

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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May 26, 2021

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Via email: carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

Re: Union of BC Indian Chiefs Council's resolutions on the creation of a fully independent specific claims process

Dear Minister Bennett,

Please find enclosed copies of three resolutions passed by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Council related to the creation of a fully independent specific claims process:

- **Resolution 2017-44, Creation of an Independent Process for Resolutions of Specific Claims**, which calls on Canada to establish a truly independent process for the administration, assessment, and adjudication of specific claims that eliminates Canada's conflict of interest and that includes ongoing joint reviews and oversight;
- **Resolution 2020-11, Full Recognition and Integration of Indigenous Laws in Specific Claims Processes**, which calls on Canada to publicly commit to the creation of a fully independent specific claims process and an Indigenous legal advisory committee to ensure the recognition and integration of Indigenous laws;
- **Resolution 2021-03, Removal of \$150-Million Cap in New Independent Specific Claims Process**, which calls on Canada to publicly commit to the creation of a fully independent specific claims process for all claims, regardless of value.

As is evident by the above resolutions, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Council underscores the necessity of developing immediately a fully independent process for the resolution of First Nations' historical grievances against the Crown, regardless of their value, one that eliminates Canada's conflict of interest and that integrates Indigenous laws in all parts of the process.

We also emphasize that the development of an independent process must be guided by transparency, and the full enactment of government-to-government approaches as articulated in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, First Nations' rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and the honour of the Crown.

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President



Chief Don Tom
Vice-President



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer

CC:

Union of BC Indian Chiefs Council
National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations
AFN Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories and Resources
BC Assembly of First Nations
First Nations Summit