating First Nations for the losses of food fish, for an indeterminate amount of time, because we won't be able to harvest those, because that bitumen is going to spread through the entire system. This just isn't just about the pipeline, but it's also about how it's being currently transported. This isn't about just… like it was a few… for a few years ago when that line was in full production. Today we got, like they said over a hundred something gallons a day. So, I think that's one of the questions that we all need to ask.

Who's going to be held responsible if one of those actually derails? And when you talk about the inability to actually contain spills on the open ocean, we need to actually ask the question, how is the Province of British Columbia and Canada going to contain the spill on a major river system like the Fraser or the North Thompson or the South Thompson rivers. There's absolutely nothing in place that can actually give anyone in this room a guarantee that they are able to contain those spills.

And I think that's one of the things we got to be able to say is, that they would be… there is no containment. That would go right from… potentially from the headwaters, right till the estuary. And these are questions that we really need to ask. Who's going to be responsible?

Is Canada going to be responsible? Is CN going to be responsible? So, we really need to start asking these questions, because they have the ability to extinguish our rights in the basis of the spills or it could kill them to where we can't harvest them for just basically 10 or decades. Who's going to actually put that food… They are our food and when you look at it, just trying to put a… Could you imagine trying to buy out of the supermarket that amount of salmon or whatever you had and putting that on your plate. And you had that 365 days a year access to it. Then suddenly, you have to pay for it. Who's going to pay for that? Who can actually afford, if you've got a family of six? Putting basically protein on the plate that'll actually be comparable to salmon in terms of nutritional values.

Who's going to take care of the fact that there's going to be increases of diabetes and cancers and all these other things. It certainly isn't the government, because we haven't put them on notice or actually said, this is what you're responsible to, if there's a spill, that happens. You must be prepared to mitigate and ensure that we have a continued access to our food, social and ceremonial, not for just one band or one person, but for every man, woman, and child. And all of them need that guarantee, what they're not getting. So, I think that's one of the other issues that we really need to take in consideration. Because it isn't just about a spill in the estuary. This is about a spill through the entire province or through the entire system. Okay, thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Limt lim, any other questions or comments? Seeing none, we'll go to response and concluding remarks. But one thing, Khelsilem in the resolution, it spoke to your watershed why consultation piece of the province. What's your timeframe for that?

KHELSILEM: I think the question about timeframe is one that we don't know yet, because we're going to wait for a response from the province. But as Eugene mentioned, we've seen some early indication from the minister that they're interested in engaging. Nothing official, but we're going to be sending official letters to the minister and the province on this and hopefully get an official response. But I think this resolution that we passed earlier will follow up with that. The only comment that I was going to make to the… I think the wonderful comments about addressing the threat and impacts on the shipment of diluted bitumen by rail is really important. And I think that something that I would suggest not knowing any previous work on this is let's welcome some researchers, some informed people telling me if they know more, but maybe that's something that we consider doing some resolutions on for the next assembly, to ask those questions and start coordinating around that issue as well.

Because I think that that's vital, both for all the points that you raised and the impacts of it. And I think that that's important that we push the federal government and the province on those issues where their jurisdictions are involved. And I think that it's an opportunity for some resources the UBCIC to support that, and to call on those levels of government, and associated entities like CN Rail and others to see what they actually say. And to hold those groups responsible if needed when needed.

But I think that, this work is ongoing. It's arduous, but I think I continue just to, in closing, express a lot of gratitude to the UBCIC, to the executive and to the Chief's Council here for a lot of the support that we've received over the years on behalf of the Squamish Nation in our court cases and our challenges. And I know a lot of First Nations have really supported us. The UBCIC has been very supportive and I think, just in closing as we continue to struggle, just really want to say thank you to each and every one of you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you, Khelsilem. Eugene you good?

EUGENE KUNG: Yeah, I just…

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mic 5.

EUGENE KUNG: …thank you. I'll just... thank you for your question. I think you raised in your right to be concerned about a spill of diluted bitumen no matter what container it comes from. Just two quick points.

So, the question of regulating rail is encompassed within the BC reference case, which is now going to the Supreme court of Canada. The Court of Appeal decided that they thought it was only about the pipeline, but of course the regulation is meant to cover transportation by any means in the province. So, that's one to just watch out for, which could have an impact on the discussion.

In terms of the question of who should pay, in my view it is those who have profited and continue to profit from the extraction and sale of these things and who are putting all of… All the things that you've mentioned at risk.

That said, is also very difficult to imagine what an adequate financial compensation would look like for the loss of something like that. And of course, that's what's being discussed in the Heiltsuk case against Kirby Corporation for the Nathan E. Stewart spill. So, I think you raised very excellent points and questions that we need to all be thinking about. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Mic. 14

BYRON LOUIS: Byron Louis, Chief, the Okanagan Band, proxy holder for WFN. Just one final statement. And I think this is imperative that we got a Special Chiefs Assembly coming up in December at the national level. If the Province of Alberta and Canada can take the position that says that this is of national importance and the protection of these salmon species is equally important, and also of national importance. And what that means is if the province of Alberta is going to be taking a position that this is nationally important, they should also take on their responsibility and obligations, if there is a spill that they are directly responsible, and also with Canada who is actually supporting them in that position. So, both parties should be held equally responsible if there is any damages coming to our stocks, in case of a spill.

Because this not only affects the people of the Fraser River, but it also affects every Coastal Nation where those salmon turn right and go swimming up towards Alaska. This affects us all. And if this is the case, if they can argue this is national importance, So, can we.

So, I'd like to see a resolution going on the floor at the Chiefs Special Assembly coming up in December. And hopefully, everyone's there to support it. Okay. Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you chief. Thank you to the panel. We have to move on. Next, we have an update by the gaming revenue sharing, inviting forward Bram Rogachevsky. I hope would butcher that too much. Jay Johnson, Vanessa Sutton, and Mike Bonshore, who had already come forward to my right to please.

(track 32)

TYRONE MCNEIL: And if we could do this in about 20 minutes or so, that'd be ideal. Who's going to start? Mic 4

# GAMING COMMISSION.

ROBERT PHILLIPS: [Native language] Robert Phillips, in this case with the First Nations' Leadership Council and also from the First Nation Summit. I give acknowledgements as well to Musqueam. And it's been an interesting last few days listening to the concerns and issues that are brought forward by the leadership.

And this one is a really good news story in terms of gaming, because I know, I look around and all the leadership from past to present and certainly into the future, we've been fighting gaming for so long. I remember the days when we'd go and meet with the Premier and Christy Clark and we talked about gaming and Stewart and everybody was there. She would basically laugh right in front of our face. There was a lot of attempts with Premier Campbell, as well, and there was some very close discussions of getting things done there. But at the end of the day, gaming didn't happen.

And then Jay Johnson and the rest of the gaming commissioners and Grand Chief Joe Hall on a shoestring budget, kept it alive and many other leaders from the past as well, in gaming. And it was a tough, tough, very frustrating attempts in British Columbia because we were one of the last jurisdictions in Canada and North America not to have gaming. And I remember as well Kukpis Wilson and others, and we'd go into these meetings and it just didn't happen.

And then finally we have the new NDP Green Coalition government and a Premier with his mandate letters to all the ministries and revenue sharing and gaming was becoming a reality. And it is a reality today. So, I know that the 194 million approximately over the next two years, if you haven't signed up, there's a booth outside, get your name on there.

I think we have about 75% already that have applied. So that means there's 25% or more out there that haven't. Jay and others can give you a good in-depth analysis of what needs to be done. And in terms of paperwork, if you haven't done so already and what happens if, in the next two, three years you do not do out your paperwork, it will then go into general funding again for the rest of the First Nations who have applied and are receiving.

So, my understanding, the monies and funds will be flowing out very soon, if not already. And I think this is one of those things that we need to make sure it goes out to our communities in areas that are needed. So, it's not going to be individually, unfortunately, going to individuals and band members. It is for your general revenues in terms of the areas that have been identified, which is a pretty broad scope of what can be done in terms of your capacity and economic development, your healthcare, your housing, whatever you feel that is necessary for these socio-economic issues that we have in our communities for revenue.

And then of course, $3 billion plus in the next 25 years. That's what we're forecasting. Three billion plus in terms of revenues, of the 7% that will go out from revenue, from gaming. And I think this is, again, you never know the way it's going now in terms of funding when it comes to revenues generated in gaming. So that's why I say $3 billion plus over the next 25 years. And I think it will be very important.

I also know that we have a limited partnership in the Board, and I see a member over there as well, Mike, and I think this is important because we want it to be open and transparent. We want to make sure that we're very accountable for all of that money and 99.9% gets out to the communities and we wanted to make sure that it's lean and mean.

So, we didn't want a big administration out there with umpteen numbers of staff and a big conglomerate like BCLC, for example. But all kidding aside, we wanted to make sure that most of the money got out to the communities. So, you know, there had to be some start-up cost. As you know, there was negotiations that Jay and Grand Chief Joe Hall had to be involved in. It went on for almost a year and before it finally got worked out so that we can get this money into your coffers, into your communities for your people.

But the gaming commissioners as well, because there is still a little bit of transition, there will still be questions that are needed to be asked and answers provided. And with that corporate history of the gaming commissioners and others, they're able to answer that, because you know a lot of times when we talk politically, it's nice to have all the technical skills and presentations up there, but sometimes you just need to know the answers so you can translate that to your community members. And so, a political discussion is still necessary in terms of the work that we're doing here today in gaming.

The other thing, as well, in regards to not only the Board but where we're at is the next phase and it's beginning already. And I know that's going to be a couple of questions in regards to licensing and we're already making the push. So, we've had meetings yesterday. I don't want to speak for anybody, but you know, for example, Chief Dalton Silver over there, we know that we should have our own casinos. We know that we should have the jurisdiction and the authority to do so. Again, one of the last remaining areas in North America where we don't have… The fight is on, basically, in terms of what we have to do next in regards to our having casinos and the licensing that goes along with it.

So, if you already have, for example, a casino, I think that eventually, for example, Ktunaxa worked really hard, Sophie Pierre and others there that worked so, so hard to get their casino and hotels and stuff like that. I do see a step being made next where we should take over that full jurisdiction and authority and have the licensing. And it is basically our inherent right. We've gambled for hundreds and hundreds of years and Lahal [ph] and other games that we played. And I wish I was a good player because I heard just down in the States the pot's getting up to $50 to $100,000, for goodness sakes. But all kidding aside, this is the next step that we have to make.

And I'm going to cut my comments there because I know we should hear from everybody and I just wanted you to know that that work is underway for the next phase in regards to licensing. Kukstemc, thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Okay. On that, I don't think, really don't think we have time to hear from everybody who's doing an update on where we're at right now. If we could do that it would be great. Mic 4.

JAY JOHNSON: [Native language]. Jay Johnson, I'm honoured to be the negotiator on the BC Gaming Revenue Sharing Agreement and longstanding Coordinator of the Gaming Commission. And I'm just really honoured to be here from Musqueam Territory and limt lim to everybody who's been working so hard for so long to achieve this historic outcome.

As you know, BC was the only province in Canada that did not have a gaming revenue sharing agreement in any form for many, many, many years. And we were working diligently for, since basically the last 30 years and in particular in the last 12 years in earnest to try to ensure that gaming revenue flowed from the province into the communities for purposes of community development.

As Robert said, we've had a huge struggle in doing that and I want to hold my hands up to the NDP Government and their coalition partners, the Green Party, for backing us in this process and for ensuring that we engaged in a successful outcome and negotiating process to ensure that you've got significant revenues flowing into your community for the next 25 years.

So, in essence, we had, Grand Chief Joe Hall and I, had negotiated to have 7% of all gaming revenues flow into a BC First Nations wholly owned entity called Limited Partnership. We have two members here. We have the general manager and one of the co-chairs here today that say a couple of words.

And their responsibility is to distribute those resources, account for those resources, ensure that the province is passing over the appropriate level of funding and to get those funds into your community's hands as quickly as possible. And then in the second year to ensure that the paperwork's done to account for the spending of those funds for your community benefit and to ensure that your next year's funding will continue. And that will go on for the next 25 years. And as revenues grow, because it's a percentage and it's going to float, though those values and benefits to your communities will also float with it.

What we've been doing since November when we had an agreement in principle at the Premier's gathering that was announced by the Premier in November last year, is worked to nail down what that meant in the budget, in turns of a quantum, in terms of the details of the delivery process and so forth. So, after the February budget we had our lawyers and a negotiating team move in a concentrated effort to get to final agreement. We had the agreement pass by our leadership and the agreement passed, to a certain degree, through the province.

On the 11th hour, one of the auditors in the Ministry of Finance detected that there was an impediment to their delivery, in that they'd never seen an agreement that had the kind of certainty and guarantee of funds delivered over a 25-year period before and the government lost its discretion to cancel the agreement.

And that meant that the auditors thought they would have to book the full amount of the $3 plus billion dollars in the first year, which, of course, is prohibited from the province's perspective to do. So, we spent the summer having to do a bunch of work none of us thought we had to do, which is redesign another way to get exactly what we agreed to out to your communities. And what we've done is, we bifurcated the agreement. We have two years now, guaranteed, in the hands of the Limited Partnership for distribution and we're completing, as the minister said this morning, legislation to guarantee that the agreement is enshrined in legislation for the next 23 years after that.

So that work's ongoing. We expect that to be passed in the fall session that should be introduced this month and we're still hopeful and pushing for the final agreement and legislation to be completed for the November gathering.

So, maybe what I'll do is turn it over to the Limited Partnership to talk a little bit about the great work they're doing, and I would like to congratulate them for a successful transfer of the first round of funding. I understand that over half of the of the communities in the province signed on and received their funding already. So, Limt lim, congratulations and thank you very much.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Mic 5.

MIKE BONSHORE: Thanks, Jay. [Native language] . My name's Mike Bonshore. I'm a member of the Tsawataineuk First Nation, of Kingcome Inlet and the co-chair of the BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing General Partnership.

Our first, perhaps our next order of business is finding a shorter name, but just a quick update in terms of where we're at today and how we got to here. So, the Board was instituted late last spring is when we were put in place. One of our first orders of business was, as Robert said, putting in place the lean, mean staff. And so, we've, over the course of the summer leading up to today, we've got most of our staff in place. So, I'm happy to introduce Vanessa Sutton, our general manager. We also have Kelsey Marshawn who's our community outreach person there in the back.

In advance of receiving the funding that the minister referred to earlier, we spent quite a bit of time getting in place our financial systems and our financial policies and so on, so that we could have all the necessary governance systems to enable the receipt and distribution of the funds. So that is all in place.

As Jay mentioned, our first, the initial communications went out from the partnership in August, August the 12th so shortly after the agreement was signed off. And so, I appreciate that's not the best time to be sending communications out to communities, but we wanted to get it out as soon as we could, as soon as the agreement was, the two-year agreement was signed off. And so, since August the 12th we've had a nearly 150 communities sign up. We authorized and released payment for the communities that had signed up prior to the end of September.

And that was roughly about a hundred communities have now received their share of the gaming revenues. So, we're going to take sort of a measured approach to this. So, our next distribution will go out to the communities that have signed up subsequently at the end of this month. So, we have about 25% of the communities that haven't signed up yet. So, our staff are working diligently to reach out directly to those communities to understand if they have any questions or if they don't have all the information. Hopefully we'll reach a full 100% of the communities in short order. We anticipate that, our plan according to the gaming revenue sharing agreement is that the second years of funding will go out next spring in May of 2020 so we'll work towards that as well.

And I think I'll keep it at that. But just lastly, just encourage the folks around the table, the representatives around the table, if you haven't signed up yet, please reach out to our staff, our office. If you have any questions or perhaps you don't have all the information, but I think everyone probably does and that is about it. In respect of the chair's request for time, Vanessa and Kelsey have a table out the back to… They'll be there for the balance, they've been here for the session. They'll be there for the balance of the day to take any questions.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Right. I appreciate the panel keeping it short. The signal of the Chief's Council that the Union's representative on the gaming commission didn't make it past the last election. So, in February's Chief's Council meeting, we were putting on requests for who would like to be the Union rep on the gaming commission that oversees and negotiates with the problems and whatnot. So with that, any questions or comments?

No questions or comments. Okay. Thank you to the panel. Any concluding remarks you'd catch up on? We're good. Okay. Thank you for keeping that short again.

(track 33)

# NEW RELATION TRUST

TYRONE MCNEIL: Next we have an update in New Relation Trust, Chief Byron and Chance Gamble, would you come forward to my right please?

This is the second last update before lunch, and the end of the meeting. So again, asking you to shorten your presentation as much as practicable please.

Mic 5. Thank you.

CHANCE GAMBLE: Good afternoon elders, chiefs, councillors, friends. With me today is chief Byron Louis, who is on the NRT board. I've asked Chief Byron to present with me today. I would like to thank Musqueam for allowing us to work on their traditional territory, to the Coast Salish people as well.

Today I'm going to provide a very brief introduction to NRT over the last year. Just a brief introduction of who I am. My name is Chance Gamble. I'm Cree from Saskatchewan. I come from the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation. I have a son who's eight years old, who's registered with Soda Creek, so I've got a Secwepemc/Cree baby. I've been here for about 11 years. You may remember Cliff Fregin, who was with NRT for many years. Cliff has actually taken a new position with the Inspire organization. He's now their Chief Operating Officer, and he's in a role where he's being groomed to takeover Inspire. So, we thank Cliff for his time with NRT. And also, just to let you know that Cliff's your contact at Inspire. So, if you guys are looking for some money, come see me, and I'll make sure you get his email address. Yeah, I've got no problem giving that to you guys. Yeah.

So New Relationship Trust, I'll go through this really quickly. I know you guys are hungry. NRT is a non-profit organization created in partnership between the First Nations Leadership Council, and the BC Government. We were launched in 2006, with 100 million from funding from the BC government. NRT has allocated over 95 million in the 13 years to capacity development initiatives, and to administration. Currently our investment fund sits at 88.4 million. I got an update yesterday. We're actually at 92, we've had a good return this last year.

Each year we spend funds, so at the beginning of the year our fund goes down. But then as we make some more investment gains, it goes up. And so, we've stayed pretty close to the hundred million mark. We've also developed some relationships with the federal government to develop some of their initiatives, to deliver some of their services, some of their programs. It helps us bring down some of our administration costs, and also it allows us to better meet our mandate, providing capacity development support to First Nations in BC.

NRT also undergoes a legislative review every five years. That was completed, the last one, in 2006, and each three years we go out and do regional engagement sessions. So, we've done them in 2006 when we were launched, 2009, 12, 15, and last year in 2018. And during those regional engagement sessions, we ask communities and leaders how they feel we are doing, where they want us to spend the funds, where they want us to look at new opportunities. And also what do they see as the plan for NRT. And over the years, as a result of the work we've done, we find more and more people are saying that they want NRT around for future generations, so that their children, and grandchildren can benefit from NRT as well.

And so NRT's board has worked at developing new investment strategies, and new spending strategies to help ensure the fund is around for as long as possible. As I mentioned earlier, NRT does regional engagements every three years. We go to 10 locations in the surveys that are handed out. And also, we come to the leadership gatherings as well. So, we'll come to UBCIC, the Summit, the BCAFN, and we'll provide the surveys to the leadership at those gatherings and ask them to provide us with our feedback. And pretty much we're at about 85 to 95% approval rating for the initiatives that we've developed in the past, and also the spending strategy as well. A vast majority favour investing NRT fund, so that remains available for future generations.

Mission and vision: NRT invests in the capacity development and transformation of First Nations governments and their citizens. And our vision; self-determined, self-sustaining First Nations with effective governments, and healthy empowered citizens.

Guiding principles; we support individuals on communal self-sufficiency, effective communications, and engagement, ensuring fair and equitable access to our services and funds, and increasing the investment's fund, while not duplicating or replacing existing government or First Nations programs.

Our strategic plan; each year, as required by the NRT Act, NRT was created by legislation. In the Act it states that we are to conduct a strategic plan each year. And what we do is the board meets to look at spending and priorities for the upcoming year. One of the key targets that our board has set, is that we are not to exceed 2% of our administration costs above our assets under management. So typically, we are at about 1.5 in this past year. We are at 1.34 for 18/19.

Earlier today two of the NRT staff members, Maria Lamo and Ashley Duhart, there we go, handed out the NRT annual report, and also the scholarships, and bursary award winner brochure. So, the NRT annual report provides feedback regarding last fiscal year, and the brochure shows you all the award recipients regarding the scholarships and bursaries, and last year we funded 350 students. One of the key strategies going forward for the NRT board, is to use the investment and spending strategies to ensure that NRT becomes a perpetual fund, one that's available for as many generations as possible.

NRT allocates funds to strategic initiatives based on three a rolling year average. By that we look at our investments over the past three years. We then project the spending for the upcoming year. The reason we look at three years back is to ensure that we have a good strategy, that doesn't have so many ups and down dips.

The investment portfolio. This shows where NRT was at the end of the fiscal year. So, March 16, 17, 18, and 19. And also there is a little bit of an update regarding August 2019, but as I mentioned earlier, that update is now at 92. And so, what that shows you is the return that we had our investments, each of those past five years. 2016 was about 1.7, and then 2017 we had a banner year at 12%, and because that year was so good, we had a little bit of a dip down to three, and then again, another rise to about seven. Overall, in average, we've done about 6.84% in investment in return, and that includes the 2008 to 2010 recession.

Our expenditures to date over the last 13 years, 64 million has gone to our funding that we give out to First Nations. As well, we've worked with the federal government on some initiatives, and that totaled 14 million. Our investment fees to date have been about 5 million, and our administration is about 12 million, which is under a million a year.

Our funding for this past fiscal year matches very closely with our current fiscal year, which is 2.4 million for governance, 875,000 for economic development, 850,000 for education, 200,000 for language, and 500,000 for youth and elders, for a total of 4.85 Million this year.

Direct support, this is for administration and governance projects that you self-define. We don't tell communities what type of projects to apply for. They tell us, and we go through it. Each year we fund, usually about 1.5 million for direct support, and that's for policy and governance projects, up to 25,000 for a First Nation, and if three or more First Nations work together, the projects will be funded up to 50,000. Projects may include policy development, feasibility studies, and other capacity building for First Nations governance.

Recently we introduced tribal council policy initiative, at 250,000 a year. We approve BC First Nations tribal, and nation councils to port their policy development, and to promote information sharing amongst the tribal councils.

We still have funding available for direct support, and we still have funding available for tribal councils. So, if you are interested, please let me know after this meeting. Recently, last year we created something called Nation Governance. We approve First Nations projects that support nation building and self-determination.

Our direct support supports primarily administration and governance. Nation Governance initiative actually focuses in on self-determination, so research, exploration, practice of First Nations rights and title to advance their authority and jurisdiction over lands, resources, citizens and services in a modern era context. To ensure that we share as much information across BC as possible, what we ask is when we fund the project, we ask the First Nations to allow us to share their completed project, their reports, with the First Nations Technology Council, and so the reports will go on to the resource center website, and that just helps us prevent a duplication of funding over multiple projects.

We do some economic development, entrepreneur, and community answering initiative at 600,000. We support First Nations businesses by providing cash equity, matching funds up to 5,000 for entrepreneurs, and up to 25,000 for community owned businesses. This initiative, we partner with the Aboriginal financial institutions in BC. There's five of them. They review the loan applications, and then they let us know who they provided matching grants to. So essentially, if you're an entrepreneur, if you have 5,000, if your loan is approved by the financial institution, Aboriginal financial institution, you could potentially receive a matching 5000 which will help you increase the size of your loan. And for community owned businesses, we can match up to 25,000, which may just help you to expand that loan. We also support the BC Indigenous Business Awards at 25000, and the Young Entrepreneur Symposium.

The Young Entrepreneurs Symposium is the only national event that we do. We've developed it in partnership with Cliff Fregin and Dan Brant, who brought it to NRT quite some time ago, and NRT continues to carry it on. We work with young entrepreneurs, ages 19 to 30, typically there's about 150 youth who attend, and they're introduced to entrepreneurs, role models, business leaders. They have three days of competition. We make sure that we split up friends, so that they're working with people from across Canada, people they've never met before. And those teams compete against each other in a challenge format.

One of the challenges is, each team has to do a video. And by video, I mean it's a commercial. So, they work with a professional TV production team, and they develop a for TV ready commercial that's 15 seconds, and that's along with other challenges, and along with the panels that they do. Typically, youth are spending 12 to 14 days, over those three days working with their teams. I've heard that this is the best youth initiative across Canada. And I've heard that from quite a few people.

This is coming up in November 18th to 21st here in Vancouver. So, if you have any youth that are interested, please let me know and I'll ensure that you get information about registration.

For education, we provide scholarships and bursaries at 600,000. They're available to First Nations students from BC to attend an accredited post-secondary institution on a full-time basis. To date, NRT has provided 8 million, but we've also created an arm's length, standalone foundation so that we can approach others to increase that. And the foundation has actually raised an additional 2 million, and so now over the past while, what NRT puts into scholarships and bursaries, we've tripled through our partnerships through the foundation.

K to 12 program. We provide funding support to increase First Nations high school graduation rate. Eligible applicants are First Nations communities, and BC First Nation schools. This focuses on English, math and science up to $5000. There are some K to 12 funding available. This was just announced in September. K to 12 is based on the school year. So, if you're interested, now's the time to apply for this.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Sorry, Chance, with you being the money guy, I hate to do this, but can you expedite please?

CHANCE GAMBLE: Absolutely, we will. We just launched it in September. So, we're just receiving applications now.

TYRONE MCNEIL: No, no. I mean expedite for your presentation. Sorry.

CHANCE GAMBLE: I'm going as fast as I can here.

TYRONE MCNEIL: But a lot of this is written in your report, so we don't have to go through it in detail.

CHANCE GAMBLE: All right. I apologize. NRT foundation, I'll let's use look through the brochure. Youths and elder's, 500,000. This is up to 2,500 for youth, 2,500 for elders.

Youth language is up to 4,000 per project. BC Clean Energy Initiative, that was just funded. We have a funding map, that's transparency and accountability to ensure that you know where the funding goes. You can go onto our website and see where the fundings have been delivered. You have our annual report, it includes our audit. Each year we're audited, so that you have our financials.

We have seven directors, Miles Richardson and David Jimmy will be reviewed this year, and the reappointment for Leadership Council occurs November 30th. The province appoints two, and each of the leadership council groups appoints one. BCAFN, Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, as I mentioned earlier, Chief Byron Louis, who's sitting up here with me, was elected in 2015. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube.

Thank you.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Appreciate the going through so quickly, Chance. We are up against the wall here a little bit. Any questions or comments from the chiefs? If not, Chance, I've got one. I'm thinking of, I remember seeing Cliff Fregin up here not that long ago, informing the chiefs that there's some kind of internal review of the NRT's legislation to see if the door could be open for First Nations communities to invest along with you folks, because your rate of returns are so crazy compared to the rest of us.

CHANCE GAMBLE: Yes. So, we've asked the province if we could do a legislative review to allow First Nations to invest alongside us. We figured out another technique, and so we've actually moved to a new investment manager, and he said that we can create sub accounts. So, we don't actually need to receive the money. Our investment manager will create sub accounts, and the new investment manager that we're working with has expanded our portfolio. Where we used to hire one Canadian, one global manager, and one fixed income, one bond. We now work with the one manager, and we have multiple investment managers in each of those classes. They've also introduced us to emerging markets, real estate, and infrastructure. So, our portfolio is more diversified, so we're mitigating risk quite a bit, and our fees have been brought down.

TYRONE MCNEIL: I appreciate that. Not seeing any other questions or comments, we really do need to move on. Very briefly, Byron please. Mic 4.

BYRON LOUIS: Yeah. I think that's one of the other things the NRT is undertaking is looking at not only moving towards perpetual fund, but also that when you look at that of currently, we may have about $4 million disbursement, but that happens on the average. You look at it, that's 204 bands in British Columbia, and that works out to be about 19K per band. And whenever we can double that and say if we're successful in getting another 100 million, say from the federal government, that increases that amount to 38,000, and so on. So, each time we move incrementally, that moves means that there's an increase in resources available for bands. And when we start getting into a higher number, this is very substantial, if we can actually achieve that, because these can actually translate into a position like a CEO, or something like that. So, it's really important for that support to continue. But also looking at the opportunities to invest, and I think it was about a 6% return. That's pretty darn good. Check with INAC and see how much you're making on your returns right now.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So, I guess we follow up with you directly on those individual portfolios.

CHANCE GAMBLE: Yes sir.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you. Really thanking for speaking through that. We have one more presentation, [Native language] would you come forward please? Chief Mark Point for an update on housing and infrastructure committee.

(track 34) \*\*\*

TYRONE MCNEIL: You have chiefs waiting for you, or we’re moving on. Okay we have about 15 minutes scheduled on the Agenda if you do that or quicker that would be greatly appreciated. Mic 1.

# HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE

MARK POINT: Good afternoon everyone, my name is Mark Point and I’m the co-chair of the Housing and Infrastructure Council for British Columbia. I don’t have a presentation for you, I don’t have anything to put up on the screen, but I will tell you I’ll bring you up to date on where we are on moving and establishing a housing authority for British Columbia First Nations.

We’ve been at this since November 2017, we created a board, received a mandate from the three organizations, UBCIC, the Summit and the BCAFN, and Leadership Council has directed us to move forward to establish this, the authority to bring housing to BC similar to how health has been brought to BC. We have engaged two rounds of consultation with communities and we continue to engage communities on how they would like their authority to look, what kind of work it should do and essentially to make it a BC service to our communities, because we always said we could do a better job than what Indian Affairs and what CHMC does.

It’s been a truly exciting experience getting out to communities. We’re also at the same time have created a housing group that’s bringing together all the people that work in housing from communities and we also have an infrastructure group that’s doing the same thing with people who work in the infrastructure on the province.

We have broken down and also established a leadership group who engages government to government negotiations and right now we are sitting on pins and needles because we don’t know who will be elected on the national scene what party will get in. We generally have the sense that if the Conservatives get in that we probably will be starting from ground zero again or even if the movement will take place because we’re not too sure whether the Conservative Party is supportive of anything that has the name UNDRIP on it, and if the current government gets back in it’s business as usual but we have seene that the Federal Government at this time and their workers are not prepared to negotiate anything further until the results of the Federal election are established.

As for the work around the province with consulting with communities it’s good work, still we have many communities that are not aware of the work that we’re doing. We tried to reach out to as many communities as we can get to and we continue to open the invitation that we will come to your community, talk to you about what’s going on, ask for your input on how you would like an authority to look and how it could move forward and function in this province to serve housing and infrastructure needs that meet First Nations. I guess our needs. And remember this is something that’s a part of self-government that we’ve asked for, we’ve been asking for self-government for since the White Paper Policy came out, so this is just another move that direction. That’s my presentation.

TYRONE MCNEIL: Thank you for keeping that so short and concise, any questions or comments re housing and infrastructure? Seeing none huychqa siem.

MARK POINT: Au siem.

TYRONE MCNEIL: So that concludes our Agenda we will go the Grand Chief for closing remarks inviting our elder to come forward once the Grand Chief has finished to end us off in a good way and bless the table because lunch has been there for a while, and we have a draw to do as well. Mic 4.

# CLOSING REMARKS

STEWART PHILLIP: Good afternoon everyone. Very briefly I want to thank all of the delegates that stayed behind to ensure that the important work of the organization is accomplished. It was an amazing 3 days; it was probably one of our most challenging and busy Agendas for some time and I would like us to express our appreciation to Tyrone for getting us through a very difficult Agenda.

I would also like to express our gratitude to our staff who worked so hard in preparing for these meetings and preparing the materials and ensuring that the kits are properly done and look after us during the time we are here. So, if we could show them our appreciation. And of course, I would also like to thank Musqueam for their wonderful hospitality and the good food that we’ve enjoyed over the last three days.

We have a lot of work in front of us, a lot of challenges, a lot of important decisions to make and that we work so hard to, to get the point of legislative reform and so on and so forth. So, I really hope that when we’re on the doorstep of making those decisions that we remember that the beneficiaries of our decisions are our children, grandchildren and future generations and that we don’t wimp out and just kick the can further down the road and we’ve done that in the past. So, we have to make these decisions when we’re called upon.

With that, I wish everybody a safe journey home and look forward to the work that the committees will be doing and we’re going to close off with Matthew over there doing an outstanding dance for us. No, just kidding. So, with that I guess we’ll ask our host to close off.

TYRONE MCNIEL: Limt lim, Grand Chief. Just before we do that a quick piece here on a draw. As mentioned, a few times, doing a fund raiser for David Dennis with a print of David’s dad and Elaine’s dad and a $100 gas card. I’ll as Don to draw out a ticket. Colleen Jacobs.

(CLOSING PRAYER)

TYRONE MCNEIL: Huychqa siem, thank you so much dear Elder. Have lunch, safe travels home, everyone, and see you in Februarys Chief Council meeting if not sooner.

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:45 )